

## **CEPF Final Completion and Impact Report**

<b>Organization's Legal Name:</b>	Albanian Ornithological Society
<b>Project Title:</b>	Let's Make Divjaka Natural Again!
<b>Grant Number:</b>	CEPF-108537
<b>Hotspot:</b>	Mediterranean Basin II
<b>Strategic Direction:</b>	1 Support civil society to engage stakeholders in demonstrating integrated approaches for the conservation of biodiversity in coastal areas
<b>Grant Amount:</b>	\$197,120.00
<b>Project Dates:</b>	January 01, 2019 - June 30, 2021
<b>Date of Report:</b>	January 10, 2022

### **IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS**

AOS is the leading organization in the project "Let's Make Divjaka Natura Again", which has administered and implemented the project in partnership with the organization PSEDA-Illiria and the legal center Res Publica. AOS, with an extensive experience in the field of bird and habitat protection, has invested over the years in long-term solutions for the conservation and protection of the bird community, their critical habitats, biodiversity, nature and environment in Albania. The focus has been on the epicenter of biodiversity in Albania, Divjaka-Karavasta National Park, as a key area of the project through supporting local and central authorities in their mission of protecting biodiversity and nature by means of increasing and strengthening human resource capacity but also in complementary and informative physical infrastructure. AOS, within the project directed and implemented every activity and component of the project including investigative, analytical, monitoring, research and evaluation activities, and restoration of target species and their habitats. AOS led and organized with the support of project partners advocacy, lobbying and awareness-raising activities in defense of DKNP from unsustainable developments.

PSEDA-Illiria within the project's framework, implemented the preparation of an alternative EIA in the format of several reports on assessing the environmental impact of developments within the borders and in the vicinity of DKNP. It also participated in all advocacy and awareness activities.

Res Publica Legal Center within the project's framework, led the entire legal process through conducting legislative procedures with the authorities and groups involved, while also contributing and taking an active role in all advocacy activities by following, analyzing and giving feedback on the legal compliance and taking an active role in any consultative meetings with local and central authorities.

## CONSERVATION IMPACTS

Planned Long-Term Impacts: 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary																				
Existing plans for development of large, mass-tourism infrastructures in the national park are dropped by the national authorities	The project has achieved the primary objective of addressing the threat posed by the master plan for the construction of a mega urban resort "Divjaka Resort Albania" by Mabetex Group, in the core area of the Divjaka-Kavasta National Park. In November 2019, the Strategic Investment Committee at AIDA rejected the proposal of Mabetex Group. AOS, in cooperation with other partner national organizations but also with the help and continuous support of international organizations and structures, has advocated and opposed from the beginning this strategic investment.																				
Increase in number of tourists and of the quality of the tourist experience with training of local guides and improvement of the tourism infrastructure	The number of foreign and domestic tourists has increased progressively with the increase of investments, the quality of services and mainly with the increase of the tourism infrastructure. This number has reached 65 thousand foreign visitors in 2019 who have visited the Divjaka-Karavasta National Park. Thanks to the project, there have been some investments on the infrastructure, thus significantly improving the quality of service and the exercise of bird watching. The bird-friendly wood facade, built as part of the project, is used by thousands of foreign and domestic visitors for educational purposes as well as for bird watching. In addition, thanks to the information and orientation panels, the experience in the Park has already significantly improved.																				
The number of breeding pairs of waterbirds (Glossy Ibis <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i> , Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i> , Night Heron <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> , Squacco Heron <i>Ardeola ralloides</i> and Pygmy Cormorant ( <i>Microcarbo pygmaeus</i> ) goes over 600 couples (from less than 500 in 2018), and the Roller ( <i>Coracias garrulus</i> ) restart nesting in the Park.	<p>The number of breeding pairs has increased from 1,315 in 2019 to 2,720 in 2021. The colony of Herons and Cormorants in Divjaka is currently composed of six species including the Little Egret, the Pygmy Cormorant, the Night Heron, the Squacco Heron, the Cattle Egret, and the Glossy Ibis, as per below:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Pygmy Cormorant</td> <td>500-550 (2019), 411-458 (2020),</td> <td>497-553 (2021).</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Little Egret</td> <td>430-480 (2019), 1,390 (2020),</td> <td>1,065-1,185 (2021).</td> <td>1,250-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Night Heron</td> <td>125-135 (2019), 625-635 (2020),</td> <td>710-790 (2021).</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Squacco Heron</td> <td>125-135 (2019), 259-288 (2020),</td> <td>222-247 (2021).</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cattle Egret</td> <td>35-40 (2019), 244-271 (2020),</td> <td>244-346 (2021).</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Pygmy Cormorant	500-550 (2019), 411-458 (2020),	497-553 (2021).		Little Egret	430-480 (2019), 1,390 (2020),	1,065-1,185 (2021).	1,250-	Night Heron	125-135 (2019), 625-635 (2020),	710-790 (2021).		Squacco Heron	125-135 (2019), 259-288 (2020),	222-247 (2021).		Cattle Egret	35-40 (2019), 244-271 (2020),	244-346 (2021).	
Pygmy Cormorant	500-550 (2019), 411-458 (2020),	497-553 (2021).																			
Little Egret	430-480 (2019), 1,390 (2020),	1,065-1,185 (2021).	1,250-																		
Night Heron	125-135 (2019), 625-635 (2020),	710-790 (2021).																			
Squacco Heron	125-135 (2019), 259-288 (2020),	222-247 (2021).																			
Cattle Egret	35-40 (2019), 244-271 (2020),	244-346 (2021).																			

Impact Description	Impact Summary
	<p>Glossy Ibis 30-40 (2019), 60-70 (2020), 45-50 (2021). Total 1,055-1,165 (2019), 2,850-3,170 (2020), 2,550-2,890 (2021).</p> <p>The ecological status for the six (Little Egret, Pygmy Cormorant, Night Heron, Squacco Heron, Cattle Egret &amp; Glossy Ibis) breeding waterbird species has been improved well beyond the project forecast.</p> <p>The Roller has been confirmed as breeding in 2021 adjacent to the National Park.</p>
<p>At least 15 (fifteen) jobs created in relation with ecotourism, birdwatching and agricultural tourism.</p>	<p>Thanks to the collaboration with NATGA-National Association of Tourist Guides in Albania, through two trainings, the capacities have been increased for 50 tourist guides who practice birdwatching and ecotourism in Divjaka-Karavasta National Park.</p> <p>In the framework of the bird identification program, BirdId Albania, already 20 people have been trained and practice activities as guides.</p> <p>In addition, dozens of community members logistically assist groups of tourists visiting the Park with transportation, boats, accommodation, food and companionship.</p> <p>So, in total, the jobs created in relation to ecotourism, birdwatching, and agricultural tourism are approximately 100.</p>

Planned Short-Term Impacts: 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
<p>The local communities are involved and supportive of the national park, through increased awareness with at least 8 environmental events, including exhibitions and celebrations for World Habitat Day, Pelicans Day, Migratory Birds Day</p>	<p>Local communities have participated in 14 awareness, conservation and monitoring activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. International Waterbird Census 2019, over 120 people involved nationwide.</li> <li>2. Dalmatian Pelican’s Day 2019, with a very wide participation of about 200 hundreds of people from the local community, visitors from other municipalities, conducted in close cooperation with RAPA-Fier.</li> <li>3. Eurobirdwatch 2019, over 20 representative participants of AOS, BirdLife Hungary, RAPA-Fier, RAPA-Vlora and 5 parallel events.</li> <li>4. At the rehabilitation of pelican’s nesting beds in close cooperation with caretakers of pelicans and with RAPA-Fier.</li> <li>5. IWC 2020, over 120 people involved nationwide.</li> </ol>

