

CEPF Final Completion and Impact Report

Organization's Legal Name:	Instituti për Ruajtjen e Natyrës në Shqipëri
Project Title:	From mountains to the sea
Grant Number:	CEPF-108695
Hotspot:	Mediterranean Basin II
Strategic Direction:	1 Support civil society to engage stakeholders in demonstrating integrated approaches for the conservation of biodiversity in coastal areas
Grant Amount:	\$190,283.00
Project Dates:	February 01, 2019 - January 31, 2022
Date of Report:	July 01, 2022

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

The key partners of the project were:

- 1- The Prefect of Vlora Region, an important institution for management of PAs as it is the head of Management Committee for protected areas. As the head of the Management Committee, the Prefect has supported the work done by project staff and experts' team on establishing of the management plans of three key species and approve them as part of the monitoring and management plan for the protected areas.
- 2- RAPA Vlore, a key partner and great supporter, adviser and collaborator in all activities of the project. They complement the information for the key endemic species to prepare the materials to facilitate the workshops, training sessions, site visits.
- 3- University of Vlora, a key stakeholder as it provided scientific support on study visits and monitoring in PAs on identification of the three key species and other endemic species present in the area. The students of this university participated in summer school and also in different training with CSOs and local community as well as during consultation process of management plans of three key species.
- 4- Regional Directory of Education, was an active stakeholder to support project activities related with the environmental education training sessions for teachers of schools in Vlora Bay and also to promote the open classes organized by them with students of elementary schools.
- 5- Local CSOs, were a key support on project activities implementation as they participated in different workshops on consultation for three key species management plans and citizen science monitoring activities and training sessions on best practices for monitoring, identification and protection of the endemic species and other important habitats and ecosystems.
- 6- Tour operators and other local communities groups (shepherds, beekeepers, fishermen), were active participants in the project activities like consultation meetings and workshops, training sessions and in study visits inside the PAs.

CONSERVATION IMPACTS

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
<p>The conservation communities, represented by civil society organizations (CSOs), public administration, universities, and community members have the capacity and tools to identify and conserve important habitats and species in Vlora Bay and actively participate in multi-stakeholder management committee</p>	<p>The management plans for the conservation of three species (<i>Hypericum haplophyloides</i>, <i>Sesleria albanica</i> and <i>Chondrula lugorensis</i>), developed in close consultation with civil society organizations, public administration, universities and local communities, not only have increased their knowledge about the important habitats and species (<i>Hypericum haplophyloides</i>, <i>Sesleria albanica</i> and <i>Chondrula lugorensis</i>) in PAs of Vlora Bay but provide a useful tool to ensure their active participation in actions led by protected areas agency. The civil society organizations have the tool to participate in the meetings of the Management Committee and contribute their opinions, recommendations and proposals on MP reviewing and implementing as a key stakeholders and professional advisers.</p>
<p>The conservation status of targets species (<i>Hypericum haplophyloides</i>, <i>Sesleria albanica</i>, <i>Chondrula lugorensis</i>, <i>Posidonia oceanica</i>) improves and their populations are at least stable or increasing</p>	<p>Updated information about location and distribution ranges of the target species <i>Hypericum haplophyloides</i>, <i>Sesleria albanica</i> and <i>Chondrula lugorensis</i> is now available to the RAPA staff and local community and the management plans for each of these species, including detailed monitoring protocols, are set up and in implementation process from RAPA Vlore. The data reported by experts indicate a stable population of the target species (<i>Hypericum haplophyloides</i>, <i>Sesleria albanica</i> and <i>Chondrula lugorensis</i>).</p>
<p>At least 4 operators have developed economically sustainable, ecotourism business, and/or improved their business practices with positive impacts on biodiversity (and at least 10 jobs have been created on ecotourism businesses)</p>	<p>Several touristic operators ("Flag pine", "Coast Gallery", "Albanian Trip", "Reality Escapers Albania" and "Dori's travel and tours") have improved their capacities and knowledge on how to sustainably use and explore the PAs as touristic destinations. The project has encouraged them to formalize their businesses as certified touristic services inside the PAs territory in Vlora Bay as an opportunity to enlarge their activity within protected areas. The project supported and advised some individual guide operators as Edison Bitri, Labrina Bedinaj, Ksenofon Konomi, Ornod Bazaj, Daniela Ramaj, Ajola Cobani, Klajdi Duro to get licensed and provide their services in cooperation with the administration of protected areas of Vlora bay (all licensed in 2021).</p>
<p>A financial contribution mechanism of the private entities in the tourism sector is initiated to conserve biodiversity in the protected areas</p>	<p>On December 2020 the Albanian Government adopted the DCM Nr. 1156, date 24.12.2020 "DETERMINATION OF INCOME GENERATED FROM</p>

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	TARIFFS PAID IN PROTECTED AREAS, MEASUREMENT AND CRITERIA OF THEIR USE" which set up the financial mechanism for the PAs administrative units to create opportunities for self-management and to give contribution to the private entities in tourism sector and not only on facilitating the conservation of biodiversity in the protected areas.
Around 7000 ha of non-protected areas in Vlora Bay KBA have a better environmental condition thanks to improved integrated coastal zone management	Building the capacities of various stakeholders, improving knowledge on the status and distribution of important species (Hypericum haplophyloides, Sesleria albanica and Chondrula lugorensis and more present in PAs' areas), assessment of the ecosystem services and continuous support to the functionality of the Management Committee for Protected Areas have contributed to a better understanding and improved environmental conditions in all natural areas around the Vlora bay (including areas outside of protected areas). The coordination effort provided by the Management Committee for Protected areas is an important step forward to improved integrated coastal zone management.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
1 partnership and network is formed among civil society organizations and communities, to leverage complementary capacities and maximize impact in support of the ecosystem profile.	A network of CSOs, local communities of fishermen, businesses, touristic operators, students and academic experts is formally established through a formal partnership agreement approved as a formal guiding document on their collaboration and coordination on an advocacy initiative to support the implementation of the management plan of PAs in Vlora Bay. All key stakeholders expressed their willingness to collaborate together and working on reviewing, improving, and implementing the management plans of the PAs in the study area. This network is formalized with an agreement of collaboration to work together and to support management of PAs as active stakeholders.
The protected areas of the Vlora bay (Llogara National Park - 1010ha, Karaburun Nature Managed Reserve - 2000ha, Karaburun-Sazan Marine National Park- 12428ha) are better managed and habitats degradation is prevented	Several project outputs are contributing to better management of the protected areas of the Vlora Bay. Improved knowledge about important species (Hypericum haplophyloides, Sesleria albanica and Chondrula lugorensis) and definition of specific conservation measures, strengthened cooperation with various stakeholders, particularly tourism and shepherds, definition and preliminary assessment of ecosystem services, development of several outreach materials and organization of numerous

