

CEPF Final Completion and Impact Report

Organization's Legal Name:	Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania
Project Title:	Land of Eagles and Castles: Integrated Participatory Management for Albanian Coastal Biodiversity
Grant Number:	CEPF-108570
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:	\$166,503.00
Project Dates:	March 01, 2019 - March 31, 2022
Date of Report:	August 05, 2022

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds (BSPB) has been the main partner, throughout the implementation of this project. This collaboration started in the first phase of the project Lands of Eagles and Castles I (CEPF Grant 62721). The help was mostly technical, transferring the know-how and best practices in the field of bird conservation, monitoring, sustainable development, and advocacy. With the help of BSPB, we have adapted the SmartBirds application into the Albanian language and made it useful from 2020; implementing conservation actions for terns and flamingos in Narta Lagoon; developed several important documents such as the Advocacy Strategy for the protection of Vjosa-Narta against the construction of the airport or the 'Climbing booklet'; organization of events such as for example the international webinar on 02.02.2022. Their experience was helpful in several areas, such as advocacy, eco-tourism, and monitoring.

Vlora Municipality and Saranda Municipality have been collaborative partners in this project implementation and helped in several aspects. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed (10.2021 / 02.2022) with both municipalities. These institutions have helped in event organization, such as Wine Festival (September 2019 & October 2021), Nartas Carnivals (April 2021), Mussels Fest (June 2021), etc. Regional Administration of Protected Areas Vlore has been very collaborative and helped in several activities, from wildlife monitoring, and implementation of conservation actions, to the organization of different events, online and on-site. This good collaboration has produced successful results and events, with diverse stakeholders and outstanding participation.

CONSERVATION IMPACTS

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
<p>Improved knowledge of biodiversity status, improved understanding of biodiversity and conservation needs from local stakeholders in the region KBAs Vjosë-Nartë (19,738 ha) and Saranda Bay – Butrint National Park (8,600 ha)</p>	<p>Two extended studies finalized, Monitoring of Breeding birds in Narta Lagoon KBA & Butrinti Lake KBA have increased our knowledge of the actual biodiversity situation in the area and its conservation need. Besides monitoring breeding birds we have increased our knowledge of the Dalmatian pelican, due to the regular participation in the Pelican census (May 2020 - 2022) with our colleagues in Montenegro, Macedonia, and Greece. In addition, additional data are collected through the monitoring of the International Waterbird Census (2019 - 2022). The data collected will help us in our ongoing work on nature conservation and preserving these protected areas from the urbanization plans. Moreover, an improvement in management has been noticed by the RAPA Vlore for Vjosa-Narta KBA and Butrinti KBA, through monitoring of species (birds & mammals), habitat, and patrolling jointly with the PPNEA team along 2019 – 2022.</p>
<p>Improved local status (stabilization and/or increase of populations) of following endangered species : European Eel <i>Anguilla anguilla</i> (CR), Dalmatian Pelican <i>Pelecanus crispus</i> (NT), Greek Red Damsel <i>Pyrrosoma elisabethae</i> (CR), Epirus Water Frog <i>Pelophylax epiroticus</i> (VU), Albanian Water Frog <i>Pelophylax shquipericus</i> (EN), Yelkouan Shearwater <i>Puffinus yelkouan</i> (VU), Cyprinid Fish <i>Pelanus thesproticus</i> (NT), Corfu Toothcarp <i>Valencia letourneuxi</i> (CR), Codringtonia <i>neocrassa</i> (VU), Mediterranean Pillow Coral <i>Cladocora caespitosa</i> (EN).</p>	<p>Besides raising awareness of the importance of the above-mentioned species we have worked on different lines through project implementation activities. Implementation of conservation actions in Vjosa-Narta will help in the tranquility of some bird species, including the dalmatian pelican, which uses this area as a resting site; Through the monitoring of bird species in the two project KBAs, we have made an assessment of threats and suggested to the relevant authorities the relevant conservation actions to be taken aiming to help the bird's species populations; Good collaboration with Salina might help on better management of the area;</p>
<p>At least 70 people benefiting from increased revenues in relation to nature-friendly activities</p>	<p>Several implemented activities targeted the local community and private sector aiming to adopt sustainable practices toward nature and increase their revenues through their nature-friendly activities and events.</p> <p>a) The organization of 4 huge local events, the Wine Festival (2019,2021), Carnivals (2021), and Mussel Fest (2021) gathered a huge number from the private sector, such as wineries, handmade artisans, markets, local producers, and other businesses. Throughout these activities benefited a total of at least 100 businesses, while at least 50 benefited directly because were involved or invited to these celebrations. Meanwhile, the rest benefited indirectly because of the events, such as nearby bars,</p>

Impact Description	Impact Summary
	<p>restaurants, or markets of Narta Village, Vlora City, etc.</p> <p>b) Through the support of 4 local ideas of alternative livelihood activities and the cooperation established with one market in the capital, have benefited directly around 16 people by working part-time or full-time.</p> <p>c) Two guides started to work at Narta KBA.</p> <p>d) A new guest house was opened 'Guest House Nara'.</p> <p>e) At least 3 restaurants engaged with the campaign 'Art for Life'.</p> <p>f) At least 2 businesses benefited through the implementation of Recycle project.</p>
<p>Threats to some target species reduced at site level: reduced illegal killing and taxidermy of birds (Dalmatian Pelican <i>Pelecanus crispus</i> and birds of prey), reduced level of unsustainable fishing (European Eel <i>Anguilla Anguilla</i>, Cyprinid Fish <i>Pelagus thesproticus</i>; Corfu Toothcarp <i>Valencia letourneuxi</i>); reduced pollution with waste materials (Yelkouan Shearwater <i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>; Mediterranean Pillow Coral <i>Cladocora caespitosa</i>); reduced level of predation on waterbird colonies</p>	<p>After the assessment of the threats (2020) towards birds, in both KBAs we implemented several conservation actions to mitigate or prevent these threats.</p> <p>a) Direct conservation action, setting fences to protect breeding birds colonies or roosting sites (<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>) from terrestrial predators.</p> <p>b) Direct conservation action, building an artificial platform to increase the productivity of terns.</p> <p>c) Conservation action, 'Art for Life' campaign to stop the illegal killing of birds implemented to at least 3 restaurants.</p> <p>d) Direct conservation action, setting bird stickers to mitigate collision with glass barriers along Vlora Highway</p> <p>e) Direct conservation action, cleaning fish nets on breeding grounds within Narta lagoon</p> <p>f) Working to prevent the construction of the airport within the Vjosa-Narta protected area</p>
<p>At least 20 local business benefit from increased revenues from adopting biodiversity friendly practices, including: the first World's Bunker Hotel; four local ideas about new or revitalization of traditional livelihood activities; "Traditional Flavor" local eco-business; promotion of local wines and carnival festivals; BunkBird station created; Tourism office in KBA Narta opened; Narta and Zverneci villages branded as the "Guest House" settlements; local products marketed through the largest supermarkets in Albania; « nature-friendly » salt production.</p>	<p>Through the implementation of the project activities benefited directly at least 60 businesses.</p> <p>a) The organization of 4 huge events, the Wine Festival (2019,2021), Carnivals (2021), and Mussel Fest (2021) gathered a huge number from the private sector, such as wineries, handmade artisans, markets, local producers, and other businesses. Thorough out these activities benefited directly at least 50 businesses, mostly wineries, restaurants, handmade products, etc.</p> <p>b) Through the support of 4 local ideas of alternative livelihood activities and the cooperation established with one market in the capital, have benefited directly from at least 5 businesses.</p> <p>c) To our knowledge two eco guides started to work at Narta KBA.</p>