Impact Description	Impact Summary
	<p>6. World Wetlands Day 2020, with 30 people involved conducted in close cooperation with RAPA-Fier.</p> <p>7. At the cleaning island surfaces for the breeding season 2020 of the Terns.</p> <p>8. World Migratory Bird Day 2020, about 15 people from AOS staff, AOS volunteers, management authorities.</p> <p>9. Eurobirdwatch 2020, over 50 people participated actively.</p> <p>10. IWC 2021, over 100 people involved nationwide.</p> <p>11. World Wetlands Day 2021, about 25 people involved.</p> <p>12. At the construction of the artificial nesting platform for the Little tern.</p> <p>13. Global Birding Day, about 15 people involved.</p> <p>14. Biodiversity Talks.</p>
<p>The capacities of AOS are strengthened and the organization is able to contribute actively to monitoring, awareness raising, and advocacy activities for the protected area</p>	<p>Thanks to the project, the internal capacities of AOS have increased a lot in terms of management, communication and branding, and thanks to the rigorous methodology, a lot of work has been done on technical and research issues in ornithology. All staff members are involved in all awareness-raising, education and conservation actions. Now the rest of the staff can undertake and organize research activities, monitoring programs for target species and conservation actions.</p> <p>Thanks to the successive campaigns and multidimensional cooperation with extensive involvement of stakeholders both at national and international level, now advocacy and protection policies in defense of species and their habitats are new aspects of internal and external capacity strengthening.</p> <p>Furthermore, thanks to the monitoring and counting schemes run by AOS at the national level, every year hundreds of staff members from the regional and national administrative network and volunteers have received specialized training in counting, surveillance, identification, conservation measures for birds and habitats.</p> <p>Organizational capacities have been raised since the project began, in 2019 CSTT scored 65 and in 2021 CSTT scored 85.5 points.</p>
<p>Improved ecological status for flagship species: Above 52 breeding pairs for the Dalmatian Pelicans (<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>), above 150</p>	<p>The Dalmatian Pelican (<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>) has registered 68 breeding pairs in 2019, 85 breeding pairs in 2020 and 81 pairs in 2021. This is well</p>

Impact Description	Impact Summary
breeding pairs for Little Tern ( <i>Sternula albifrons</i> ) and 150 breeding pairs for Common Tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ).	<p>above the figure 52 breeding pairs registered prior to the project start.</p> <p>In 2021, the colonies of the Little Tern (<i>Sternula albifrons</i>) and Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) in Divjaka-Karavasta registered 340 and 336 breeding pairs respectively. This is well above the indicator of 150 breeding pairs per species prior to the project start.</p> <p>The ecological status for the three (Dalmatian Pelican, Little Tern &amp; Common Tern) flagship species has improved well beyond the project forecast.</p>
An official network of local civil society organizations is created and act for the preservation of Divjaka-Karavasta National Park	<p>Our advocacy and lobbying campaign during these two and a half years has been quite fruitful. Firstly, led by AOS, the group comprised of national and international civil society organizations with continuous support from government agencies (embassies), advocacy and funding networks (EU, UNDP, SIDA, OSCE), in defense of the integrity and ecological values of the Divjaka-Karavasta National Park, managed to protect the Park from the proposal of the Mabetex Group master plan – Divjaka Resort Albania.</p> <p>The same group, led by AOS and partner organizations Res Publica, PSEDA-Illiria, Eco Albania and many other NGOs, is strongly advocating for the protection of the national network of Protected Areas from the process of border review and internal zoning undertaken by the National Agency of Protected Areas and the Ministry of Tourism and Environment. Now this coalition counts on around 55 entities (civil society organizations and representatives from academic sphere) closely involved on the issues of Protected Areas.</p>
Revised Management Plan of the Divjaka-Karavasta National Park (20,000 ha) clarifies use of land in national park and includes restrictions for large, mass-tourism infrastructures	<p>The process of reviewing the Management Plan of the Divjake-Karavasta National Park has been pushed forward by both AOS and the Park's managing authority, RAPA-Fier; however, the central authorities have been somewhat hesitant in this process, partially due to the pandemic. Nevertheless, the AOS' contribution has not been lacking in providing management authorities with advice on impact prediction and investment risk management in the vicinity of the Park.</p>

**Unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?**

- The start of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) project is seen as a positive factor as it is expected to actively engage with the revision of the Park Management Plan, and it is expected to facilitate the completion of the project activities. (Positive)
- The pandemic (Covid-19) brought many fundamental problems in the managerial aspects of the project development, some activities were postponed for a more favorable period, some activities were reconceptualized and completely adapted to the situation, and some of the activities were completely canceled. It brought a lot of difficulties in remote coordination with a significant part of the staff and especially with the community in regards to some activities.

## PROJECT RESULTS/DELIVERABLES

### Overall results of the project:

The main objective of the project proposal was to preserve and protect the natural integrity of the Divjaka-Karavasta National Park (DKNP) through ensuring sustainability in decision-making, the involvement of the local community in conservation actions of species and habitats, decision-making that supports sustainable models for local economic development and through advocating in cooperation with other stakeholders on policies and actions that protect the Park from practices, developments and the unsustainable use of natural resources.

The project successfully contributed to the fulfillment of its purpose – the elimination of the greatest threat to the DKNP and the battle for defending the Protected Areas of Albania. November 2019 brought an important victory in the history of PAs, the Strategic Investment Committee (SIC) in Albania decided to definitively reject the proposal of the Mabetex Group master plan for the construction of a mega resort in the heart of DKNP. For the coalition of NGOs led by AOS in this massive campaign, this decision-making resulted in a very important moment in the preservation of nature, environment and biodiversity in Albania.

Component 1: All investments in the vicinity of the Park have been identified, reviewed and evaluated, mainly the technical, scientific, procedural, legal aspects, gaps and compliance with national and EU legal standards, as well as the cumulative effects. EIA and legal experts have held close and consultative meetings with the authorities to familiarize them with the gaps in these investments. Meetings were held with the central authorities: the Albanian Investment Development Agency (AIDA), the National Agency of Protected Areas (NAPA); with regional and local authorities: the Regional Administration for Protected Areas-Fier (RAPA-Fier). The undertaking of the baseline studies, of the alternative EIA study and legal investigations contributed hugely to the increasing demand by the authorities for the fulfillment of the criteria and standards by the investors in the vicinity of the Park.

Component 2: The victory against MABETEX Group was achieved thanks to the continued and professional support of the group consisting of national environmental organizations, representatives of the academic sphere, supported by foreign partner organizations, by foreign donors from the embassies present in the country. Furthermore, thanks to the same group of support, we have remained persistent and strong in the campaign against the process and results of the Boundaries Review and Zoning of the Network of Protected Areas, undertaken by the central policy-making authorities.

Component 3: Monitoring: AOS' strongest point and one of the main priorities is the scientific, rigorous research and monitoring of birds. The AOS team for two and a half years has conducted over 60 field visits dedicated to the species present in the Park, including breeding, migrating, wintering and resident species. The primary focus has been on the only breeding population in the country of the Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) - the

symbol of the Park, and the largest breeding colony of Herons and Cormorants with 2800-3000 pairs, an extraordinary value for the biological diversity in the country. In 2020, the Dalmatian pelican colony reached the number of 85 breeding pairs, the highest figure in the last 40 years since 1984 with 81 breeding pairs recorded. An extraordinary success for all parties involved. The success for the improvement of the bird populations in the Park is attributed to several key factors and the undertaking of necessary and ongoing conservation measures. Specifically, the management authority (RAPA-Fier) has played a vital role in ensuring order and peace in the Park. Also, the Dalmatian pelican caretakers, with whom AOS has had a wonderful collaboration for many years, are dedicated people who have the respect of the community. They guard every breeding season on Pelican Island during the night, from January to June, in order to eliminate harmful human activities thus increasing reproductive success. AOS in cooperation with the Pelicans caretakers and RAPA-Fier, at the beginning of the breeding season, rehabilitates the reproductive environment on the Pelican Island through expansion and elevation of the wooden beds with tree branches, shrubs and vegetation from the outskirts of the Park.