Impact Description	Impact Summary
	awareness raising activities, all have contributed greatly to improve the capacities of PA managers (RAPA Vlore) and increased the support of local community to conservation efforts providing for a more effective management of natural resources of the area. The project has already identified key issues to be considered during the revision of the management plans of the protected areas of this region. Additionally, the project has contributed an important deal of knowledge to the process of revision of the PA boundaries, proposing the enlargement of the National Park Llogara to 1,769 ha and the Nature Park of Karaburun to 17,491 ha.
At least 5 civil society organizations and 20 community members (including at least 10 women), actively participate in conservation actions guided by the ecosystem profile, and increase their capacities to deliver long-term conservation benefits	"Association for the preservation and protection of the natural environment", "Greenery 2000", "Flag Pine", "Intellectuals of independence for ecological Albania" and "Blue expedition" are the associations that actively worked and contributed in conservation actions that are designated in the management plans of PAs in Vlora Bay especially in program of measures of conservation and preservation the ecosystems where are identified the endemic and sub-endemic species of PAs sites.
At least 30 teachers and 100 students have better knowledge on important species and habitats in Vlora Bay and the surrounding territories and proper tools to address conservation through education	30 teachers of the schools near PAs in Vlora Bay are trained and improved their knowledge on important species (<i>Hypericum haplophyloides</i> , <i>Sesleria albanica</i> and <i>Chondrula lugorensis</i> and more present in PAs' areas) and habitats in Vlora Bay and the surrounding territories and also to be able to use the proper tools to address conservation through education. The teachers together with students increased their knowledge about the PAs natural values through site visits in PAs in Vlora Bay and organizing 10 open classes on biology, geography, and environmental education curricula of their class. In these 10 open classes participated more than 200 students who prepared the drawings with their feelings and impressions from the site visits and knowledge they took from the their teachers, RAPA's staff and project experts about the importance of the PAs and their biodiversity and natural values. 90 students from schools of the region participated in exchange visits to other protected areas (Divjake Karavasta National Park).
Knowledge of 3 key biodiversity species in Vlora bay is improved (status, distribution maps and ecology) and measures for conservation of both of them is integrated in management practices (in particular in protected areas management plans)	The knowledge of three key biodiversity species (<i>Hypericum haplophyloides</i> , <i>Sesleria albanica</i> and <i>Chondrula lugorensis</i>) in Vlora Bay are improved as the project staff together with experts' team and researcher developed their management plans and identified the program of measures to protect them and to implement the integrated management plan of species in the PAs.

Unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

No unexpected impacts.

PROJECT RESULTS/DELIVERABLES

Overall results of the project:

The assessment on the state and distribution of 3 selected key priorities prepared and finalized in the maps of their presence in the study area presented in key species and ecosystem services reports. The training modules for scientific training on findings and conservation measures of key priority species in Vloora Bay with academics and students in Vloora University and with local CSOs, community prepared. The training sessions were planned to organize at the beginning of March but due to COVID 19 lockdown period that started in March 2020, we were obliged to postpone their organization. The first training organized on June 2020 with students and academic staff of Vloora University and the second training held October 2020 to encourage development of citizen science. The management plans for each of three key priority species are set up describing the species, their natural conditions, the threats facing and measures to address them. The assessment of ecosystem services finalized by the expert for the ES related to the PAs of Vloora Bay. The list of ES is analyzed and mapped for the PAs of Vloora Bay. A table of "Pits of Piri" trail in which visitors could find information about endemic species prepared and placed at the beginning of the trail. Along the trail, the visitors can find 3 informative tables and 15 oriented tables with key information. The catalog of endemic and important species of the PAs in Vloora Bay prepared with their photos and short information about values and threats that risks their grown or status of habitats. It could be used by the researchers and the visitors that are passion for the nature and species. The six identity cards brochures prepared for the children divided in main groups of species. The program for the summer school prepared as a curriculum of school aimed to cover the knowledge of endemic species of PAs, habitat types and ways of their conservation and management. This activity held for 30 participants in a three-day period from May 6 - 9, 2021, alternating theoretical information with field practices. The participants in this summer school were students of various educational backgrounds. The journalist that participated in two media tours organized in NP of Karaburun-Sazan and PNR of Karaburun have published their chronicles and reportage in the direct TV news edition and TV shows where the main themes were the nature values and opportunities to develop tourism inside the PAs. The environmental education guide divided into three modules and the set of the tools prepared. Those used by elementary school teachers to organize the outdoor environmental education classes. The curricula are completed with information about the natural resources, nature values, and biodiversity of PAs in Vloora Bay and it is accompanied with a set of didactic tools that can be used by teachers and students to explain the importance of the PAs, interpretation of the natural values and how we can protect these areas. 30 teachers that participated in environmental education training together with education expert and project staff set up a program with 10 open classes and organized them during the period from 25th of May to 5th June 2021. Two exchange visits organized with students from elementary schools in NP of Divjaka-Karavasta. 90 children participated in both study visits and they followed a program which was a combination of games, bird watching, gathering information for nature values of the park and wetlands areas. Also, on November 21st, 2021 the RAPA Vlore organized the celebration of the 55th anniversary of NP Llogara establishment. The project supports this event with some activities with ninth grade school students drawing pictures of animals or species of the park, making poems, essays or mock-ups inspired by the park. On January 28th, 2022, the project staff organized the closure event of the project. The event organized in Vloora city in center of the Vloora Bay and the program had presentation for the activities that were implemented during the three years of project life. The event benefited from the

presence and participation of high-level authorities from Vloora Region (Prefect of the Region, Deputy Head of the Regional Council, Municipality of Vloora, Director of RAPA, etc). The presentation were for the overview of the work that is done according to work plan and arrangements due to COVID-19 rules and restrictions, for ES assessment, tourism as an education media about nature and tradition, experience on environmental education for new generation, experience on summer school for students that get opportunities to learn from nature by touching, exploring and experimented, and about the close collaboration with RAPA Vlore to support the research activities and protect and conserve the nature inside the PAs in Vloora Bay. Training materials, presentations, and information tools prepared for tour operators and local CSOs by tourism experts and project staff. These materials contain information about the best practices of tourism based on nature, the natural values of PAs in Vloora Bay that can be used by the tour operators. This activity decided to divide in two sessions as the COVID-19 rules. The first training with the tour operators and businesses organized on November 11-12th, 2020 and the second training held on January 13-14th, 2022. This second training organized in combination of the information about the nature values and opportunities to explore nature inside the PAs' territory by following activities in lowland close to wetland areas in Oríkumi and following a trail in Llogara NP in mountain. The first meeting with the shepherd in Karaburuni and Llogara areas to discuss best practices/techniques on sustainable grazing held on October 8th, 2020. The second meeting held on January 17th, 2022. They expressed their concern about the fires in the area as a big threat for pasture areas and impact on decreasing the food for animals and landscape size. Meeting with fishermen in the Rradhima area to discuss best practices/techniques on sustainable fishing held on June 12th, 2020. The second meeting held on January 18th, 2022. The expert on tourism worked with RAPA staff to identify the priorities of the code of conduct for tourist and visitors in marine, coastal and inland activities. The expert prepared the stakeholders' analysis of natural resources' user where describing their importance and enable a multi stakeholder governance mechanism to address the key threats, support knowledge transfer, and joint planning for a broader understanding of Vloora bay and its PAs. The training on advocating the sustainable use of natural resources and active participation in decision making for local CSOs and community inside the PAs organized on February 2020. The project staff participated in the Management Committee meeting organized by Prefecture of Vloora, on September 26th, 2019 when it is presented the project goal and objectives and is expressed the collaboration between MC and the project. The MC meeting held on June 23rd, 2021 included in its agenda the discussion on the three species management plans that project has prepared. The MC evaluated the work done from the project and approved the continuation of the process of sending these plans to the NAPA and the MTE for approval. A position paper on waste management and their impacts over natural resources and local economy is prepared. The METT tool is prepared in consultation with RAPA Vlore staff for NP of Llogara, MNR of Karaburun and MNP of Karaburun-Sazan at the beginning and the end of the project. In these tools is presented some improvement measures that RAPA Vlore staff has done in the management of these PAs and also, they have increased their capacities to understand better their role and responsibilities. The CSTT/GTT for INCA are completed at the beginning and the end of the project reporting a little improvement on the work in direction of inner organization.