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	<p>d) With the help of the PPNEA staff, a new guest house was opened 'Guest House Narta'.</p> <p>e) At least 3 restaurants engaged with the campaign 'Art for Life'.</p>
<p>At least 20 jobs created for nature-friendly activities promoted by project</p>	<p>The worldwide pandemic made it very difficult the creation of new jobs in general. But, in the framework of the Land of Eagles and Castles, through the support of 4 local ideas of alternative livelihood activities, events organized, and the promotion of the area, we believe that around 16 people benefited directly through the project support.</p>
<p>Nature conservation values and importance for livelihood enhanced through contribution and/or organization of at least four events; production of promotion material e.g. 3,500 calendars, 3 mobile applications, 6 road boards); and by informing at least 20,000 people about the values and the importance of conservation of the KBAs.</p>	<p>Through the overall implementation of activities and communication campaign implemented there are more than 700.000 people reached, and were informed about the ongoing project and activities.</p>
<p>Guidelines for addressing main threats in KBA Vjosë-Nartë produced, adopted by other NGOs and Stakeholders, and applied to project sites as well as other sites in Albania</p>	<p>Finalization and implementation of the document 'Advocacy strategy for the protection of Vjosa-Narta'; A guideline to mitigate threats towards birds was published.</p>
<p>KBA Vjosë-Nartë becomes a RAMSAR site / based on RAMSAR Criteria (Group B/Criterion 5 & Criterion 6)</p>	<p>A request was sent to the relevant authorities, aiming to propose the Vjosa-Narta Ramsar site. The document explained in detail the process and the criteria that this area meets. The authorities are the responsible institution to make the request for the site as a Ramsar site.</p>

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
<p>Tourist frequentation in relation to nature increased by 100% in KBAs Vjosë-Nartë (baseline: there is no nature related tourism activities relevant to 2018) and by at least 10 % in KBA Saranda Bay – Butrint National Park (baseline: 70,500 visitors relevant to 2016) by 2022</p>	<p>The demand for visiting the protected areas in Albania has been increasing significantly. According to our data and the data of RAPA Vlore / Municipality the area has a positive trend in increase, although the pandemic: 2019 - 236723 total, 64692 local, 172031 foreign; 2020 - 34600 total, 24769 local, 9831 foreign; 2021 - 52996 total, 28085 local, 24911foreign. The tourism office was maintained, insulated, and renovated and the electronic infrastructure inside was improved.</p> <p>Meanwhile, according to the data from the Saranda Municipality & park authorities, Butrinti National Park in 2019 hosted around 250.000, and during the pandemic, the figures dropped to 20.000 (2020) and there has been an increase of up to 52.000 tourists in this park.</p>

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Capacity of PPNEA enhanced, as demonstrated by score at CSTT	<p>The 2019 (beginning of the project) CSTT assessment done, emphasized some recommendations that PPNEA addressed and helped us to improve in several directions and this was reflected even on CSTT points. Huge progress was achieved and there were collected 83.5 points (CSTT) and 10 points on GTT. Recommendations addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Strategy Action Plan (2022-2027) b) Fundraising Strategy (2021-2022) c) Finalisation of Financial Manual d) Improvement of Internal regulations document e) Implementation of annual audits, etc.

Unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

There have been unexpected impacts along with the project implementation, positive and negative. The first positive unexpected news was the wining of a three-year project 'Protecting Vjosa’s Delta from unsustainable urban development' supported by Donors’ Initiative For Mediterranean Freshwater Ecosystems (DIMFE), started at 01.2022 which could be considered as an outcome of the good implementation of Lands of Eagles and Castles project.

Meanwhile, a negative impact could be considered the pandemic which had an effect also on project implementation in specific aspects. First, canceled and postponed several activities planned to be implemented, such as the Wine Festival, and Narta Carnivals, which weren't implemented in 2020 but in the following year were implemented. In addition, one of our supportive schemes on livelihood activities in Narta canceled its plans to invest in sustainable livelihood activities.

The cramp between us and Salina owners might be considered as an unexpected with negative impacts, as a start, because prohibited us in every corner of Salina, meanwhile due to the intensified communication and persistence we have opened some lines of communication and their perception seemed that has changed, which could be considered an unexpected with positive impact. But still, there is quite a lot of work to be done.

Moreover, another unexpected impact was the dedication of the international authorities to response to our call for the protection of Vjosa-Narta Protected Landscape against the construction of the airport. Institutions such as Bern Conventions, CMS, AEWA and the European Union (DG Environment) raised concern about this issue and is following up closely through their mechanisms and experts.

Finally, the cause against the construction of the airport within the protected area passed borders and the international media got very interested and investigated on this. Several important international medias, such as DW, Reuters, RTS France, EuroNews international, etc visited with us the site and published articles and reportages towards this issue. Thanks to the collaboration with national and international medias we have reached 739,669 people in total through our communication channels, social media, website, media, videos, podcasts, etc.

PROJECT RESULTS/DELIVERABLES

Overall results of the project:

Land of Eagles and Castles II has given a huge contribution to the two important Key Biodiversity Areas, Vjosa – Narta Protected Landscape and Butrinti National Park implementing several diverse activities towards nature conservation and mitigation of threats; promotion of both sites and their precious and representatives values in national and international scale; supporting the local community through proactive activities and stimulating the increase of sustainable livelihood activities.