Rehabilitation and equipment with supplementary physical infrastructure: This year 2021 and thanks to the project, the innovation in the conservation actions undertaken by AOS, which resulted in the first successful case in Albania for Terns, was the construction of the artificial nesting platform for the Little tern (*Sternula albifrons*), which was immediately functional. The wooden platform filled with gravel and sand has increased the nesting surface and eliminated the risk of nest flooding by the rising water level in the lagoon. In 2020, AOS cleaned the surfaces from vegetation on these small islands in the lagoon, increasing the nesting space for other bird species. AOS, thanks to the project, has made a significant number of investments with complementary and information infrastructure. The construction of the wooden platform in the form of a bird-friendly facade for bird watching without disturbing the birds has become a main attraction for school students and groups of tourists visiting the Park. In addition, the Park is equipped, among others, with a tower for bird watching, 5 information panels as well as 10 signposts. In cooperation with the Pelicans' caretakers and the RAPA staff, several trails in the Park were cleared, 400 Italian stone pine seedlings were planted and the Park was cleaned of urban waste.

Scientific and educational activities: AOS, over the years but specifically throughout the duration of the project, has undertaken many activities based on fully scientific methodologies that also function as awareness and capacities raising activities, among these we mention as a success of 2021 the realization of the wildlife, biodiversity and nature advocacy youth camp with the participation of 30 people of which 6 were the trainers who are experts in ornithology, zoology, plants and habitats, legal and tourism issues. The activity aimed to increase capacities and to mobilize young people in the conservation of natural ecosystems, species of fauna and flora, as well as to advocate for the improvement of nature protection policies.

Scientific monitoring and counting schemes: IWC - International Waterbird Census, is an international counting and monitoring scheme, where for Albania, AOS is the leader. More than 130 people participate each year, including experts from various organizations, research institutions, independent experts and the RAPA staff, which are supported through capacity building, relevant training and logistics. The data obtained from the census are analyzed by the IWC national coordinator and forwarded in the form of a report to the RAPA, the Ministry of Environment, Wetlands International and all participating institutions. In 2019, 2020 and 2021, it has been conducted within the framework of the project. EuroBirwatch is an inter-European activity led by Birdlife International, which for 5 years in Albania has been organized by AOS with the participation of volunteers, local groups, nature enthusiasts and the RAPA-Fier staff. It features simultaneously organized events and very extensive territorial coverage. The Dalmatian Pelican Census in Divjaka-Karavasta has been

undertaken by AOS in collaboration with the RAPA-Fier staff since its inception. The Flamingo Census was conducted for the first time this year in all present wetlands.

**Results for each deliverable:**

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1.0	Preparatory actions, investigation, identification, analysis, study, assessment and calculation of impacts of proposal of development on environment, economy, social, historical and cultural heritage.	1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alternative Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report</li> </ul>	<p>The Environmental Impact Assessment Expert, based on the terms of reference, has submitted the reports as per below:</p> <p>1: Report on best practices of EIA and SEA at Regional and International level dealing with similar causes to Divjaka-Karavasta National Park area.</p> <p>2: Report on Quality of EIA of Wind Farm Project in Topoje, Fier (Along with Large Scale Agriculture Farming in Vicinity of Divjake-Karavasta National Park and Solar energy project in Topoje, Fier)</p> <p>3: Report on Current and Planned Projects in Divjaka- Karavasta National Park and its Adjacent Area</p> <p>Please refer to the documents attached with number 02, 03, 04:</p> <p>02_CEPF Grant 108537_Let's Make Divjaka Natural Again_PSEDA-Iliria_Report_2019</p> <p>03_ CEPF Grant 108537_Let's Make Divjaka Natural Again_PSEDA-Iliria_Report_2020</p> <p>04_ CEPF Grant 108537_Let's Make Divjaka Natural Again_PSEDA-Iliria_Report_2021</p>
1.0	Preparatory actions, investigation, identification, analysis, study, assessment and calculation of impacts of	1.2	An Assessment Report on compliance with Albanian legislation, International Conventions ratified by	<p>The Legal experts, based on the terms of reference, have submitted reports as per below:</p> <p>1: The draft-document of the memorandum of cooperation (MoC).</p>

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
	proposal of development on environment, economy, social, historical and cultural heritage.		Albania as well as the EU Directives.	<p>2: Report on the best legislative practices from the region on the protection of the environment and natural habitats.</p> <p>3: Report on compliance with legislation of projects with environmental impact in the Divjaka-Karavasta National Park</p> <p>Please refer to the documents attached with number 05, 06, 07:  05_CEPF Grant 108537_Let's Make Divjaka Natural Again_Res Publica_MoC_2019  06_CEPF Grant 108537_ Let's Make Divjaka Natural Again_Res Publica_Report_2019  07_CEPF Grant 108537_Let's Make Divjaka Natural Again_Res Publica_Report_2020-2021</p>
1.0	Preparatory actions, investigation, identification, analysis, study, assessment and calculation of impacts of proposal of development on environment, economy, social, historical and cultural heritage.	1.3	An Ecosystem Services Assessment Report as a synthesis of findings regarding the future values and sustainability of the Park and Wetlands.	Cancelled as activity due to Coronavirus disease (COVID-19).
1.0	Preparatory actions, investigation, identification, analysis, study, assessment and calculation of impacts of proposal of development on environment, economy,	1.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nine (9) local meetings with community representatives with e frequency of once (1) every two (2) months</li> <li>• Minutes of the meetings (MoM)</li> </ul>	During 2019, 7 consultative local meetings with different stakeholders were held mainly on the issue of revision of Protected Areas boundaries. And they have been reported in the second phase of project implementation. During 2020, due to Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), meetings were banned

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
	social, historical and cultural heritage.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photos or videos depending on the platform where they will be published</li> <li>• List of participants</li> </ul>	<p>nationwide, however some online were carried out.</p> <p>During 2021, 4 consultative hybrid meetings were held with different stakeholders mainly on the issue of revision of Protected Areas boundaries.</p>
1.0	Preparatory actions, investigation, identification, analysis, study, assessment and calculation of impacts of proposal of development on environment, economy, social, historical and cultural heritage.	1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A brief report will be prepared from the Coalition part</li> <li>• Comments to the draft Management Plan</li> <li>• Minutes of the meetings (MoM)</li> <li>• Photos or videos depending on the platform where they will be published</li> </ul>	<p>There has been no development regarding the revision of the Park Management Plan. Despite the fact that AOS has been very pushy in this matter together with the managing authority of the Park, but the central instances were reluctant about this process proposing it for a later stage.</p>
2.0	The National Coalition of Civil Society Organizations and other stakeholders engage proactively and advocate for policies and decision making for sustainable use of natural resources of National Parks.	2.1	Chart of the National NGO Coalition for Protected Area signed by NGO partners, and legalization documentation.	<p>The network of environmental non-governmental organizations, together with representatives of the academic community, strongly supported from the beginning by environmental organizations and international agencies, has greatly increased. Today, this network of 55 entities is strongly and continuously opposing the results and the process of Border and Zoning Review, defending the integrity and principles of Protected Areas.</p> <p>Please refer to the documents attached with number 09:</p>

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				09_CEPF Grant 108537_Let's Make Divjaka Natural Again_Letter of Environmental NGOs to MTE & NAPA_2021
2.0	The National Coalition of Civil Society Organizations and other stakeholders engage proactively and advocate for policies and decision making for sustainable use of natural resources of National Parks.	2.2	At least 2 press releases and/or public declarations of the Coalition on the situation of Divjaka-Karavasta National Park.	<p>During the implementation of the project, the AOS-led coalition has consistently advocated for the protection of the Protected Areas network, including international entities in the advocacy. At the end of 2019, the "Mediterranean Alliance for Wetlands" after being contacted by AOS, sent a letter to Prime Minister Edi Rama and Minister Blendi Klosi where they expressed their concern about the process of reviewing the network of Protected Areas. The letter was reported in previous reporting.</p> <p>Please refer the document attached with the number 09, 10:  09_CEPF Grant 108537_Let's Make Divjaka Natural Again_Letter of Enviromental NGOs to MTE &amp; NAPA_2021  10_CEPF Grant 108537_Let's Make Divjaka Natural Again_Letter of Mediterranean Alliance of the Wetlands_2019</p> <p>There have been consistent declarations of the coalition in defense of Protected Areas, who have advocated that the review of boundaries and internal zoning of the network of Protected Areas process be carried out in full</p>