Results for each deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1.0	By 2022, improving the knowledge on key priority species and important ecosystem services in Vlora bay and adopting relevant conservation measures in collaboration with local and national stakeholders	1.1	Assessment document on the state and distribution of 3 selected key priority species associated with recommendations on appropriate conservation measures for each of them, available for scientists, key stakeholders and CSOs	The assessment on the state and distribution of 3 selected key species (<i>Hypericum haplophyloides</i> , <i>Sesleria albanica</i> and <i>Chondrula lugorensis</i>) prepared and finalized in the maps of their presence in the study area presented in key species and ecosystem services reports. The team made a combination of the survey in sites with the data collection and interviews of local people to identify the threats and the pressures for three key species (<i>Hypericum haplophyloides</i> , <i>Sesleria albanica</i> and <i>Chondrula lugorensis</i>). The collected data and information is part of the species action plans as an outcome of this project. This assessment served as baseline for the establishing of the monitoring program of the three key species (<i>Hypericum haplophyloides</i> , <i>Sesleria albanica</i> and <i>Chondrula lugorensis</i>) as part of the scientific data collection.
1.0	By 2022, improving the knowledge on key priority species and important ecosystem services in Vlora bay and adopting relevant conservation measures in collaboration with local and national stakeholders	1.2	Two training modules on: (i) findings and conservation measures on key priority species in Vlora bay (ii) best practices and approaches on encouraging citizen science partnerships	The training session on findings and conservation measures of key priority species in Vlora Bay organized on July 6-7, 2020 with the participation of the students, lecturer, and scientific researcher at Vlora University premises. The biologists' experts presented their findings, their experiences on data collection for the new species (<i>Hypericum haplophyloides</i> , <i>Sesleria albanica</i> and

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				Chondrula lugorensis), and the draft of their species management plan to the audience. The training session on best practices and approaches on encouraging citizen science partnership organized at the National park of Llogara with key stakeholders and the local community on October 22-23, 2020. Biologist experts made the presentation of the findings and conservation measures on these key priority species in Vlora Bay in collaboration with RAPA specialists on monitoring and management plan implementation for these species. The main goal of this training was to increase the knowledge of the local community and key stakeholders on the importance of these species and how to monitor their status. The discussion based on the main working documents of PA management and specifically on the MPs of Llogara National Park, the Karaburun Managed Nature Reserve, and the Karaburun-Sazan National Marine Park.
1.0	By 2022, improving the knowledge on key priority species and important ecosystem services in Vlora bay and adopting relevant conservation measures in collaboration with local and national stakeholders	1.3	For each of the species, species management plan is established and integrated in management plan of protected areas in Vlora bay	The experts' team and project staff has prepared the integrated management plans for each of three key priority species (Hypericum haplophyloides, Sesleria albanica and Chondrula lugorensis) considered under this project. These management plans are consulted with RAPA staff especially with monitoring and management sections to have their opinion and comments on their content

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				and the measures proposed to be used by RAPA staff as part of the management plan of PAs in Vlora Bay. In these documents are described the species, the habitats and ecosystems where they occur, the natural conditions they are found in, the threats the species are facing and measures to be taken to address those threats. An important part of the species management plan is the monitoring program. The management plans are translated in Albanian. The whole set sent to the Ministry of Tourism and Environment and to NAPA to be considered as part of the national management plan of the species.
1.0	By 2022, improving the knowledge on key priority species and important ecosystem services in Vlora bay and adopting relevant conservation measures in collaboration with local and national stakeholders	1.4	Assessment document on ecosystem services and the state of recreational and educational services at visitor sites in Vlora bay, associated with data collection protocol for managers or CSOs, to be used during visitor site monitoring in the future	The document on the assessment of ecosystem services is finalized by the expert through the data collection and the information for the ecosystem services related to the protected areas of Vlora Bay. The list of ecosystem services is analyzed and also is mapping in the protected areas of Vlora Bay and also the identified ES are prioritized in order to understand what are the most important or at least are most valuable for the nature values and for the community. The assessment document on ecosystem services was under consultation process with the local scientific community and experts to improve the information for each ecosystem service identified and to add information for the key ecosystems and habitats. The expert of ES

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				finalized the structure of the report on ES in PAs of Vlora Bay and in collaboration with GIS expert creates some maps for providing ES, threats that ES impacted and prioritizing monitoring and management activities to address threat to sustainable delivery of ES. The maps provide better visualization for assessment of the most important ES offered by PAs and what indicators should be considered to the monitoring program for the ES in Vlora bay in support of the visitors and tourism in the PAs.
2.0	By 2022, raise awareness and improve education among key stakeholders, students, CSOs and wider public on the integrated management of fragile species, habitats and ecosystem services in protected areas of Vlora bay and the surrounding territories	2.1	Outreach and education program associated with plan of activities to raise awareness and improve education on important key priority species and other important habitats and species in Vlora bay	Project staff in collaboration with local actors, RAPA staff, and experts' team has worked on the designation of the outreach and education program focusing on important key priority species and other important habitats and species in Vlora bay. This program contains the activities that will be implemented in PAs to recognize, protect and conserve the key species and not only, and will be used by visitors inside the PAs and by researchers that are interested in the natural values and biodiversity of those areas. During the project implementation the team has prepared some infographics for the key endemic species of Llogara National park that are posted on the Facebook account of INCA and the visitors' center of Llogara. Project prepared a table of "Pits of Piri" trail in which visitors could find some endemic species and also two of our