In the field of the research and monitoring, tremendous work has been done by collecting systematic data 2019-2022, in partnership with other institutions, from various monitoring such as mid count waterbird census, pelican census, breeding birds and several interesting observations have been spotted by our bird monitoring team. For the first time, a dedicated scientific bird monitoring app was adapted into the Albanian language and was used for various critically endangered species such as Egyptian vulture, white stork, etc. In addition, several conservation actions were implemented aiming to increase new breeding areas for birds and mitigate threats such as fishing nets, collision, disturbance, etc.

Meanwhile, through the intensive communication campaigns and promotion, both areas have been the focus of the national and international audiences and the tourism figures could be increased. These are due to four local celebrations organized on-site, an increase of alternative tourism attractions such as BunkBird station, an increase in tourism infrastructures (signboards), video promotions, and reportages with prestigious media, etc. Furthermore, thanks to the support of the local community on traditional livelihood, four families got engaged and increased their revenues by working on sustainable livelihood activities.

Moreover, advocacy and preservation of protected areas have been at the core of this project implementation. The protection of the Vjosa-Narta protected area against the construction of the airport within this site was highlighted at the national level by working with the local community and the international level by working with high-level representatives. Finally, the covid situation made us adapt and benefit from the 'online approach' by organizing several interesting online events such as international webinars, and online training seminars which benefited and engaged several people.

Finally, in the framework of this project several partnership thrived, local and international level, and one of the most important were those in local level such as with local authorities (Regional Administration of Protected Areas Vlore, National Agency of Coast, State inspectorate, Butrinti Archeological Park, Sarande and Vlora Municipality) has been increased due to continuous communication with authorities and ongoing implemented activities on site. Together with the above-mentioned local authorities, we have celebrated celebrations, set road boards, and made joined monitoring.

<https://ppnea.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/WWD-Report.pdf>

<https://ppnea.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/PPNEA-Raport-Summary-A4-maj-2022-DRAFT-2.pdf>

https://ppnea.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/CEPF-Newsletter_-IV-.pdf

https://ppnea.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/CEPF-Newsletter_V-1.pdf

<https://ppnea.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Land-of-Eagles-and-Castles-Newsletter-III.pdf>

<https://ppnea.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Newsletter-II-LEC.pdf>

https://ppnea.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/1st-Newsletter_LEC.pdf

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sNX43fxcSec&t=3s>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRXUkUV4o3Y&t=2s>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TR14KluAol4&t=3s>

Results for each deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
3.0	SUPPORT CIVIL SOCIETY TO ENGAGE WITH LOCAL OR NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS TO MAINSTREAM BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION INTO INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT, LAND-USE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PROCESSES.	3.3	METT reports of protected areas Vjose-Narte and Butrint, filled up with park managers and submitted to CEPF ; CSTT and GTT submitted to CEPF at beginning and end of project	<p>DELIVERED: PPNEAs Capacities are enhanced and this is shown by CSTT and GTT. The 2019 (beginning of the project) CSTT assessment done, emphasized some recommendations that PPNEA addressed and helped us to improve in several directions and this was reflected even on CSTT points. Huge progress was achieved and there were collected 83.5 points (CSTT) and 10 points on GTT. Recommendations addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Strategy Action Plan (2022-2027) b) Fundraising Strategy (2021-2022) c) Finalisation of Financial Manual d) Improvement of Internal regulations document e) Implementation of annual audits, etc.
1.0	ENGAGE LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS IN CONSERVATION ACTIONS THAT ADDRESS THREATS TO KEY ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY IN PRIORITY KBAs IN THE COASTAL ZONE	1.1	3500 calendars produced, for year 2020, 2021 & 2022, and distributed mainly to local stakeholders as shown by the yearly activity reports.	<p>DELIVERED: 5000 copies of calendars were produced and distributed along with project implementation from 2019 - to 2021 in the Vjosa-Narta region and the Butrinti region, mostly in schools, public administration institutions, businesses, and farmers. This is one of the most wanted communication materials in the area. 5 Newsletters were produced over project implementation. *Design & photos are attached to other documents D1.1</p>

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1.0	ENGAGE LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS IN CONSERVATION ACTIONS THAT ADDRESS THREATS TO KEY ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY IN PRIORITY KBAs IN THE COASTAL ZONE	1.2	At least 15 000 people will be informed about the values and the importance of conservation of the KBAs as shown by the half year media reports.	<p>DELIVERED: From March 2019 to the 30th of April 2022 there are around 739,669 people are reached through our communication channels, social media, website, media, videos, podcasts, etc. The key message broadcasted was the importance of birds, nature preservation, sustainable development, and alternative tourism.</p> <p>Highlighted activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least 3 'Outdoor with media' activities were organized in Vjosa-Narta (15 journalists involved) (Activities in collaboration with other projects) - At least 2 press conferences opposing the construction of the airport. - 1 huge manifestation on Vjosa - Narta (05.06.2021). - 2 promotion videos were produced. - At least 5 international reportages produced (Reuters, DW, EuroNews, RTS, BalkanInsight) <p>*The media report & communication materials produced are attached to D1.2</p>
2.0	ENGAGE PRIVATE SECTOR STAKEHOLDERS TO ADOPT SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES THAT DELIVER POSITIVE IMPACTS FOR CONSERVATION IN	2.2	Tourism agencies in Albania introduced with the tourism brands for Narta and Butrint as shown from the minutes of the workshop and post-communication reports!	<p>DELIVERED: In November 2019 a workshop we organized to discuss the potential of the protected areas, tourism brands, and the ongoing collaboration between institutions. Due to the low participation, we decided to repeat this event to maximize results. In July 2021 we successfully organized the online</p>

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	PRIORITY KBAS IN THE COASTAL ZONE.			workshop 'Nature-based tourism, interpretation, and promotion of protected areas' aiming to raise awareness on important concepts such as protected areas, interpretation, sustainable tourism, and tourism brands. We invited key speakers, and national and international experts to present key studies and share their experiences. Around 30 people (13 women) participated in this successful event and at least two guides considered working in protected areas and started to work in Narta and Karavasta KBA.
3.0	SUPPORT CIVIL SOCIETY TO ENGAGE WITH LOCAL OR NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS TO MAINSTREAM BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION INTO INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT, LAND-USE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PROCESSES.	3.1	National guidelines for addressing and mitigating the main threats to KBA produced and distributed, and application to Vjosë-Nartë documented in a report.	<p>DELIVERED: An advocacy strategy on nature protection, dedicated to Vjosa – Narta was finalized and implemented.</p> <p>An international webinar 'Conservation and sustainable use of saltwater wetlands' was held on 02.02.2022. Around 35 (18 women) participants joined this webinar and 13 presentations were held. (10 copies produced)</p> <p>A seminar was held on the 7th – 8th of April on "Management of protected areas and advocacy for nature", aiming to discuss several topics such as management of protected areas, conservation, threats, community engagement, etc. In this hybrid, seminar participated 45 people (19 women).</p>