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				<p>compliance with domestic and international legislation.</p> <p>Please see the links below:  <a href="https://aos-alb.org/protected-areas-in-albania-are-threatened-in-order-to-pave-the-way-for-infrastructure-projects/">https://aos-alb.org/protected-areas-in-albania-are-threatened-in-order-to-pave-the-way-for-infrastructure-projects/</a>  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/AOSALB/posts/1981755368645313">https://www.facebook.com/AOSALB/posts/1981755368645313</a></p>
2.0	The National Coalition of Civil Society Organizations and other stakeholders engage proactively and advocate for policies and decision making for sustainable use of natural resources of National Parks.	2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agenda</li> <li>• List of participants</li> <li>• Photos or videos depending on the platform where they will be published</li> </ul>	This activity due to Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), is completely cancelled.
4.0	A comprehensive public campaign to raise awareness on the importance and values of the Protected Areas and the threats posed by the implementation of different urbanization and destructive plans.	4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• List of Participants</li> <li>• Photos/videos and media articles etc for the six (6) interactive public meetings "Biodiversity Talk"</li> </ul>	<p>AOS organized 2 physical meetings "Biodiversity Talks", with well-known expert panelists in the field of environmental protection, flora and fauna. The panel also included experts and representatives of the academic, political and legal spheres of numerous environmental causes.</p> <p>In both meetings, the issue of "Network of Protected Areas Review" was addressed, as well as investments that endanger Protected Areas. "Biodiversity Talks" meetings were widely spread on social networks, the media impact has been very large. The character of</p>

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				<p>the meetings was very interactive with a very mixed audience and with constructive discussions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.facebook.com/AOSALB/posts/2046676135486569">https://www.facebook.com/AOSALB/posts/2046676135486569</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.facebook.com/AOSALB/posts/2057660851054764">https://www.facebook.com/AOSALB/posts/2057660851054764</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.facebook.com/AOSALB/posts/2059915607495955">https://www.facebook.com/AOSALB/posts/2059915607495955</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.instagram.com/p/CQA3Zj_Bdqz/">https://www.instagram.com/p/CQA3Zj_Bdqz/</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.instagram.com/p/CQrFr4mn74q/">https://www.instagram.com/p/CQrFr4mn74q/</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.instagram.com/p/CQss6rCD3qd/">https://www.instagram.com/p/CQss6rCD3qd/</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.instagram.com/p/CQ8I-TyDadX/">https://www.instagram.com/p/CQ8I-TyDadX/</a></li> </ul> <p>Please refer to the photos attached with the number 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47.</p>
4.0	A comprehensive public campaign to raise awareness on the importance and values of the Protected Areas and the threats posed by the	4.2	Six (6) awareness video-spots will be extensively promoted in social media networks.	During the project implementation 12 video-spots have been realized, as per below:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
	implementation of different urbanization and destructive plans.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EE5JWWBLg40">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EE5JWWBLg40</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9deG4j0ORUY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9deG4j0ORUY</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U4txIMGzBS4&amp;t=33s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U4txIMGzBS4&amp;t=33s</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EavcUpdzuH8&amp;t=3s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EavcUpdzuH8&amp;t=3s</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N51X90FJTe4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N51X90FJTe4</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KD7MY0G4AoY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KD7MY0G4AoY</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rBXM1qyvJPA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rBXM1qyvJPA</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9LMLPi8nAZ4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9LMLPi8nAZ4</a></li> </ul>

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9LMLPi8nAZ4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9LMLPi8nAZ4</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aHc3LZO5zYc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aHc3LZO5zYc</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V1I-w2SS4u0">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V1I-w2SS4u0</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://youtu.be/fkthVxVqVQI">https://youtu.be/fkthVxVqVQI</a></li> </ul>
4.0	A comprehensive public campaign to raise awareness on the importance and values of the Protected Areas and the threats posed by the implementation of different urbanization and destructive plans.	4.3	Second video reportage which reflects the chain of events related to decision-making for the Divjaka-Karavasta National Park.	<p>The second video reportage has been submitted and delivered. Please see the link here for the uploaded version in our youtube account.  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U4txIMGzBS4&amp;t=877s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U4txIMGzBS4&amp;t=877s</a></p> <p>Secondly, please see here the post made for the video-reportage in our Facebook account:  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/518150955005769/posts/1903111173176400/?sfnsn=mo">https://www.facebook.com/518150955005769/posts/1903111173176400/?sfnsn=mo</a></p> <p>Thirdly, please see here the post made for the video-reportage in our Instagram account:  <a href="https://www.instagram.com/p/CIyZ8mph9QU/">https://www.instagram.com/p/CIyZ8mph9QU/</a></p>
4.0	A comprehensive public campaign to raise awareness on the importance and values of	4.4	A photo exhibition event, as demonstrated by photos/videos and media coverage.	Photography Festival "Wildlife Art in the Heart of My Capital" event which reached a large audience due to the variety and content of photos with about 10,000 visitors per day and

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
	the Protected Areas and the threats posed by the implementation of different urbanization and destructive plans.			<p>around 300,000 in total for the whole month. The event was held in cooperation with the Municipality of Tirana and remained open to the audience for 30 days. 25 photos of wildlife were selected to be exhibited in the open spaces near the Municipality of Tirana, turning it into the most visited space.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.facebook.com/AOSALB/posts/2038476316306551">https://www.facebook.com/AOSALB/posts/2038476316306551</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.instagram.com/p/CPnLtf9hgIM/">https://www.instagram.com/p/CPnLtf9hgIM/</a></li> </ul>
4.0	A comprehensive public campaign to raise awareness on the importance and values of the Protected Areas and the threats posed by the implementation of different urbanization and destructive plans.	4.5	Photos and media coverage of two (2) day birdwatching and agro-tourism tours for senior representatives from decision-making entities.	<p>AOS organized jointly with the Regional Agency of Protected Areas- Fier County, in January 2020, an expedition with the Spanish ambassador in Albania and a Spanish expert on the vulture species. Please refer to attached photos with number 48, 49, 50.</p>
4.0	A comprehensive public campaign to raise awareness on the importance and values of the Protected Areas and the threats posed by the implementation of different	4.6	Photos or videos of the annual 'Pelican Day 2019' and media coverage.	<p>The "Pelican Day 2019" event at Divjaka - Karavasta National Park was organized by the AOS team and resulted successful in some respects. First, local businesses immediately express a willingness to contribute by showcasing their local products. The Regional Administration of Protected Areas - Fier Region, expressed the desire to be part of it</p>

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
	urbanization and destructive plans.			<p>and supported the activity by providing the indoor park spaces. There was widespread participation not only of the local community and visitors from Albania but also of the AOS fans coming from Kosovo. For more information please refer to the links below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.facebook.com/pg/aosalb/photos/?tab=album&amp;album_id=1370781079742748">https://www.facebook.com/pg/aosalb/photos/?tab=album&amp;album_id=1370781079742748</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.facebook.com/pg/aosalb/photos/?tab=album&amp;album_id=1372910689529787">https://www.facebook.com/pg/aosalb/photos/?tab=album&amp;album_id=1372910689529787</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://aos-alb.org/11th-of-may-dalmatians-pelican-day/">https://aos-alb.org/11th-of-may-dalmatians-pelican-day/</a></li> </ul> <p>Please refer to the attached photos with number 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57.</p>
4.0	A comprehensive public campaign to raise awareness on the importance and values of the Protected Areas and the threats posed by the implementation of different urbanization and destructive plans.	4.7	Quarterly Bulletin with information on project progress that will be distributed through the e-mail network to target groups, postings in respective websites & social media account (Fb, Twitter) a television broadcast & radio interview for every activity.	<p>AOS since the establishment of the project has created a very diverse audience, who follow us not only on social networks but the audience is also regular and active followers of our electronic newspaper. Since the start of the project 12 issues have been distributed to the audience, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• March /April / May 2019</li> <li>• June / July / August 2019</li> <li>• September / October / November / December 2019</li> <li>• January / February 2020</li> <li>• March / April 2020</li> <li>• May / June 2020</li> </ul>