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				endemic and study species (<i>Sesleria albanica</i> and <i>Hypericum haplophyloides</i>). The table placed at the beginning of the trail to give the information about the length of the trail and what kind of species the visitors could be found in it. Also, the visitors can find three other informative tables where is prescribed the most attractive places of the trail and where they could be find. 15 oriented tables are placed along the tail every 300 m.
2.0	By 2022, raise awareness and improve education among key stakeholders, students, CSOs and wider public on the integrated management of fragile species, habitats and ecosystem services in protected areas of Vlora bay and the surrounding territories	2.2	Copies of informative brochures, informative maps and education boards on key priority species, natural resources, biodiversity values and sustainable tourism practices	The catalog of endemic and important species of the PAs in Vlora Bay is prepared through their photos and short information about their values and threats that risks their grown or status of habitats. The catalog could be used by the researchers and also from the visitors that are passion for the nature and species. The six identity cards brochures are prepared for the children divided according to the group of species (like animals, bushes and trees, herbaceous plants, marine species, amphibians and reptiles). The catalogs are presented in Center of Visitors in NP of Llogara and Radhime to inform little visitors and community.
2.0	By 2022, raise awareness and improve education among key stakeholders, students, CSOs and wider public on the integrated management of fragile	2.3	Training materials and curricula of the three days summer school with focus on improving the knowledge on 3 key priority species, their best management	The project staff and experts' team prepared the program for the summer school as a curriculum of school aimed to cover the knowledge of endemic species of PAs (Llogara National Park; Karaburun Managed Nature Reserve and Karaburun-Sazan Marine National

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	species, habitats and ecosystem services in protected areas of Vlora bay and the surrounding territories		practices and other important habitats and species in Vlora bay	Park), habitat types and ways of their conservation and management. This activity held for 30 participants in a three-day period from May 6 - 9, 2021, alternating theoretical information with field practices, very important for conducting sound studies and observation of species in their habitat. The participants in this summer school were students of various educational backgrounds (biology, tourism, environmental engineering) who wanted to have more knowledge on the ways of studying the biodiversity of the Llogara-Karaburun complex and the implementation of the biodiversity action plans, using these areas as touristic destination and attractive sites, and how they can contribute for the management of them as sites with high natural values and according to the rules for nature protection and conservation.
2.0	By 2022, raise awareness and improve education among key stakeholders, students, CSOs and wider public on the integrated management of fragile species, habitats and ecosystem services in protected areas of Vlora bay and the surrounding territories	2.4	10 links or articles published in local or national media on the importance of conserving of natural resources and biodiversity values in Vlora bay	The journalist that participant in media tours organized in National Park of Karaburun-Sazan and PNR of Karaburun has published their chronicles and reportage in the direct TV news edition and TV show cast. The nature values and opportunities to develop tourism inside the PAs in Vlora Bay were the main themes of these editions and news. Also they promote the tradition and what they could find in trails of parks and natural reserves. The links of of editing and online media of these articles and

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				chronicles are presented in the document "Media promotion".
2.0	By 2022, raise awareness and improve education among key stakeholders, students, CSOs and wider public on the integrated management of fragile species, habitats and ecosystem services in protected areas of Vlorë bay and the surrounding territories	2.5	Copy of environmental education tools prepared for elementary school teachers on outdoor education focusing on Vlorë bay natural and biodiversity values	The education expert and project staff prepared the environmental education guide and the set of the tools that should be used by elementary school teachers to organize the outdoor environmental education classes focusing on Vlorë bay natural and biodiversity values. This document is accompanied with a set of didactic tools that can be easily used by students to explain better the importance of the PAs, interpretation of the natural values and how we can protect these areas. The various educational materials will lead students to thinking innovatively on how to reuse, recycle and reduce the wastes in order to minimize their impact in PAs territory.
2.0	By 2022, raise awareness and improve education among key stakeholders, students, CSOs and wider public on the integrated management of fragile species, habitats and ecosystem services in protected areas of Vlorë bay and the surrounding territories	2.6	Training curricula documents for elementary school teachers, with focus on ecology, conservation, protected areas and important species and habitats of Vlorë bay	The environmental education guide divided into three modules that cover (i) Environmental education, role, importance, and reasons why it is worked on in school; (ii) Nature, its care, enrichment, and protection; and (iii) Environmental protection and sustainable development. Each module gives in detail the information for the nature, environmental education, and the importance of environmental protection through increasing the knowledge and awareness and how to protect and conserve the natural values of Protected Areas in Vlorë Bay. The curricula are completed even with information

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				about the natural resources, nature values, and biodiversity of PAs in Vlora Bay and the set of the didactic tools that can be easily used by students to explain better the importance of the PAs, prepared. Those used by elementary school teachers to organize the outdoor environmental education classes. 30 teachers participated in environmental education training
2.0	By 2022, raise awareness and improve education among key stakeholders, students, CSOs and wider public on the integrated management of fragile species, habitats and ecosystem services in protected areas of Vlora bay and the surrounding territories	2.7	Detailed program on 2 study visits and a model program for 10 open classes, focusing on important species and habitats in Vlora bay and protected areas	30 teachers that participated in environmental education training together with education expert and project staff set up a program with 10 open classes and organized them during the period from 25th of May to 5th June 2021. Also, in frame of this activity, on November 21st, 2021 the RAPA Vlore organized the celebration of the 55th anniversary of NP Llogara establishment. The project supports this event with some activities with ninth grade school students drawing pictures of animals or species of the park, making poems, essays or mock-ups inspired by the park.
2.0	By 2022, raise awareness and improve education among key stakeholders, students, CSOs and wider public on the integrated management of fragile species, habitats and ecosystem services in protected areas of Vlora	2.8	Program of 2 exchange visits and exhibitions, that join to the global actions of important environmental days and adjust to the local context, in line with the project objectives and outdoor environmental education program	Two study visits organized from the project with students from elementary and secondary schools in National Park of Divjaka-Karavasta. 90 children participated in both study visits and they follow a program of visit which was a combination of games, bird watching, gathering information for nature values of the park and wetlands areas. They enjoyed the days of visits as they made some pictures with

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	bay and the surrounding territories			the materials that took from the project to fix in these color papers or drawing letters their emotions and what they learnt during the visits. The "little researcher" were students from schools near the protected areas of Vlora Bay who were also participants in the open classes organized by trained teachers. The children were introduced to the specifics of this park and its natural values. They discussed with rangers the differences that differed in the areas they visited in NP of Divjaka-Karavasta compared to NP of Llogara or MNP of Karaburun-Sazan, making an assessment of things they did not find in PAs within the Bay of Vlora.
2.0	By 2022, raise awareness and improve education among key stakeholders, students, CSOs and wider public on the integrated management of fragile species, habitats and ecosystem services in protected areas of Vlora bay and the surrounding territories	2.9	Closure event report with main points of discussion and outcomes associated pictures and event presentations	On January 28th, 2022, the project staff organized the closure event of the project. The event organized in Vlora city in center of the Vlora Bay and the program had presentation for the activities that were implemented during the three years of project life. The event benefited from the presence and participation of high-level authorities from Vlora Region (Prefect of the Region, Deputy Head of the Regional Council, Municipality of Vlora, Director of RAPA, etc). The presentation were for the overview of the work that is done according to work plan and arrangements due to COVID-19 rules and restrictions, for ES assessment, tourism as an education media about nature and tradition, experience on