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				<p>A booklet (2000 copies) on the mitigation of threats towards birds was produced and published in March 2022.</p> <p>CMS review mechanism to protect Vjosa-Narta against the construction of the airport was sent to CMS Convention Secretariat in April 2021; the AEWA IPR mechanism against the construction of the airport was sent to AEWA Secretariat in October 2021; Participation in Bern Convention meetings and complaints sent to the secretariat against the construction of the Vlora airport, 2020 – 2022; Lobby on EU commission Progress report (2019 - 2021) and meeting with EU DG Near / EU Commission; Revision of Protected Areas (Butrinti case and Vlora Airport) on the process t</p>
1.0	ENGAGE LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS IN CONSERVATION ACTIONS THAT ADDRESS THREATS TO KEY ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY IN PRIORITY KBAs IN THE COASTAL ZONE	1.4	Attention of public and business on the local products of the KBA Vjosë-Narte attracted by the implementation of local wine and carnival festivals as shown by the activity reports and media releases about these events.	<p>DELIVERED: Huge attention was given to Vjosa - Narta KBA and Butrinti KBA through the local celebration implemented on site.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wine festival 2021 - 150 people (45 women). 2. Wine festival 2019 - 300 people (100 women) 3. Carnivals 2021 - 250 people (180 women) 4. Mussel Fest 2021 - 70 people (40 women) <p>*Communication materials produced & photos attached D1.4</p>

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1.0	ENGAGE LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS IN CONSERVATION ACTIONS THAT ADDRESS THREATS TO KEY ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY IN PRIORITY KBAs IN THE COASTAL ZONE	1.3	Three new applications created and available for download in App and Play Store. The 3 applications are: Tourism app for Narta; tourism app for Butrint and the adaptation of SmartBirds in Albanian.	DELIVERED: SmartBirds app was translated and adapted into the Albanian language. The application was promoted in various events organized by PPNEA and was used for monitoring different species, including Egyptian vulture, white stork, etc. Two video tutorials were prepared on how to use it. Videos attached D1.3
1.0	ENGAGE LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS IN CONSERVATION ACTIONS THAT ADDRESS THREATS TO KEY ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY IN PRIORITY KBAs IN THE COASTAL ZONE	1.5	BunkBird station created and inaugurated, as demonstrated by photos before/after of the site, and press book of the coverage of the event by the press	DELIVERED: The BunkBird, 'Birds of Narta' was finalized by two artists national and international. Albanian artist Franko (Francesco Dinaj) and German artists Janis Feigl worked for around 10 days to paint two symbolic species of Narta lagoon, pied avocet (<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>), a symbol species for the salina and with an endangered status (Albanian Red list) and on the other side it is painted the critically endangered species of Dalmatian pelican (<i>Pelecanus Crispus</i>), which uses this area as a feeding site. Photos attached D1.5
1.0	ENGAGE LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS IN CONSERVATION ACTIONS THAT ADDRESS THREATS TO KEY ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY IN PRIORITY KBAs IN THE COASTAL ZONE	1.6	Six road boards will be renewed as shown from the pictures before and after the work.	DELIVERED: Six road tables have been renewed: Fitore, Novosele, Narte, Narte2, and Zver nec. Meanwhile, two were destroyed. *Design & photos are attached D1.6
1.0	ENGAGE LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS IN	1.7	One school in the area of Butrint engaged in	DELIVERED: Besides the engagement of '9 Tetori' primary school (Sarande) in the

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	CONSERVATION ACTIONS THAT ADDRESS THREATS TO KEY ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY IN PRIORITY KBAs IN THE COASTAL ZONE		implementing the recycling project as shown by the half year activity reports.	<p>implementation recycling project, 'We recycle', there have been engaged two other schools, following the steps of the first school, by converting recycled materials into artistic objects. PPNEA supported this project with equipment, organization of events, and promotion. At the end of the project, in collaboration with the SpringAlive initiative, in June 2021 we organized a summer camp visiting three KBAs such as the Drino valley, the Vjosa- Narta Protected landscape, and the Divjake- Karavasta National Park. Around 80 pupils joined the expedition and besides birdwhcating critically endangered species such as Egyptian vulture, dalmatian pelican, etc, they participated in environmental education games.</p> <p>In addition, the PPNEA team participated and organized several clean-up actions in Vjosa - Narta KBA and Karaburun-Sazan Marine Park (Jul - Dec 2021 & May 2022). Besides the daily work on monitoring species, we participated in the wildfire rescue missions Vlora bay – Karaburun KBA for several days (August 2022), assisting park authorities and helping in wildlife if needed. *Materials & photos attached D1.7.</p>
2.0	ENGAGE PRIVATE SECTOR STAKEHOLDERS TO ADOPT SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES	2.3	Use of products from endangered species for taxidermy or food purposes	DELIVERED: 'Art for Life' was the campaign implemented successfully in southern Albania, by replacing stuffed animals with HD quality

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	THAT DELIVER POSITIVE IMPACTS FOR CONSERVATION IN PRIORITY KBAS IN THE COASTAL ZONE.		will be diminished - 12 taxidermy objects will be removed and as many as possible restaurants in the area will clear the menus from these products as shown by the activity reports.	<p>photos. After the identification of several tourist providers, such as restaurants or bars, holding taxidermy objects, in collaboration with the owners of these sites we successfully removed 15 taxidermy objects and replaced them with high-quality pictures. We have removed even some of the globally threatened species such as the Dalmatian pelican.</p> <p>Three restaurants participated in this initiative and our collaboration with these restaurants is successfully ongoing. Besides promotion on these sites, we have engaged them in several activities and events by increasing their revenues.</p> <p>*Materials found attached on D2.3</p>
1.0	ENGAGE LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS IN CONSERVATION ACTIONS THAT ADDRESS THREATS TO KEY ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY IN PRIORITY KBAs IN THE COASTAL ZONE	1.8	Tourism office in KBA Narta opened to visitors 3.5 month a year and providing services to the local community and tourists as demonstrated by log book of visitors and booklet of the tourism services.	<p>DELIVERED: The local office has been active, mostly during the summer (June - August). PPNEA's local officers have helped the tourists with information, and maps and guided them towards the most iconic places in Vjosa-Narta Protected Area. According to our data and the data of RAPA Vlore / Municipality the area has a positive trend in increase, although the pandemic: 2019 - 236723 total, 64692 local, 172031 foreign; 2020 - 34600 total, 24769 local, 9831 foreign; 2021 - 52996 total, 28085 local, 24911foreign. The tourism office was maintained, insulated, and renovated and the electronic infrastructure inside was improved. A new computer was set for the local officer.</p>