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>July /August 2020</li> <li>September / October 2020</li> <li>November / December 2020</li> <li>January / February 2021</li> <li>March / April 2021</li> <li>May / June 2021</li> </ul> <p>For more detailed information, please follow the link below:  <a href="https://us20.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=a3b7740e9b6ea96a8f7d770aa&amp;id=daf00d8e5e">https://us20.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=a3b7740e9b6ea96a8f7d770aa&amp;id=daf00d8e5e</a></p>
4.0	A comprehensive public campaign to raise awareness on the importance and values of the Protected Areas and the threats posed by the implementation of different urbanization and destructive plans.	4.8	A complete package (400 pieces) of promotional materials for the accomplishment and visibility of projects including pens, T-shirts, cloth bags, bracelets, stickers, concarda, 1 roll-up vertical, 1 horizontal banner.	<p>During the project implementation, the following products were produced, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>350 T-shirts,</li> <li>300 Stickers B/W,</li> <li>100 Spins,</li> <li>2 Roll Up,</li> <li>1 horizontal banner for "Pelicans Day",</li> <li>20 Raincoats,</li> <li>90 Bags,</li> <li>25 Hoodie,</li> <li>35 Covid Mask.</li> </ul> <p>Please refer to the attached photos with number 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66.</p>
3.0	Build a great co-operation with the public at large and particularly with local community through	3.1	Yearly report on monitoring of Dalmatian Pelican, Herons and other birds of the	AOS has conducted during the project implementation approximately 60 field visits, in full compliance with the work-plan. During the field visits, AOS has followed a strict

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
	involvement on monitoring, conservation actions as well as engagement to improve the status of different bird species and their critical habitats.		Divjaka-Karavasta National Park.	<p>monitoring methodology for the Dalmatian Pelican colony, Herons and Cormorants colony and other birds of Divjaka-Karavasta National Park. The consultant in charge of conservation issues has processed the data collected from the field during January 2019 – June 2021, submitted in one report based on monitoring results.</p> <p>Please refer to the document attached with number 01: 01_CEPF Grant 108537_Let's Make Divjaka Natural Again_AOS_2019-2021 Bird Monitoring Report in DKNP</p>
3.0	Build a great co-operation with the public at large and particularly with local community through involvement on monitoring, conservation actions as well as engagement to improve the status of different bird species and their critical habitats.	3.2	Monthly Monitoring Protocols for the First Phase and the Second Phase of Monitoring.	<p>The team consisting of three local people guarded the Pelican's Island during the night, from January to June, in order to reduce harmful human activities thus increasing reproductive success. Generally no major disturbances were observed on the island of the colony, except movement near the island for night fishing by the inhabitants of the area, but such did not cause any disturbance to the colony. Please find attached, the protocols with records kept by local contracted Ranger, during the period January-May 2019, January-May 2020, January-June 2021.</p> <p>Please refer to the document attached with the number 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19.</p>

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
3.0	Build a great co-operation with the public at large and particularly with local community through involvement on monitoring, conservation actions as well as engagement to improve the status of different bird species and their critical habitats.	3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvement of the existing conditions on several trails</li> <li>• Installation of 6 (six) information panels of wooden material in key points</li> <li>• Construction of the wooden platform (bird hide) for bird watching</li> <li>• Pictures before/after will be taken</li> </ul>	<p>During the project implementation some investments were made in infrastructure and some improvements on infrastructure, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One wooden bird-friendly façade for birdwatching,</li> <li>• One birdwatching tower for birdwatching,</li> <li>• Ten signposts for orientation,</li> <li>• One wooden platform for breeding of Little Tern,</li> <li>• One big information panel,</li> <li>• Four regular information panels.</li> </ul> <p>And were also made some improvements on existing infrastructure of the Park, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rehabilitation of the Pelican's breeding beds in December 2019, December 2020,</li> <li>• Rehabilitation of the Little Terns island 2019, 2020,</li> <li>• Clean-up some of tourism trails,</li> <li>• Repairing of the bridge for reaching the hide in Godulla e vogel.</li> </ul> <p>Please refer to the pictures attached with the number 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29.</p>

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
3.0	Build a great co-operation with the public at large and particularly with local community through involvement on monitoring, conservation actions as well as engagement to improve the status of different bird species and their critical habitats.	3.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshop Program</li> <li>List of participants</li> <li>Photos or videos will be taken</li> </ul>	<p>Call for participation at the camp was made in January 2021, through all AOS channels. Please see the links below for the call:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.facebook.com/AOSALB/posts/1941065786047605">https://www.facebook.com/AOSALB/posts/1941065786047605</a></li> <li><a href="https://www.instagram.com/p/CKjAN65hM8Y/">https://www.instagram.com/p/CKjAN65hM8Y/</a></li> <li><a href="https://www.facebook.com/AOSALB/photos/a.521711607983037/1947098565444327/">https://www.facebook.com/AOSALB/photos/a.521711607983037/1947098565444327/</a></li> <li><a href="https://www.facebook.com/AOSALB/photos/a.521711607983037/1950907581730092/">https://www.facebook.com/AOSALB/photos/a.521711607983037/1950907581730092/</a></li> <li><a href="https://www.facebook.com/AOSALB/posts/1952212158266301">https://www.facebook.com/AOSALB/posts/1952212158266301</a></li> <li><a href="https://www.facebook.com/AOSALB/photos/a.521711607983037/1953940438093473/">https://www.facebook.com/AOSALB/photos/a.521711607983037/1953940438093473/</a></li> <li><a href="https://www.facebook.com/AOSALB/photos/a.521711607983037/1956904074463776/">https://www.facebook.com/AOSALB/photos/a.521711607983037/1956904074463776/</a></li> <li><a href="https://www.facebook.com/AOSALB/ph">https://www.facebook.com/AOSALB/ph</a></li> </ul>

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				<p>otos/a.521711607983037/1959249357562581/</p> <p>The experts who led the sessions were: Dorian Matliaj/Legal Expert, Ermelinda Mahmutaj/Expert on Plants and Habitats, Ferdinand Bego/Expert on Mammals, Amphibians, and Reptiles, Irena Dule/Legal Expert, Ols Lafe/Tourism Expert, Taulant Bino/Expert on Birds. For the camp 25 people applied, 15 of whom were selected with different backgrounds but priority was given to students with environmental profile. The camp was concluded in the most successful way, the applicants in 3 days were very interactive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://youtu.be/EavcUpdzuH8">https://youtu.be/EavcUpdzuH8</a></li> </ul> <p>Please refer to the attached documents with number 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36.</p>
3.0	Build a great co-operation with the public at large and particularly with local community through involvement on monitoring, conservation actions as well as engagement to improve the status of different bird species and their critical habitats.	3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reporting on the IWC and EuroBirdwatch websites</li> <li>• Agendas for both events</li> <li>• List of participants</li> <li>• Photos or videos depending on the platform where they will be published.</li> </ul>	<p>During the project implementation, the following monitoring scheme events were realized:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Waterbird Census (IWC) 2019</li> <li>• International Waterbird Census (IWC) 2020</li> <li>• International Waterbird Census (IWC) 2021</li> </ul>