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				environmental education for new generation, experience on summer school for students that get opportunities to learn from nature by touching, exploring and experimented, and about the close collaboration with RAPA Vlore to support the research activities and protect and conserve the nature inside the PAs in Vlora Bay.
3.0	By 2022, management of the coastal and marine protected areas in the project area are improved by applying innovative conservation programmes and nature based infrastructure models, to preserve the natural and cultural values of the area.	3.1	Copy of capacity building training materials on sustainable nature based tourism management practices	Training materials, presentations, and information tools prepared for tour operators and local CSOs by tourism experts and project staff. These materials contain information about the best practices of tourism based on nature, the natural values of PAs in Vlora Bay that can be used by the tour operators.
3.0	By 2022, management of the coastal and marine protected areas in the project area are improved by applying innovative conservation programmes and nature based infrastructure models, to preserve the natural and cultural values of the area.	3.2	Training materials, presentations and information tools prepared for tour operators and CSOs on effective site management and sustainable tourism practices	This activity decided to divide in two sessions as the COVID-19 rules obliged the project staff to have a reduced number of participants and followed conditions given by government. The first training with the tour operators and businesses organized on November 11-12th, 2020 where is combined theory lessons and site visit in NP of Llogara and the second training held on January 13-14th, 2022. This second training part of tour operators and businesses organized in combination of the information about the nature values and opportunities to explore nature inside the PAs'

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				territory by following activities in lowland close to wetland and sea areas in Orikumi and following a trail in Llogara National Park in mountain.
3.0	By 2022, management of the coastal and marine protected areas in the project area are improved by applying innovative conservation programmes and nature based infrastructure models, to preserve the natural and cultural values of the area.	3.5	Document of the code of conduct for tourist and visitors and the proper implementation of sustainable marine, coastal and inland touristic activities in Vlora bay, to be used by CSOs and Vlora RAPA staff	The final version of the code of conduct is approved by RAPA Vlore as part of the education package of the visitors and they will prepare some leaflets for them to inform how they should treat the area inside the parks or protected areas for the keeping clean, using recycle materials, knowing the tradition, culture and nature, help and inform the others for the information points and what kind of activities they could follow inside the PAs.
4.0	By 2022, enable a multi-stakeholder governance mechanism to address the key threats, support knowledge transfer and joint planning for a broader understanding of Vlora bay and its protected areas as a sustainable tourism destination	4.1	Document, analysis of natural resource user's stakeholder in Vlora bay	The expert prepared the stakeholders' analysis of natural resources' users document describing their importance and enable a multi-stakeholder governance mechanism to address the key threats, support knowledge transfer, and joint planning for a broader understanding of Vlora bay and its protected areas as a sustainable tourism destination. This document has described the mechanism of the stakeholders' engagement and propose the activities that RAPA staff should follow to increase their participation and interest in the management plans implementation of the PAs in Vlora Bay as key and responsible actors.
4.0	By 2022, enable a multi-stakeholder governance mechanism to address the	4.2	2 days training program associated with training presentations on advocating	The training on advocating the sustainable use of natural resources and active participation in decision making for local CSOs and community

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
	key threats, support knowledge transfer and joint planning for a broader understanding of Vlorë bay and its protected areas as a sustainable tourism destination		the sustainable use of natural resources and active participation in decision making	inside the PAs organized on February 2020 with aim to promote and enable an active environment for civil society and the community, as well as empowering civil society organizations and various community participants to be efficient, effective and responsible independent actors, and to increase their capacity to have a dialogue with the central government that influences policy and decision-making processes and to make them institutionally responsible for their performance towards citizens and society at large. The training for CSOs and local community in project area served as a communication table with collaborators and local NGOs to discuss the implementation of project activities aimed at increasing the active presence and strengthening the skills of CSOs, local actors in the implementation of legislation, in the fight against corruption and minimizing negative impacts on the management of natural resources and protected areas. Encouraging cooperation between CSOs and public authorities, local communities and the media, aimed to network and build partnerships between them, in creating a long-term work program.
4.0	By 2022, enable a multi-stakeholder governance mechanism to address the key threats, support	4.3	5 Reports from protected areas management committee meetings on the	The project staff participated in the Management Committee meeting organized by Prefecture of Vlorë, on September 26th, 2019 when it is presented the project goal and

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
	knowledge transfer and joint planning for a broader understanding of Vlora bay and its protected areas as a sustainable tourism destination		main points of discussion and meeting outcomes	objectives and is expressed the collaboration between MC and the project. The MC meeting held on June 23rd, 2021 included in its agenda the discussion on the three species management plans that project has prepared for Sesleria albanica, Hypericum haplophyloides and Chondrula lugorensis. The MC evaluated the work done from the project and approved the continuation of the process of sending these plans to the NAPA and the MTE for approval in the respective institutions and became part of the revised management plans of the PA in the Bay of Vlora. Due to COVID-19 situation it was not able to have more than two MC meeting but the presence of Prefecture as head of the MC, at almost all activities of the project means a strong support of the project to achieve a close collaboration and good relation with the management authorities in PAs territory in Vlora Bay.
4.0	By 2022, enable a multi-stakeholder governance mechanism to address the key threats, support knowledge transfer and joint planning for a broader understanding of Vlora bay and its protected areas as a sustainable tourism destination	4.4	Position paper document, focusing on the waste management issues and their impacts over natural resources and local economy, sent to government and local media (links on media/newspaper)	The project prepared a position paper on waste management and their impacts over natural resources and local economy in close collaboration with RAPA staff and Vlora Municipality directory that is responsible for waste management in Vlora municipality territory. This position paper has presented to the key actors the main problems from waste and wastewater pollution in PAs of Vlora Bay area as part of the Vlora Municipality territory.

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				The analyze of the identified issues on pollution from waste conclude that the wastewater solutions provided so far in the target area are just not enough to provide the adequate quality of wastewater to be discharged to the sea with no adverse impact on the marine environment and the project give some suggestions on waste and wastewater management solutions in the protected areas in Vlora Bay.
4.0	By 2022, enable a multi-stakeholder governance mechanism to address the key threats, support knowledge transfer and joint planning for a broader understanding of Vlora bay and its protected areas as a sustainable tourism destination	4.5	Activity report on CEPF Grantees in other Mediterranean counties associated with pictures	Due to COVID-19 pandemic it was canceled to have activities on CEPF Grantees in other Mediterranean counties.
4.0	By 2022, enable a multi-stakeholder governance mechanism to address the key threats, support knowledge transfer and joint planning for a broader understanding of Vlora bay and its protected areas as a sustainable tourism destination	4.6	The METT tool is prepared in consultation with Vlora Regional Administration of Protected Areas staff and submitted to CEPF in the first six months and at the end of project	The METT tool is prepared in consultation with RAPA Vlore staff for NP of Llogara, MNR of Karaburun and MNP of Karaburun-Sazan at the beginning and the end of the project. In these tools is presented some improvement measures that RAPA Vlore staff has done in the management of these PAs and also, they have increased their capacities to understand better their role and responsibilities.