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				Meanwhile, according to the data from the Saranda Municipality & park authorities, Butrinti National Park in 2019 hosted around 250.000, and during the pandemic, the figures dropped to 20.000 (2020) and there has been an increase of up to 52.000 tourists in this park.
1.0	ENGAGE LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS IN CONSERVATION ACTIONS THAT ADDRESS THREATS TO KEY ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY IN PRIORITY KBAs IN THE COASTAL ZONE	1.9	Narta and Zverneci villages branded as the "Guest House" villages as shown by the promotional materials, road boards and activity reports!	DELIVERED: PPNEA has promoted the main villages along the Narta Lagoon, Zverneci, and Narta, as the "Guest House" villages. After the compilation of a list of businesses in the area and their capacities, we have tried to support and promote the overall business on our Social Media, and project website (naturetouralbania.info). In addition, a road table was set on the main road aiming to promote the protected area and these villages. *Photos and designs are found on D1.9
1.0	ENGAGE LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS IN CONSERVATION ACTIONS THAT ADDRESS THREATS TO KEY ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY IN PRIORITY KBAs IN THE COASTAL ZONE	1.10	The first World's Bunker Hotel will be created with a capacity of 4 double rooms as shown by photos before and after the investment!	Due to the property issues, this activity was canceled.
1.0	ENGAGE LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS IN CONSERVATION ACTIONS	1.11	At least 4 local ideas about new or revitalization of traditional livelihood	DELIVERED: 4 local ideas of alternative livelihood activities were supported successfully:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
	THAT ADDRESS THREATS TO KEY ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY IN PRIORITY KBAs IN THE COASTAL ZONE		activities will be supported by the project as shown by the activity reports.	<p>a) Jam production is supported with equipment, promotion, documentation process, visibility, and sales. 4 people engaged working part-time and full-time.</p> <p>b) Beekeeping, supported with equipment, promotion, visibility, sales, and documentation process. 1 family (2-3 people) engaged to work on this family business.</p> <p>c) Medicinal products, supported with equipment, promotion, and visibility. 2 -3 people engaged.</p> <p>d) Mussel production, supported mainly with promotion materials, visibility, and documentation process. 1 family (3 people) engaged to work on this family business.</p> <p>*Photos and materials D1.11</p>
1.0	ENGAGE LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS IN CONSERVATION ACTIONS THAT ADDRESS THREATS TO KEY ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY IN PRIORITY KBAs IN THE COASTAL ZONE	1.12	"Traditional Flavor" local eco-business operating from June 2020 as shown by quarter activity reports!	DELIVERED: In June 2021 we organized a local event, 'Mussel fest', in Butrinti National Park aiming to promote traditional products, produced by local eco-business in the area. At this local event participated several businesses, institutions, local authorities, schools, and the local community. Around 70 people (40 women) participated in this event. After the fair, the well-known iso-polyphonic group performed traditional music.
2.0	ENGAGE PRIVATE SECTOR STAKEHOLDERS TO ADOPT SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES THAT DELIVER POSITIVE	2.1	At least 1 contract for 1 or more local products will be signed with one of the largest supermarkets in	DELIVERED: A contract with 'BioShop - EcoMarket' was signed with three local businesses supported by PPNEA. Several products (Jam, medicinal plants, and honey)

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
	IMPACTS FOR CONSERVATION IN PRIORITY KBAS IN THE COASTAL ZONE.		Albania, such as "Spar", "Big Market" , "Conad" etc, as it will be proved by the papers and photos of the products exposed in these markets.	are now sold in this marketplace in the capital, Tirana. The contract was signed for one year and we hope it will be renovated again in the next year. *Materials are attached to D2.1
2.0	ENGAGE PRIVATE SECTOR STAKEHOLDERS TO ADOPT SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES THAT DELIVER POSITIVE IMPACTS FOR CONSERVATION IN PRIORITY KBAS IN THE COASTAL ZONE.	2.4	Safe zones for nesting of birds, including creation of 2 nesting islands and fencing of 2 embankments will be in place as shown by the activity reports!	<p>DELIVERED: Several conservation actions have been implemented:</p> <p>a) Direct conservation action, building an artificial platform to increase the productivity of terns.</p> <p>b) Conservation action, 'Art for Life' campaign to stop the illegal killing of birds implemented to at least 3 restaurants.</p> <p>c) Direct conservation action, setting fences to protect breeding birds colonies and the dyke was extended to help flamingo reproduction.</p> <p>d) Direct conservation action, setting 300 bird stickers to mitigate collision with glass barriers along Vlora Highway.</p> <p>e) Direct conservation action, cleaning fish nets on breeding grounds within Narta lagoon.</p> <p>f) Direct conservation action, cleaning vegetation, and opening new breeding sites for terns.</p> <p>g) Working to prevent the construction of the airport within the Vjosa-Narta protected area.</p> <p>*Materials and photos D2.4</p>
2.0	ENGAGE PRIVATE SECTOR STAKEHOLDERS TO ADOPT SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES	2.5	Owners of the Salinas increased their knowledge about alternative sustainable	DELIVERED: Salina workers, RAPA staff, and PPNEA (8 people - 2 women) made an exchange trip on 09 - 12 March 2022 to