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eurobirdwatch 2019 <a href="https://aos-alb.org/eurobirdwatch19-together-for-migratory-birds/">https://aos-alb.org/eurobirdwatch19-together-for-migratory-birds/</a></li> <li>• Eurobirdwatch 2020 <a href="https://aos-alb.org/eurobirdwatch20-in-albania/">https://aos-alb.org/eurobirdwatch20-in-albania/</a></li> </ul> <p>Please refer to the documents attached with number 37, 38, 39.</p>
3.0	Build a great co-operation with the public at large and particularly with local community through involvement on monitoring, conservation actions as well as engagement to improve the status of different bird species and their critical habitats.	3.6	Photos or videos and press release of the plantation and cleaning activities of the World Habit Day 2019.	<p>On World Wetlands Day, AOS and the Regional Administration for Protected Areas of Fier, along with the wonderful Junior Rangers, precious partners Respublica and PSEDA ILIRIA, as well as many volunteer friends, planted some 200 saplings of Umbrella Pines (Pinus pinea) in the National Park.</p> <p>Please refer to the photos attached with number 40.</p>
5.0	Project management, capacity building and strengthening	5.1	Internal capacity building and enhancement as demonstrated by comparison of CSTT at beginning and end of project.	Delivered at the beginning of the project and at the end of the project.
5.0	Project management, capacity building and strengthening	5.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal capacity building and enhancement</li> <li>• Data entry in the CSTT / GTT platform</li> </ul>	Delivered at the beginning of the project and at the end of the project.
5.0	Project management, capacity building and strengthening	5.4	METT for protected area prepared and submitted	Delivered at the beginning of the project and at the end of the project.

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
			during first six month and at project finalisation.	
5.0	Project management, capacity building and strengthening	5.5	AOS benefits from equipment allowing to perform their core activities	Thanks to the project and products purchased in the framework of the project, the internal capacities of AOS have increased a lot in terms of management, communication and branding., monitoring programs for target species as well as conservation actions. During the project we bought items, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Five office computers,</li> <li>• Four office chairs,</li> <li>• Four desks,</li> <li>• One office storage,</li> <li>• One printer copier,</li> <li>• One video projector,</li> <li>• One drone,</li> <li>• One car,</li> <li>• One shredder,</li> <li>• One projector tent,</li> <li>• One whiteboard,</li> <li>• One office trimmer</li> <li>• And some other small office supplies (stationary materials).</li> </ul>
5.0	Project management, capacity building and strengthening	5.6	Six-monthly Report on the implementation of the Process Framework.	Delivered at the beginning of the project.
1.0	Preparatory actions, investigation, identification, analysis, study, assessment and calculation of impacts of	1.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minutes of the meetings (MoM)</li> <li>• Photos or videos depending on the platform where they will be published</li> </ul>	The process of reviewing the Management Plan of the Divjake-Karavasta National Park has been pushed forward by both AOS and the Park's managing authority, RAPA-Fier; however, the central authorities have been

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
	proposal of development on environment, economy, social, historical and cultural heritage.			somewhat hesitant in this process, partially due to the pandemic. Nevertheless, the AOS' contribution has not been lacking in providing management authorities with advice on impact prediction and investment risk management in the vicinity of the Park.
1.0	Preparatory actions, investigation, identification, analysis, study, assessment and calculation of impacts of proposal of development on environment, economy, social, historical and cultural heritage.	1.7	Guide manifest on product recommendations in the framework of sustainable tourism development for Divjaka-Karavasta National Park	The Tourism Expert has submitted the final product, as per below: 08_CEPF Grant 108537_Ols Lafe_Report on the guide which contains all the elements of the tourism sector, including services, facilities and current products as well as potential elements of such packages, products and new tourist destinations in order to better integrate and enrich the tourist range_2021  Please refer to the documents attached with number 08: 08__CEPF Grant 108537_Let's Make Divjaka Natural Again_Ols Lafe_Report_2021
5.0	Project management, capacity building and strengthening	5.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial and administrative Reports submitted on time to CEPF.</li> <li>The EIA report will be submitted in the beginning of February 2019.</li> </ul>	Financial reports have been submitted on time every reporting period. Also the EIA report is submitted at the beginning of the project.
5.0	Project management, capacity building and strengthening	5.2	A short report about the meetings	Cancelled as activity due to Coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

**Tools, products or methodologies that resulted from the project or contributed to the results:**

- 01\_CEPF Grant 108537\_ Let's Make Divjaka Natural Again\_AOS\_2019-2021 Bird Monitoring Report in DKNP
- 02\_CEPF Grant 108537\_ Let's Make Divjaka Natural Again\_PSEDA-Illiria\_Report on best practices of EIA and SEA at Regional and International level dealing with similar causes to Divjaka-Karavasta National Park area\_2019
- 03\_CEPF Grant 108537\_ Let's Make Divjaka Natural Again \_PSEDA-Illiria\_Report on Quality of EIA of Wind Farm Project in Topoje, Fier (Along with Large Scale Agriculture Farming in Vicinity of Divjake-Karavasta National Park and Solar energy project in Topoje, Fier)\_2020
- 04\_CEPF Grant 108537\_ Let's Make Divjaka Natural Again \_PSEDA-Illiria\_Report on Current and Planned Projects in Divjaka- Karavasta National Park and its Adjacent Area \_2021
- 05\_CEPF Grant 108537\_ Let's Make Divjaka Natural Again \_Res Publica\_The draft-document of the memorandum of cooperation (MoC)\_2019
- 06\_CEPF Grant 108537\_ Let's Make Divjaka Natural Again \_Res Publica\_Report on the best legislative practices from the region on the protection of the environment and natural habitats \_2019
- 07\_CEPF Grant 108537\_ Let's Make Divjaka Natural Again \_Res Publica\_ Report on compliance with legislation of projects with environmental impact in the Divjaka-Karavasta National Park \_2020-2021
- 08\_CEPF Grant 108537\_ Let's Make Divjaka Natural Again\_OIs Lafa\_Report on the guide which contains all the elements of the tourism sector, including services, facilities and current products as well as potential elements of such packages, products and new tourist destinations in order to better integrate and enrich the tourist range\_2021

## PORTFOLIO INDICATORS

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
2.0	Number of KBAs under improved management and number of hectares covered			19,144	Overall, the protection and management of KBA ALB22 Shkumbin - Divjake - Seman has been improved due to better monitoring initiatives, capacity strengthening of local management authorities, safeguard of bird colonies, conservation measures for colonially breeding birds and increased local public awareness.

<b>Portfolio Indicator Number</b>	<b>Portfolio Indicator Description</b>	<b>Expected Numerical Contribution</b>	<b>Expected Contribution Description</b>	<b>Actual Numerical Contribution</b>	<b>Actual Contribution Description</b>
1.1	Number of land-use plans or land use management practices incorporate provisions for biodiversity conservation (e.g., integrated coastal zone management plans, river basin management plans, agricultural development plans, etc.)			1	1 practice (An unsustainable tourism proposal being rejected by the Strategic Investment Committee.) There is the Decision of SIC No. 16/3 dated 04/03/2019 "On the rejection of the request for granting the status of "Strategic Investment/Investor of Special Procedure" for the investment project "Divjaka Resort Albania".
1.2	Number of coastal KBAs under improved management and number of hectares covered			19,144	Overall, the management of KBA ALB22 Shkumbin - Divjake - Seman has improved due to better monitoring initiatives, capacity strengthening of local management authorities, disruption of foreseen unsustainable development plans, safeguard of bird colonies, conservation measures for colonially breeding birds and increased public awareness.
1.5	Number of threatened species from coastal KBAs seeing status improved (i.e., short-term increase			1	The Dalmatian Pelican colony has been guarded against human disturbance and breeding beds for the species have been rehabilitated and enlarged.

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
	in population and/or breeding success)				

## GLOBAL INDICATORS

### Protected Areas

Protected areas that have been created and/or expanded as a result of the project. Protected areas may include private or community reserves, municipal or provincial parks, or other designations where biodiversity conservation is an official management goal.

Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID*	Latitude	Longitude	Country	Original Total Size (Hectares) **	New Protected Hectares ***	Year of Legal Declaration or Expansion
------------------------	----------	----------	-----------	---------	--------------------------------------	-------------------------------	--

\*World Database of Protected Areas

\*\*If this is a new protected area, 0 should appear in this column

\*\*\* This column excludes the original total size of the protected area.