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
4.0	By 2022, enable a multi-stakeholder governance mechanism to address the key threats, support knowledge transfer and joint planning for a broader understanding of Vlora bay and its protected areas as a sustainable tourism destination	4.7	The CSTT/GTT for INCA is submitted at the beginning and end of the project	The CSTT/GTT for INCA are completed at the beginning and the end of the project and is reported a little improvement on the work in direction of inner organization and also for the gender strategy of INCA.
3.0	By 2022, management of the coastal and marine protected areas in the project area are improved by applying innovative conservation programmes and nature based infrastructure models, to preserve the natural and cultural values of the area.	3.3	Meeting materials prepared by pasture specialist on sustainable grazing techniques	The first meeting with the shepherd in Karaburuni and Llogara areas to discuss best practices/techniques on sustainable grazing held on October 8th, 2020. The second meeting with the shepherd held on January 17th, 2022. The shepherds gave their opinion on the techniques of grazing that can be used to protect the pasture areas. They expressed their concern about the fires in the area as a big threat for pasture areas and impact on decreasing the food for animals and landscape size.
3.0	By 2022, management of the coastal and marine protected areas in the project area are improved by applying innovative conservation programmes and nature based infrastructure models, to	3.4	Meeting materials prepared by fishing specialist on sustainable fishing techniques/gears	Meeting with fishermen in the Rradhima area to discuss best practices/techniques on sustainable fishing held on June 12th, 2020. The second meeting with fishermen held on January 18th, 2022. The fishermen gave their opinion on the proper techniques and the gears that can be used for efficient fishing in the area to decrease the pressure of the overfishing and damages on fish stock. They

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
	preserve the natural and cultural values of the area.			gave their recommendation on the practices that should be part of the measures plan on conservation and protection management plan in the NP of Karaburun and in lagoon of Orikumi. Also the project staff has discussed with the fishermen about the rules of fishing inside the MPA and how to collaborate with RAPA Vlore to implement the conservation measures for marine biodiversity.

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

The products, tools and methodologies produced during the project implementation are:

- 1- the document on the assessment of ecosystem services explained the methodology followed for the evaluation of the ecosystem services of all Vlorë Bay target area of this project;
- 2- The catalog of endemic and important species of the PAs in Vlorë Bay is prepared through their photos and short information about their values and threats that risks their growth or status of habitats in booklet format to be useful from researcher and interested people for natural values and biodiversity of PAs.
- 3- The six identity cards brochures are prepared for the children divided according to the group of species (like animals, bushes and trees, herbaceous plants, marine species, amphibians and reptiles). The catalogs are presented in Center of Visitors in NP of Llogara and Radhime to inform little visitors and community;
- 4- the environmental education guide and the set of the tools that should be used by elementary school teachers to organize the outdoor environmental education classes
- 5- the guide for the touristic operators and businesses on best practices of tourism based on nature and information about the PAs and their management plans where are presented the allowed touristic activities inside the protected areas with high natural values and biodiversity. The guide prepared for the tour operator and businesses provide to them some information what are the protected areas, what the tour operator can find and use for the touristic activities, what kind of activities based on nature could be developed from them to make these areas more attractive for visitors.
- 6- the code of conduct is approved by RAPA Vlore as part of the education package of the visitors together with leaflets to inform how they should treat the area inside the parks or protected areas to keeping clean, using recycle materials, knowing the tradition, culture and nature, help and inform the others for the information points and what kind of activities they could follow inside the PAs.
- 7- a position paper on waste management and their impacts over natural resources and local economy is prepared by the project staff and experts' team to recommend to Municipality how they should treated the waste inside the PAs and how the local community and government should organize the integrated management of waste and wastewater.

PORTFOLIO INDICATORS

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
1.0	Number of initiatives with private sector resulting in adoption or maintenance of biodiversity-friendly practices			3	Project supported 5 shepherds, 3 beekeepers, 5 medicinal and aromatic plants collectors (Karaburun Area, Initiative 1), 10 tourism operators (Initiative 2) and 9 professional fishermen (Initiative 3) to adopt better biodiversity-friendly practices. The shepherds apply the practice of keeping the number of sheep and respect the surface of mountain where the RAPA Vlore has identified the important species habitat to conserve/manage according to the species management plan (Hypericum haplophyloides, Sesleria albanica and Chondrula lugorensis). The beekeepers are allowed to put their bee hive inside the PA's territory as pollinators and also to keep healthy plants in these areas. The tour operators apply their touristic guides in the paths and places that are defined

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
					by RAPA as tourists access areas and also the code of conduct respected by them through using reusing tools (glass or aluminum bottles, garbage sacs for trash of tourists, using local traditional food). The medicinal and aromatic plants collectors apply the rules of plant pruning and harvesting rules and they use catalogues prepared with the plants that are allowed to collect inside the PA's. The fishermen apply the rules as: not catching small size fish, not use the big boat close to the MPA, receiving license for fishery and use it accordingly, catch only the species that are allowed to.
2.0	Number of KBAs under improved management and number of hectares covered			19,260	The project has contributed an important deal of knowledge to the process of revision of the PA boundaries, proposing the enlargement of the National Park Llogara to 1,769 ha and the Nature Park of Karaburun to 17,491 ha. The proposal is part of the PA Management Plans that are under reviewing process

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
					for NP Llogara and Nature Park of Karaburun meaning the protection and conservation measures of the endemic and sub-endemic species of them. The addition information is concretely on the action measures for 11 endemic species of these PAs and also for the other species that are part of the species list and habitats of the previous MP document. This action measures are applied by RAPA during the project life as part of the annual work plan on protection and conservation of species and habitats.
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	Vlora Municipality established the General Local Territory Plan on December 2020 where the PAs territory is part of this plan. Project team participated in consultation meeting organized by Municipality to contribute on the connection between GLTP of Municipality and the MP of PAs in Vlora Bay and taking into consideration the criteria of

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
					nature resources protection and conservation.
1.2	Number of coastal KBAs under improved management and number of hectares covered			12,438	The project has contributed an important deal of knowledge to the process of revision of the PA boundaries, proposing the enlargement of the Marine National Park of Karaburun-Sazan to 12 437.7 ha.
1.3	Number of mechanisms initiated for the private sector to contribute financially to management costs of coastal KBAs			1	The DCM Nr. 1156, date 24.12.2020 "DETERMINATION OF INCOME GENERATED FROM TARIFFS PAID IN PROTECTED AREAS, MEASUREMENT AND CRITERIA OF THEIR USE" set up the financial mechanism for the PAs administrative units to create opportunities for self-management and to give contribution to the private entities in tourism sector and not only on facilitating the conservation of biodiversity in the protected areas.
1.4	Number of globally threatened species benefitting from reduced pressure from unsustainable practices (hunting,			0	

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
	fishing, over-harvesting)				
1.5	Number of threatened species from coastal KBAs seeing status improved (i.e., short-term increase in population and/or breeding success)			0	
4.1	Number of threatened plant species seeing status improved (i.e., short-term increase in population and/or breeding success)			0	The project was focused on the national endemic species and through the tools and produced documents has supported the development of monitoring protocols for several threatened plant species (including <i>Hypericum haplophyloides</i> , <i>Sesleria albanica</i> , <i>Posidonia oceanica</i>) and provided training to RAPA staff on the implementation of these protocols. Additionally, the project has supported the cooperation of protected areas staff with the University of Vlora in order to provide scientific expertise on the implementation of these monitoring protocols. The species management plans (<i>Hypericum</i>