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
	THAT DELIVER POSITIVE IMPACTS FOR CONSERVATION IN PRIORITY KBAS IN THE COASTAL ZONE.		practices to use the Salinas, thanks to the exchange experience trip to the Burgas Salinas in Bulgaria as shown by the activity report!	Burgas, visiting three wetlands found in that area and two salinas (Atanasovsko, Pomorie lagoon, and Poda reserve). The aim of this visit was to strengthen the collaboration between institutions and businesses and raise capacities for alternative tourism and knowledge about alternative sustainable practices to use the Salinas.
3.0	SUPPORT CIVIL SOCIETY TO ENGAGE WITH LOCAL OR NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS TO MAINSTREAM BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION INTO INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT, LAND-USE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PROCESSES.	3.3	RAMSAR application prepared and presented to the authorities	DELIVERED: PPNEA made a request in June 2021 to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism for the proclamation of the Vjosa-Narta as a Ramsar site and offered its help to assess the area by sharing our data on birds, mammals, and habitats. According to our data, it fulfills this area and fulfills Criteria II / V. Meanwhile, the Albanian government, as the responsible authority, hasn't done the request to the Ramsar Convention.
3.0	SUPPORT CIVIL SOCIETY TO ENGAGE WITH LOCAL OR NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS TO MAINSTREAM BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION INTO INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT, LAND-USE AND	3.2	Annual reports of the breeding Bird monitoring campaigns with parc authorities, for the two sites	DELIVERED: Monitoring breeding birds in Narta KBA and Butrinti KBA were finalized in September 2020. Under this study were prepared two reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey for the breeding and migrating avifauna in Butrint Key Biodiversity Area in Albania In this area 47 species were confirmed to breed, 20 species were probable breeders, 15 species were possible breeding and 37 were non-breeding species.

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
	DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PROCESSES.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey for the breeding and migrating avifauna in Vjose-Narte Biodiversity Area in Albania <p>A total number of 116 species have been recorded along with this survey within the borders of the KBA. 37 breeding species, 18 species probable, 20 species possible, and 44 non-breeding.</p> <p>In addition, PPNEA has monitored regularly waterbirds on International Waterbirds Census (2019 - 2022)</p> <p>Vjosa- Narta - 2019: 10,453 waterbirds, 31 species; 2020: 15,125 waterbirds, 37 species; 2021: 11,291 waterbirds; 2021: 11,291 waterbirds</p> <p>Butrinti - 2019: 4021 waterbirds, 34 species; 2020: 2534 waterbirds, 32 species; 2021: 2348 waterbirds; 2022: 2348 waterbirds</p> <p>Moreover, PPNEA is implementing the Pelican census, and below find the data for: Vjosa-Narta 2020: 31 individuals (24 adults and 7 juvenile); 2021: 34 individuals (28 adults and 6 juvenile)</p> <p>*Reports are attached D3.2</p>
3.0	SUPPORT CIVIL SOCIETY TO ENGAGE WITH LOCAL OR NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS TO	3.4	A campaign for the protection of Vjose-Narte in relation to infrastructure	DELIVERED: A diverse communication campaign was compiled and its implementation is ongoing. The plan included a composition of communication activities and

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
	MAINSTREAM BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION INTO INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT, LAND-USE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PROCESSES.		planned, launched, and gathering public attention	<p>materials aiming to raise awareness of species and environmental issues. Besides the intense engagement in social media, a video was produced and promoted and a podcast 'WildLife' with several series shows was designed; The concept of the video podcast is the establishment of a show with 'special' guests, such as scientists, activists that will express their thoughts on particular topics related to nature conservation. The podcast will be distributed on several channels such as Youtube, Google podcast, etc. The aim of this podcast is to have extended media coverage, increase people's reach, and raise awareness on the topics covered in the framework of the project, even after the project implementation. (Concept attached/ equipment ongoing); In addition, an additional field trip with journalists was organized.</p> <p>Highlighted activities: 05.06.2021 manifestation organized on Vjosa-Narta, opposing the airport construction 04.03.2021 organization of a press conference, opposing the airport construction 25.11.2021 organization of 2nd press conference, opposing the airport construction</p>
4.0	Improved capacities of PPNEA on the financial management and financial policies	4.1	CSO in Albania trained on the financial management and financial policies	DELIVERED: On the 4th of March 2022, PPNEA organized the online training "Institutional development and financial management of NGOs". This meeting aims to share

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				experiences between non-profit organizations, and beneficiaries of CEPF grants, related to institutional and financial development. Around 14 NGOs and 17 people (9 women) participated in this meeting. Several presentations were held, aiming to exchange experience in financial management and train small NGOs on Institutional development aspects. *Report and photo are attached D 4.1

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

Under the implementation of this project, we have produced several interesting products and useful tools.

- Adaptation of the SmartBirds APP in Albanian has been an innovation for the country because it is the only tool in Albanian languages used for the collection of scientific data and especially birds.
- Two extended reports related to the monitoring of breeding birds in two KBA's, Narta KBA and Butrinti KBA:
 - a. Survey for the breeding and migrating avifauna in Vjosë-Nartë Key Biodiversity Area in Albania
 - b. Survey for the breeding and migrating avifauna in Butrinti Key Biodiversity Area in Albania
- 'Climbing Handbook', a manual for climbers aiming to raise awareness on birds breeding mainly on rocks and advising climbers, and hikers on how to avoid disturbance of these birds during the breeding season (1200 copies).
- Proceedings for the huge events such as Proceeding on WWD international Webinar (02.02.2022) or conferences (10 copies).
- Podcast 'Wildlife' aiming to promote nature conservation and sustainable development.
- Calendars as a good communication tool to raise awareness of bird conservation.
- Project newsletters as a good communication tool to promote the project.
- Video (published four) as a good communication material, to promote and educate.
- Two MoU were signed with relevant municipalities Vlora and Saranda.
- Advocacy Strategy on the protection of Narta KBA against urbanization (Produced in 2020).
- MoU with businesses & distributors (Dec 2021).
- Campaign against taxidermy fauna species (factsheet June 2021)

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			5	<p>There were several initiatives that thrived in project sites, and nature-friendly ideas in helping climate change.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At least two guides are testing Narta as a birdwatching site. 2. At least 3 restaurants joined the initiative 'Art for Life', removing their stuffed animals and replacing them with photos. In addition, their revenues increased from the promotion made. 3. Three small businesses working on sustainable harvesting of medicinal plants and production jam; recycling; using cartoon or glass packaging instead of plastic bags or reducing the % of plastic in their packaging bags and selling eco-friendly products. 4. A new guest house opened in Narta KBA. 5. Beekeeping and reproduction of bees in protected areas: The project helped in the replacement of plastic bottles with glass jars.
2.0	Number of KBAs under improved			2,000	There has been an improvement in

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
	management and number of hectares covered				management in general, in both KBAs; the number of patrols against environmental crime has been increased, wildlife monitoring has been systematic and jointly, etc. The number of active environmental CSOs on both sites is increased and are actively involved in sustainable development and nature protection. But there is still a need for improvement.
1.2	Number of coastal KBAs under improved management and number of hectares covered			2,000	There has been an improvement in management in general, in both KBAs; the number of patrols against environmental crime has been increased, wildlife monitoring has been systematic and jointly, etc. The number of active environmental CSOs on both sites is increased and are actively involved in sustainable development and nature protection. But there is still a need for improvement.
1.4	Number of globally threatened species benefitting from			1	Anguilla anguilla - removal of fishing nets

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
	reduced pressure from unsustainable practices (hunting, 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	
2.1	Number of threatened freshwater species seeing status improved (i.e., short-term increase in population and/or breeding success)			0	

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
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*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
Saranda bay - Butrint National Park	ALB04		500
Vjosë - Nartë (Vjose-Pishe Poro-Laguna e Nartes-Vjose-Narte)	ALB24		1,500

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
Sopik	39.77277	20.11241	5	Practicing sustainable harvesting of medicinal plants and production of traditional products.
Selenice	40.531395	19.656181	5	Implementation of sustainable harvesting of medicinal plants.