## Key Biodiversity Area Management

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) under improved management—where tangible results have been achieved to support conservation—as a result of the project.

KBA Name	KBA Code	Size of KBA	Number of Hectares with Improved Management
Shkumbin - Divjakë - Seman	ALB22		19,144

## Production Landscapes

Production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity as a result of the project.

A production landscape is defined as a site outside a protected area where commercial agriculture, forestry or natural product exploitation occurs.

Name of Production Landscape	Latitude	Longitude	Hectares Strengthened	Intervention
------------------------------	----------	-----------	-----------------------	--------------

## Benefits to Individuals

- Structured Training:**

Number of Men Trained	Number of Women Trained	Topics of Training
130	40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100 people trained every year (2019, 2020, 2021) for the International Waterbird Census (IWC) on the monitoring and counting schemes.</li> <li>50 people trained every year (2019, 2020) for the Eurobirdwatch on the monitoring and counting schemes.</li> <li>29 people trained in 2020 in BirdId Albania.</li> <li>15 people trained on advocacy and biodiversity issues.</li> </ul>

- Cash Benefits:**

Number of Men – Cash Benefits	Number of Women – Cash Benefits	Description of Benefits
50	20	Thanks to the collaboration with NATGA-National Association of Tourist Guides in

Number of Men – Cash Benefits	Number of Women – Cash Benefits	Description of Benefits
		<p>Albania, through two trainings, the capacities have been increased for 50 tourist guides who practice birdwatching and ecotourism in Divjaka-Karavasta National Park.</p> <p>In the framework of the bird identification program, BirdId Albania, already 20 people have been trained and practice activities as guides.</p> <p>In addition, dozens of community members logistically assist groups of tourists visiting the Park with transportation, boats, accommodation, food and companionship.</p>

## Benefits to Communities

View the <b>characteristics</b> column below with the following corresponding codes:	View the <b>benefits</b> column below with the following corresponding codes:
1- Small Landowners	a. Increased Access to Clean Water
2- Subsistence Economy	b. Increased Food Security
3- Indigenous/ Ethnic Peoples	c. Increased Access to Energy
4- Pastoralists / Nomadic Peoples	d. Increased Access to Public Services
5- Recent Migrants	e. Increased Resilience to Climate Change
6- Urban Communities	f. Improved Land Tenure
7- Other	g. Improved Use of Traditional Knowledge
	h. Improved Decision-Making
	i. Improved Access to Ecosystem Services

Community Name	Community Characteristics							Type of Benefit									Country	Number of Males Benefitting	Number of Females Benefitting
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i			

### Characteristics of "Other" Communities:

## Policies, Laws and Regulations

View the <b>topics</b> column below with the following corresponding codes:			
A- Agriculture	E- Energy	I- Planning/Zoning	M- Tourism
B- Climate	F- Fisheries	J- Pollution	N- Transportation
C- Ecosystem Management	G- Forestry	K- Protected Areas	O- Wildlife Trade
D- Education	H- Mining and Quarrying	L- Species Protection	P- Other

No.	Name of Law	Scope	Topics																
			A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	
1	The Decision of SIC No. 16/3 dated 04/03/2019 "On the rejection of the request for granting the status of "Strategic Investment/Investor of Special Procedure".	National	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						

**“Other” Topics Addressed by the Policy, Law or Regulation:**

No.	Country/ Countries	Date Enacted/ Amended	Expected impact	Action Performed to Achieve the Enactment/ Amendment
1	Albania	March 04, 2019	The protection of species, habitats and ecosystem of Divjaka-Karavasta National-Park, Important Bird Area (IBA), Key Biodiversity Area (KBA), Ramsar Site and Candidate Emerald Site.	The Strategic Investment Committee rejects the demand of Mabetex Group for "Divjaka Resort Albania" on the ground of impacts on biodiversity and the status of the protected area. AOS performed a comprehensive national and international outreach campaign against this master plan for mass urbanization in the heart of Divjaka-Karavasta National Park. The main threat to Divjaka-Karavasta National Park, thanks to the commitment

No.	Country/ Countries	Date Enacted/ Amended	Expected impact	Action Performed to Achieve the Enactment/ Amendment
				of all stakeholders and the pressure exerted through opposing arguments presented by AOS-led coalition, was has been rejected by public authorities. Also, the international bodies have played an important role in this process by opposing this master plan from the early stages of the proposal until it was rejected by our national authorities.

### Companies Adopting Biodiversity-friendly Practices

A company is defined as a for-profit business entity. A biodiversity-friendly practice is one that conserves or uses natural resources in a sustainable manner.

Name of Company	Description of Biodiversity-Friendly Practice	Country/Countries where Practice was Adopted

### Networks and Partnerships

Networks/partnerships should have some lasting benefit beyond immediate project implementation. Informal networks/partnerships are acceptable.

Name of Network/Partnership	Year Established	Country/Countries	Established by Project?	Purpose
Coalition on the protection of the Protected Areas.	2017	Albania	No	There is a coalition of civil society organizations, representatives of research and educative institutions who have gathered together in support of the Albanians Protected Areas. This coalition consists of 49 NGOs and 4 lecturers of the University of Tirana, so around 55 entities.

## Sustainable Financing

Sustainable financing mechanisms generate funding for the long-term (generally five or more years). These include, but are not limited to, conservation trust funds, debt-for-nature swaps, payment for ecosystem services (PES) schemes, and other revenue, fee or tax schemes that generate long-term funding for conservation.

Name of Mechanism	Purpose	Date Established	Description	Country/Countries	Project Intervention	Delivery of Funds?
-------------------	---------	------------------	-------------	-------------------	----------------------	--------------------

## Globally Threatened Species

Globally threatened species (CR, EN, VU) on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, benefitting from the project.

Genus	Species	Common Name (English)	Status	Intervention	Population Trend at Site
Clanga	clanga	Spotted Eagle	VU	Species habitat protection and species monitoring	Stable
Aythya	ferina	Northern Pochard	VU	Species habitat protection and species monitoring	Stable
Streptopelia	turtur	European Turtle Dove	VU	Species habitat protection and species monitoring	Increasing

## LESSONS LEARNED

**Actor diversity:** Building bridges of collaboration with many actors and the diversity of partners play an essential role in the success of a project. For AOS, during these 2 and a half years of project management, the primary element of success has been constant contact with key actors. The involvement of experts, NGOs with experience and different fields of action, and the involvement of international structures: NGOs, various donors, decision-making structures, always bring the desired result in consultative initiatives and campaigning. If there is something we would repeat in future projects, collaborations, meetings, hearings with stakeholders, that would be establishing regular communication and strong relationships. And, always be characterized by a comprehensive and multidimensional approach!

**Community:** A very important component in building bridges of long-term cooperation is the establishment and maintenance of close relationships with the community. Be there for them, to help them, to listen to them, to support them, to have those pleasant conversations in community's cafes! Transform into a "learner", a "listener" and respect their intellect and analytical skills. There are always things and practices that can be learned from them, there is always room for exchange of knowledge, therefore they deserve adequate attention, and their involvement and participatory approach in the project is a must.

**Creativity:** A key successful element that has characterized AOS over the years is creativity. It is very important that every activity, initiative, campaign, no matter how formal, scientific or routine, be treated as artistically, uniquely and coherently as possible.

**Dedicated and diverse team:** When project team members are very dedicated then the results speak for themselves. The dedication of the team members to the project is very valuable. Without commitment the deadlines are exceeded, the products are not of any quality and there will always be gaps in the completion of the project. However, when the team members of different backgrounds are extremely dedicated and motivated, the goals of the project are successfully achieved on time, within the budget and in maximum quality. Such has been the team of AOS, always passionate to carry out activities, always first in ideas and above all the contribution of everyone has been at very high levels of professionalism and dedication.