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
					haplophyllloides, Sesleria albanica and Chondrula lugorensis) has defined measures that will contribute to improved conservation status of these species. The life span of the project was short to determine any substantial improvement of their conservation status, but in the long term, RAPA Vlore will be able to provide useful data on the assessment of the conservation status of these species.
4.3	Number of management plans of protected areas incorporating specific actions for plant conservation			3	The management plans of PAs in Vlora Bay are old (since 2004) and RAPA Vlore expressed their concern on updated these document in accordance with the new development and status of the PAs. Project support the initiative from RAPA Vlore to organize the consultation meetings with key stakeholders and collection their opinions and relative information on PAs status. Such consultation meetings are part of the initiated reviewing process of

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
					management plans and is continuing in order to finalize them with new zoning of each PA according to the recent adopted DCM.
4.5	Number of locally endemic or highly threatened plant species for which improved knowledge is available			8	There are identified 11 locally endemic or highly threatened plant species and for 8 of them useful data are collected about status, distribution and habitats where they normally occur. For 6 species from this list are set up the management species action plan and this documents is part of the management plan of relevant PAs in Vlora Bay.
4.6	Number of KBAs for which information on plants is improved			1	The project has improved knowledge about status and distribution ranges of several plant species (Hypericum haplophyloides, Sesleria albanica and Chondrula lugorensis and more present in PAs' areas) in the Vlora bay, Karaburun Mali i Cikes KBA. Assessment reports and species management plan (for Hypericum haplophyloides, Sesleria albanica and Chondrula lugorensis) are

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
					developed and integrated into the management plans of protected areas within the KBA.

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
Managed Nature Reserve of Karaburun		40.36752	19.36667	Albania	2,000	15,490	2022
National Park of Llogara		40.21438	19.57894	Albania	1,010	759	2022
Karaburun Sazan Marine National Park		40.2412	19.4251	Albania	12,428	20	2022

*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
Vlora bay - Karaburun Peninsula - Sazani Island - Çika Mountain	ALB05		31,698

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
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Benefits to Individuals

- **Structured Training:**

Number of Men Trained	Number of Women Trained	Topics of Training
188	134	Workshop on findings and conservation measures on key priority species in Vlora Bay Workshop on the best practices and approaches on encouraging citizen science partnerships Summer school to improve the knowledge on 3 key priority species, their best management practices and other important habitats and species in Vlora Bay <input type="checkbox"/> Media tour on the importance of conserving of natural resources and biodiversity values in Vlora Bay <input type="checkbox"/> On effective site management and sustainable tourism practices, by combining training workshops and on job training and mentoring <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting with shepherds of Karaburun and Llogara to promote sustainable grazing techniques

Number of Men Trained	Number of Women Trained	Topics of Training
		<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting with fishermen of Karaburun, Orikum and Radhima to promote sustainable fishing techniques <input type="checkbox"/> Training on advocating the sustainable use of natural resources and active participation in decision making with CSOs and community member

- **Cash Benefits:**

Number of Men – Cash Benefits	Number of Women – Cash Benefits	Description of Benefits
0	0	N/A

Benefits to Communities

View the characteristics column below with the following corresponding codes:	View the benefits 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 topics 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	DCM no. 59, date 26.1.2022 "ON APPROVAL OF CHANGE OF STATUS AND SURFACE OF NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS NATIONAL PARK (CATEGORY II) OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTED AREAS"	National	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>
2	Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 1156, dated 24.12.2020 "ON DETERMINATION OF INCOME GENERATED FROM TARIFFS PAID IN PROTECTED AREAS, MEASURE AND CRITERIA OF THEIR USE"	National	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	DCM no. 60, date 26.1.2022 "ON APPROVAL OF CHANGE OF STATUS AND SURFACE OF NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS NATURE PARK (CATEGORY IV) OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTED AREAS"	National	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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	January 26, 2022	Based on this designation of the status and surface of natural ecosystems national park (category ii) of environmental protected areas, the process of PAs zoning and their the management plans will be established further.	The project has contributed an important deal of knowledge to the process of revision of the PA boundaries, proposing the enlargement of the PAs in Vlora bay.
2	Albania	December 24, 2020	To generate income for the protected areas from the annual fees paid for the exercise of economic, social, tourist, scientific-research activities in the protected areas, the fees paid from the transport in their territories, as well as the fees paid by visitors and tourists, who visit these areas.	The project has contributed an important deal of knowledge to the process.
3	Albania	January 26, 2022	Based on this designation of the status and surface of natural ecosystems national park	The project has contributed an important deal of knowledge to the process of revision of the PA boundaries, proposing the

No.	Country/ Countries	Date Enacted/ Amended	Expected impact	Action Performed to Achieve the Enactment/ Amendment
			(category ii) of environmental protected areas, the process of PAs zoning and their the management plans will be established further.	enlargement of the PAs in Vlora bay.

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
Shametaj Bee Farm, Vlore	The bio-friendly practice used by him promote the plants from Llogara-Karaburun, especially for their incomparable essence. Honey produced from the strawberry tree (<i>Arbutus unedo</i>) occurring in large quantities up to a height of 50 m along the western side of the Karaburun Peninsula serves for community as curative product, especially in liver diseases and arthritis. This company tent to promote on the label of honey packaging the natural values of the protected area.	Albania
Five touristic operators "Flag pine", "Coast Gallery", "Albanian Trip", "Reality Escapers Albania", "Dori's travel	The tour operators apply their touristic guides in the paths and places that are defined by RAPA as tourists access areas and also the code of conduct respected by them through using reusing tools (glass or aluminum bottles, garbage sacs for trash of tourists during	Albania

Name of Company	Description of Biodiversity-Friendly Practice	Country/Countries where Practice was Adopted
and tours" & 6 individual guide operators as Edison Bitri, Labrina Bedinaj, Ksenofon Konomi, Ornold Bazaj, Daniela Ramaj, Ajola Cobani.	the site visits, using traditional foods from the area with collaboration of the local people).	
9 fishermen in the Vlora Bay area	They try to apply the selective fishing techniques and the gears adapted to marine species and habitats area to decrease the pressure of the overfishing and damages on fish stock. The fishermen apply also the rules as: not catching small size fish, not use the big boat close to the MPA, receiving license for fishery and use it accordingly, catch only the species that are allowed to.	Albania

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
"Advocate for the Preservation and Promotion of Albanian Nature"	2020	Albania	Yes	This is a partnership for cooperation and interaction between the Institute for Nature Conservation (INCA) and 5 partner organizations registered as NGOs. The object of this partnership join forces and work together with the aim of strengthening the system of conservation and promotion of Albania's nature and natural resources, through advocacy, lobbying and effective response, with inclusive community participation.