Benefits to Individuals

- **Structured Training:**

Number of Men Trained	Number of Women Trained	Topics of Training
28	22	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Workshop on sustainable tourism and branding (November 2019) 2. Online workshop "Nature-based tourism, interpretation, and promotion of protected areas" (July 2021) 3. Online training "Institutional development and financial management of NGOs" (4th of March 2022)

- **Cash Benefits:**

Number of Men – Cash Benefits	Number of Women – Cash Benefits	Description of Benefits
45	35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 16 people benefiting from the nature-friendly activities supported by the project - 5 people benefiting from the guest house and local guides, which were the result of project implementation activities. - At least 7 people working in restaurants benefit from the promotion and activities organized in these businesses. - Around 50 businesses (with at least 50 people) benefited directly because were involved directly in these activities meanwhile the others are local close by businesses.

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			
Narta village	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Albania	250	250
Ksamil village	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Albania	125	125
Saranda Municipality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Albania	50	50				
Zvërneçi village	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Albania	35	35
Novoselë village	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Albania	50	50
Xarre village	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Albania	35	35

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	Ligj nr. 7895, Kodi penal 2021 (Act No. 7895, Penal Code 2021, Republic of Albania)	National	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>										
2	Nr. 46/2019 PËR DISA NDRYSHIME DHE SHITESA NË LIGJIN NR. 10 006, DATË 23.10.2008 (Act No. 46/2019 For some changes on Article No. 10 006, Date 23.10.2008)	National	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Nr. 81/2017 PËR ZONAT E MBROJTURA (Law for the Protected Areas)	National	<input checked="" 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	May 04, 2021	Increase of protection of fauna species on wetlands; an increase in wetlands protection; the less illegal killing of birds; decrease of taxidermy birds	<p>Under D2.3 we have identified taxidermy species set at restaurants in several areas and replaced them with HD quality photos. In addition, under this activity, PPNEA has given suggestions and amendments for the improvement of the Albanian Penalty Code. Specifically on the articles:</p> <p>Article 202 - Violation of flora and fauna protected species Article 2020a - Illegal wildlife trade of protected species Article 2020b - Destruction of protected areas (habitats)</p> <p>Link of the updated Albanian Penal Code: https://qbz.gov.al/preview/a2b117e6-69b2-4355-aa49-78967c31bf4d</p>
2	Albania	July 18, 2019	Improvement of management of protected areas; an increase of wetland protection; the improvement of the administration of natural resources; the increase of species population;	<p>PPNEA suggested several amendments to the relevant authorities towards this law such as an increase in management and administration of protected areas; management of hunting, etc</p> <p>Link of the updated law: https://www.parlament.al/Files/Akte/20190724172937ligj%20nr.%2046,%20dt.%2018.7.2019.pdf</p>

No.	Country / Countries	Date Enacted / Amended	Expected impact	Action Performed to Achieve the Enactment/ Amendment
3	Albania	January 16, 2020	<p>Increase of protected areas surface; Increase of the number of protected areas; Improvement of management of protected areas; increase of capacities of protected areas on several fields; Increase of protected areas status; Creation of ecological corridors; proclamation of new protected areas etc.</p> <p>https://planifikimi.gov.al/index.php?eID=dumpFile&t=f&f=6099&token=cc165dfe23b6652028a4de33944dee2fca23bd8f</p>	<p>PPNEA has made several suggestions for this important law, but now all the suggestions were taken into consideration. Suggestions were mainly on the extension of the protected areas' surface, especially coastal wetlands, the proclamation of new protected areas, and the increase of management in general. Although there wasn't any increase in surface for both project sites (Narta Lagoon and Butrinti Lake), there were new areas proclaimed as protected areas, such as Munella Nature Park with 20760 ha.</p>

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
Alexandra Handmaid products	Sustainable harvesting of medicinal plants; use of glass jars instead of plastic ones; organic farming;	Albania
Butrinti Honey	Beekeeping and reproduction of bees in protected areas; Sustainable harvest; With the support of the project the beekeeper is using glass jars instead of plastic ones; organic farming.	Albania

Name of Company	Description of Biodiversity-Friendly Practice	Country/Countries where Practice was Adopted
Green Way Medicinal Products	Sustainable harvesting of medicinal plants; planting of medicinal plants; use of cartoon packages instead of plastic ones.	Albania
Bio Shop	This is an eco-friendly market and an MoU was signed with this market to sell biodiversity-friendly products, originating mostly from the protected areas and KBAs. The small livelihood activities that we have supported have been started to be sold in this market situated in the capital.	Albania
Guest House Narta	Organic farming; promoting eco-friendly livelihood.	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
Coalition of NGOs for the protection of Vjosa-Narta Protected Area	2019	Albania	Yes	PPNEA has been active and engaging several national and international NGOs for the protection of protected areas in Albania, especially for the opposition to the construction of the Vlora airport within Vjosa-Narta Protected Area boundaries. Around 37 national and international NGOs have been very collaborative and supportive of this cause. Birdlife and its partners, WWF, and EuroNatur have been quite supportive of this issue.
Partnership with AlbSale Salina	2021	Albania	Yes	A partnership with AlbSale, salina owners started to thrive after a long attempt. This partnership is extremely important because