## SUSTAINABILITY/REPLICATION

Successes:

1. Improving the breeding population of the Dalmatian pelican  
The conservation measures undertaken by the project in order to support the nesting Dalmatian Pelicans (*Pelecanus crispus*) have been quite successful and have resulted in an 80 % increase in the number of breeding pairs in 2019-2021 compared with 2013-2018. The period of 2013-2018 registered an average of c. 44 breeding pairs per year while 2019-2021 registered c. 79 breeding pairs per year. Taking regular and consistent measures by both the authorities and AOS has ensured the colony's progress and long-term sustainability.

2. Improvement of the breeding population in the colony of Herons and Cormorants

Since the discovery of the colony by AOS, the core of biodiversity in the Park now enjoys a progressive and sustainable status; from approximately 500 pairs in 2015, today the colony reaches up to 3000 breeding pairs thanks to strict measures implemented by the Park administration, such as ensuring peace and not allowing disturbance from human activities. AOS has also contributed, among other things, not only by monitoring and providing periodic scientific data each breeding season for the composition and status of the colony, but has also contributed to the clearing of the nesting habitat from problematic elements (nets or debris) originating from illegal fishing inside the area.

### 3. Improving the breeding populations of Terns

Thanks to the consecutive efforts of the conservation measures taken since the start of the project, the breeding populations of the Terns have also increased significantly. The success of 2021 consists of the functioning of the artificial platform for the targeted species, which resulted in its immediate occupation by the Little tern (*Sternula albifrons*), suitable for 160 pairs, thus marking the first successful case of nesting platforms for Terns in Albania. Additionally, before the construction of the platform but also simultaneously, there have been repeated cleaning actions at the beginning of each season on potential islands in the lagoon in order to increase the reproductive success of the Common tern (*Sterna hirunda*), which have also proven to be successful. The repetition of this action guarantees the Park a steady growth of the species with hundreds of pairs.

### 4. The most complete monitoring report on the Dalmatian pelican and other species

Through the project, it was possible to achieve the most complete monitoring report of the symbol of the Park, the Dalmatian pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) and other important avifauna species for these three years of project implementation. The study, based entirely on scientific methodology, is an excellent opportunity to be considered for future conservation measures implemented by the central and local managing authorities as well as by other stakeholders, which also enables the proper assessment of the impacts of a measure.

### 5. Strengthening the capacities of the managing authorities of the Park

The most important long-term success of the project lies in the training of the Park's managerial capacities in undertaking conservation measures and actions. The involvement and close collaboration in any action or monitoring, counting and conservation scheme undertaken in the Park, has already enabled these authorities in the management, undertaking and independent implementation of measures for the protection of breeding populations but also for specific bird programs. This is an added value for the Park.

### 6. Construction of a consolidated civil society network in defense of the Park

Thanks to the project, the victory against Mabetex and the campaign in defense of Protected Areas, there is now a consolidated network of national and international civil society organizations supported by the structure of agencies, academics and specialists in the field of environment, law and administration, who are protecting the integrity of any Protected Area in any dimension. This network is becoming more and more consolidated, gaining the trust of interest groups, the trust of the most influential donors in Albania, the strong and continuous support of international government agencies, and we can say with full conviction that it is an asset in defense of natural resources in Albania.

### Challenges:

### 7. Potential review of the network of Protected Areas

If the boundaries and internal zoning of the Protected Areas are reviewed, as provided in the report for this study, not only the species already conserved for years but also their

habitats will be endangered. By reducing the boundaries of the Park, human activities automatically approach the vicinity of the Central Area in the Park, thus endangering the species present and nullifying any effort undertaken in decades of conservation in the Park by various structures.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS/STANDARDS**

Through the project, several investments and interventions have been made in the Park, for which the required process has been undertaken since the beginning of the project implementation, by compiling and submitting in the EIA document as well as the Process Framework document, for all the following required actions:

- a) Protecting key species through conservation actions involving as many local stakeholders as possible by creating teams with members from the local community who will take care of the species and the environment.
- b) Rehabilitating the wooden beds on the island of the Pelican colony (*Pelecanus crispus*) with the participation of caretakers and local authorities.
- c) Creating new nesting spaces through artificial platforms for the Common and Little Tern.
- d) Rehabilitating natural trails, cleaning and equipping them with signposts, installing 5 information panels, constructing a wooden bird-friendly facade and a tower for bird watching.
- e) Planting 400 Italian stone pine saplings, in cooperation with RAPA-Fier, community representatives, volunteers and supporters of AOS' initiatives.
- f) Cleaning the Park from urban waste in collaboration with the RAPA-Fier staff.

All the above actions were carried out by strictly implementing all the instructions set out in the VMN submitted at the beginning of the project.

## **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

Due to the lack of characters, the continuation of the section "Summarize the overall results of the project." is included here., as per below:

Component 4: Comprehensive mass campaign to raise awareness of the importance and values of the DKNP.

Events: AOS has organized very unique, creative, cultural activities with extensive participation and wide coverage. A great success during the first year (2019) was IWC 2019, "Dalmatian Pelican Day", WMBD 2019, EuroBirdwatch 2019; for the second year (2020), events include IWC 2020 and EuroBirdwatch 2020, and for the last year (2021), WMBD 2021 which featured the broadcasting of promotional spots on the Ring Center's big screen at the entrance of Tirana, where it is estimated that over 20,000 visitors a day have seen it. Furthermore, an artistic parade/exhibition of wildlife photography was organized in cooperation with the Municipality of Tirana, which remained on display for 30 days.

Promotional products: In terms of public awareness, 2 interactive meetings entitled Biodiversity Talks, 10 short promotional videos on the values of biodiversity, 1 docu-style video about the youth camp, 1 video report on current threats in the Park, over 10 e-newsletters, dozens articles and posts widely distributed on all our social media channels, a series of interviews dedicated to our conservation efforts. Promotional posters for each activity undertaken, sketches for some activities, hundreds of promotional materials, face-to-face meetings with the community, online meetings with stakeholders.

Component 5: Increasing and strengthening managerial capacities

AOS, thanks to the project, has already gained a lot of skills in managing large projects, it has also increased the internal capacity in the technical aspects of conservation measures and also those of close project collaborators. Thanks to the project, AOS was supported with the necessary logistical infrastructure which led to the successful completion of the project.

## ADDITIONAL FUNDING

<b>Total Amount of Additional Funding Actually Secured (USD)</b>	\$16,065.00
<b>Breakdown of Additional Funding</b>	<p>1. Donor Type of Funding*      AOS</p> <p>2. Type of Funding*            In-kind and Counterpart funding.</p> <p>3. Amount                            16,065 USD</p> <p>4. Notes                            Ornithologists part of AOS staff have contributed to all activities, including field visits, events, meetings, studies, specified as per below etc.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">• 65 Days x 35 \$/day = 2275</p> <p>\$</p> <p style="text-align: right;">• 60 Days x 30 \$/day = 1800</p> <p>\$</p> <p>5. Other contributions are related mainly to building maintenance/utilities, specified as per below:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">• Electricity costs: 30 Months x 70 \$/month = 2100 \$</p> <p style="text-align: right;">• Water costs: 30 Months x 22 \$/month = 660 \$</p> <p style="text-align: right;">• Internet costs: 30 Months x 21 \$/month = 630 \$</p> <p style="text-align: right;">• Mobile costs: 30 Months x 60 \$/month = 1800 \$</p> <p>6. Other contributions are related mainly to specific activities or products, specified as per below:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">• Car purchase cost, contribution from Euronatur/Mava Foundation = 5600 \$</p> <p style="text-align: right;">• Car maintenance costs: 400 USD x 3 years= 1200 \$</p>

## INFORMATION SHARING AND CEPF POLICY

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. For more information about this project, you may contact the organization and/or individual listed below.

Organization Name: AOS-Albanian Ornithological Society Contact Person: Besjana Sevo  
Address: Vaso Pasha Street, Building No. 4, Entrance No. 2, 2nd Floor, Apartment No. 3,  
1001 Tirana, Albania Website: [www.aos-alb.org](http://www.aos-alb.org)