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?
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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
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LESSONS LEARNED

The project focused on creating the media to provide support for civil society to engage stakeholders in demonstrating integrated approaches for the conservation of biodiversity in coastal areas with direction of protected areas that have administration and management plans. The action tent to continue the work with key stakeholders to establish long-term relationship and collaboration to support the management of PAs (inland and coastal) in particular the important species and habitats (endemic and subendemic) and conservation measures of them in line with the nature protection and conservation framework. The combination of the scientific work with practice and consultation process was the success key of the project as it gives to the stakeholders and community a base of knowledge in important species inside the PAs where they live, work and get welfare. Influencing the behavior of private sector actors, local civil society and state actors to encourage and enable them to use their influence for the benefit of biodiversity and ecosystem sustainability is a time and energy demanding effort. Patience and perseverance are required. It is important to identify champions (individuals that support your cause) to push the ideas forward.

Ensuring the long-term conservation of species and habitats in the Vlora region with particular emphasis on halting or significantly reducing unsustainable development is consider the main route to set up the measures for increasing knowledge and awareness, capacity development and site-based measures, as well as improving governance for the site, through the stakeholder engagement and CSOs participation. All activities have a satisfactory impact on this direction. They improved the connection between nature and community, state institutions and private businesses and consultation and transparency and decision-making processes.

The novelty of this action, the summer school was a successful activity under this project. Students are the perfect vector to link academia with protected area management activities. They are eager to learn and have plenty of energy to dedicate to conservation activities. The period of project implementation was defined correctly but the major event of COVID-19 pandemic had impact in implementation of the project activities in timeline and participation.

The partners of the project (close collaborators) were good identified and they have been a big support of its implementation even there were some difficulties due to rules and restrictions from pandemic, and their contribution were successful in increasing knowledge and awareness, capacity development and site-based measures. They provide their information sources and experience to support and participate actively in the project activities and to take from it the best practices and knowledge to make them part of their work and to create bridges of close cooperation.

The framework of the project was detailed covering: (i) the scientific research in site and laboratories through data and information collection from the researcher engaged as experts and the junior researcher, (ii) scientific assessment of important species (*Chondrula lugorensis*, *Hypericum haplophyloides*, *Sesleria albanica*) and habitats status, (iii) increasing the knowledge and awareness for local CSOs and key stakeholders on nature protection and nature based conservation measures, (iv) connection between community and nature as well the youth and children as a new generation with nature. The project has achieved successfully increasing knowledge base on key priority species (*Chondrula lugorensis*, *Hypericum haplophyloides*, *Sesleria albanica*) and ecosystem services, raising awareness and improve education among key stakeholders, students, CSOs and wider public on the integrated management of protected areas of Vlora Bay, improving the management and development of the coastal and marine protected areas in the surrounding area by applying innovative conservation programs and creating touristic infrastructure models and enabling a multi-stakeholder governance mechanism to address the key threats and support knowledge transfer and joint planning for a broader understanding of Vlora Bay

and its protected areas as a sustainable tourism destination. The workshops and training sessions organized in framework of the project reached a satisfactory level of increasing knowledge and awareness, capacity development and site-based measures of participants creating a good community on management and conservation measures of PAs in project study area, Vlora Bay. "The little" researchers are considered as a sustainable continuation of the management of protected areas and not only, as they have been the most active part of the project implementation with their ideas and actions giving a substantial contribution in acquiring knowledge, putting them into practice and creating cooperation between park administration staff and their school environment. They considered the park as their natural class and helped with their actions in the protection of the environment and in particular of the spaces within the protected areas by knowing the species, the rules that must be applied, as well as how to spread their knowledge to others.

Using the PAs as touristic destination is not only the tourism or relaxing activity as the tour operator and businesses should considered them as the destination where they could provide the establishment of nature based touristic activities in appropriate to the protected areas status and respect the zoning system and particularly the conservation requirements for the selected important species (*Chondrula lugorensis*, *Hypericum haplophyloides*, *Sesleria albanica*) in their territory. This is achieved through training sessions and on-job training of related businesses on sustainable tourism practices, quality standards, certification schemes, tour packaging nature-based activities, natural values & resources. Engagement of the stakeholder was designed to be an important point of the project activity as the project ensured the coordination mechanism with tourism and environmental institutions, local authorities and touristic operators as the main activities that threat the biodiversity and nature values inside the PAs. This kind of businesses is more present in PAs and they show their willingness to collaborate and offer service models that using nature with less impact and give contribution in biodiversity and nature value protection and conservation. Also, the stakeholder participation is expressed in their common interest on increasing the promotion of PAs in Vlora Bay and not only, in active coordination from the MC of PAs and in joint vision to implement the Local Territorial Planning in coordination with management plans of PAs at the same territory. The relevant regional institutions provide their engagement on creating the common working group to give their ideas and experience on STMP for the marine territory that could be developed in the both documents as MP of MNP of Karaburun-Sazan and STMP of Vlora Bay further.

The key indicators identified as key successes of the project are achieved through a good team of project staff and experts, close collaboration with key stakeholders and institutions, engagement of local community and business in project study area, and the interesting groups that visit or work in PAs as a destination for scientific research, tourism and recreation, local economy and beneficiary area.

This project is a good example of the useful documents produced through a data and information collection, consultation process with scientific working group, CSOs, local community, businesses and local and regional institutions, including the best practices and technical know-how with purpose to spread the knowledge about the species and habitats, their importance and how they could be protected and conserved, to give basic information to the users of PAs territory and to provide their contribution on sustainable development of the PAs through understanding their importance of natural values and how they could protect or at least improve the protective measures in these areas.

The project model was strongly supported and appreciated from the all beneficiaries of this project (regional and local institutions, university, schools, businesses, local CSOs and community) as they profit more knowledge, improve their capacities, participation approaches in management and governance in protection and sustainable development of PAs and nature assets in their region. This kind of model is considered as helpful mechanism to be applied in continuation establishing a good functioning coordination and collaboration

between responsible institutions and public participation. The project is a good example to be replicated in other important areas of nature protection and conservation.

SUSTAINABILITY/REPLICATION

The key successes of the project are:

1. Improved knowledge on the status and distribution of target species (Chondrula lugorensis, Hypericum haplophylloides, Sesleria albanica);
2. Integrated Species Management plan developed for each of the species (Chondrula lugorensis, Hypericum haplophylloides, Sesleria albanica);
3. Preliminary evaluation of ecosystem services and the state of recreational and educational services in Vlora bay;
4. Education and awareness raising program for local schools
5. A summer school with 30 students with the aim of improving knowledge on key priority species, their best management practices and other important habitats and species in Vlora Bay;
6. Training of tour operators and businesses in the Vlora Bay area by providing: (i) guidance on the possibility of linking tourism activities with nature and the rules of nature protection and species and habitats; and (ii) the code of ethics of visitors within the PA;

The key challenges were:

- The progress of the project implementation was conditioned by the COVID-19 pandemic and the rules and restrictions for meetings and field movements.
- Limited interest from tour operators and businesses in the Vlora bay to participate in project activities.
- Lack of media interest to promote project activities and nature conservation issues.
- Slow reaction and response from government institutions

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS/STANDARDS

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Thanks to CEPF staff, regional and global, for the continuous support and useful guidance during the implementation of the project.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Total Amount of Additional Funding Actually Secured (USD)	\$0.00
Breakdown of Additional Funding	

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.

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