Name of Network/Partnership	Year Established	Country/Countries	Established by Project?	Purpose
				the company is working on the most important area within Vjosa-Narta protected area and is there where the birds of Narta are concentrated most. The aim of this partnership is to increase collaboration and efforts in bird conservation within this area, implement conservation actions within the salina, preserve the environment, promote sustainable tourism, etc. Together we started to do some joint activities and even an exchange trip was implemented in Burgas Salina, Bulgaria to strengthen our collaboration, exchange ideas and experiences with Bulgaria salinas and raise awareness on alternative tourism and nature conservation.
Local Action Group in Vjosa-Narta	2022	Albania	No	Members of the Lands of Eagles and Castles project, funded by CEPF, have participated and helped in the first steps of the formalization of the Local Action Group (LAG) in Vjosa-Narta Protected Area. This group will work towards the sustainable development of the area, promotion of livelihood activities, promotion of the area, and will oppose the urbanization plans within this protected area.
Partnership with Vlora and Saranda Municipality	2021	Albania	Yes	PPNEA has started an official partnership with Vlora and Saranda Municipality, the most important municipality on the southern coast of Albania. This partnership was formalized with a signed memorandum of understanding with both municipalities. The partnership will be focused on the preservation and protection of the environment, promotion of traditional livelihood activities, promotion and organization of the traditional celebrations

Name of Network/Partnership	Year Established	Country/Countries	Established by Project?	Purpose
				such as Wine Festival, Mussel Fest, Carnivals, etc.
Collaboration with local eco-friendly producer and eco-markets in Albania	2021	Albania	Yes	A partnership has started with the BioShop market aiming to promote sustainable and eco-friendly products produced by locals and supported by the LEC project. This partnership was formalized with a one-year contract signed between PPNEA, the market, and businesses with three local businesses supported by the LEC project. Several products (Jam, medicinal plants, and honey) are now sold in this marketplace in the capital, Tirana. The contract was signed for one year and we hope it will be renovated again in the next year.

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
Anguilla	anguilla	European eel	CR	Cleaning old fishing nets found in Vjosa-Narta KBA.	Unknown

LESSONS LEARNED

Lessons learned and recommendations:

1. Adapt to the circumstances (COVID-19). Online meetings are not always successful but are working and have fewer costs and most important decrease the ecological footprint, which reflects climate change.
2. Experiment with new tools to raise awareness and engage the wide public. Tools such as webinars and podcasts. IN the framework of this project we have organized several webinars, which weren't planned in the project proposal.
3. Two signed MoUs with municipalities (Sarande and Vlore) resulted quite effectively and to get closer to these locally important institutions. These documents, unplanned on the project proposal, help to keep us/all updated on planned activities, clear duties, and engagement for a successful implementation of activities and project.
4. Signing a contract with big supermarkets is extremely difficult, there is a lack of interest from the supermarkets and the small business that we have supported hasn't the capacities to support these with their products these supermarkets on ongoing. We found a solution by signing a contract with a small eco market in the capital, Tirana.
5. 'Properties' has been a huge issue in Albania, causing huge conflicts, especially in the last 30 years, during the transition and changes of regimes. Bunker Hotel activity was canceled due to the several property issues this object had. Still, there isn't a clear owner of these bunkers and several institutions and locals claim their ownership. There were made several attempts to find common sense but it was impossible. In addition, according to the assessment done there wasn't enough budget to successfully implement this activity. So, a full assessment of all huge activities, such as in our case Bunker Hotel activity, should be done preliminarily, aiming to check the property issues, documentation process, budget, and a lawyer consultation is recommended related to huge investments.
6. Collaboration with AlbSale Salina at Vjosa-Narta is crucial because most of the birds in this area use salt pans as the main place to feed, breed, and roost. In addition, an increase of their knowledge of the importance of wetlands, breeding sites of birds, alternative sustainable tourism and sustainable management was also important for a good management of the Salina and preservation of birds and habitats. Due to this, a study trip in Burgas Bulgaria was planned with Salina workers and Regional Administration of Protected Areas Staff aiming to exchange experience, ideas and strengthen collaboration.

SUSTAINABILITY/REPLICATION

Successes:

a) Capacities in bird conservation strengthened and capacity building raised for park authorities

Along with the project implementation, we have strengthened our capacities in bird conservation, by expanding our team of ornithologists, exchanging experiences with partners and Environmental NGOs, and implementing for the first time bird conservation actions in Narta Lagoon. This is done

through our partnership with BSPB, birdlife partners, and other NGOs such as TouDuValat. In addition, park authorities' capacities were raised due to regular joint expeditions made in Vjosa-Narta KBA and Butrinti KBA to monitor birds, implement new methodologies, and implement conservation actions.

b) Regular data collection of birds, threats, and updates of legislation

Thanks to the assessment done in 2020 we have collected valuable data on the bird breeding population in both projects KBAs. This assessment was crucial because we lack systematic data in these areas and it is difficult to make assessments in terms of biodiversity values and in case of protection of Narta against the construction of the airport. Thanks to the project implementation we have systematic data collected for specific monitoring seasons, such as mid-count census, pelican census, breeding birds, and additional data collected on our regular field trips to the site. In addition, an assessment of threats was done and several threats to be addressed were identified. Moreover, the adaptation of SmartBirds in Albanian was a huge step for us and the local institutions. An interesting tool to help us collect data in a systemized way. Based on our data and studies we have made suggestions for laws and policy improvement. Suggestion on 'Nr. 81/2017 PËR ZONAT E MBROJTURA' to increase the surface of PAs; suggestions on 'Nr. 46/2019 PËR DISA NDRYSHIME DHE SHITESA NË LIGJIN NR. 10 006, DATË 23.10.2008' aiming to increase in management and administration of protected areas; management of hunting, etc; suggestions on 'Ligj nr. 7895, Kodi penal 2021' to improve the Albanian Penalty Code.

c) Implementation of conservation actions

This project has helped to implement the first bird conservation actions in Vjosa-Narta. This was a huge step for park authorities to increase their capacities and awareness to implement future conservation actions in wetlands. Actions such as building artificial platforms, cleaning vegetation for tern reproduction, and setting bird stickers to mitigate the collision were quite new to the park authorities.

d) Strengthening partnerships, networking, and building new partnerships

Along with this project, we have strengthened our partnership with Municipalities, park authorities, businesses, international NGOs, and Birdlife partners, by exchanging ideas, and experiences and working on new projects. Furthermore, new partnerships have thrived along with this project, such as new donors, new local businesses, experts, international NGOs such as Tour du Valat or Salarte, etc, and even in high-level institutions such as European Commission, Bern Convention, CMS, AEWA, etc.

e) Successful local celebrations implemented

Supporting local celebrations has been very enjoyable to locals and has highlighted the natural and cultural values of these regions. Four local celebrations have been organized: Wine festival 2021 - 150 people (45 women); Wine festival 2019 - 300 people (100 women); Carnivals 2021 - 250 people (180 women); Mussel Fest 2021 - 70 people (40 women). These celebrations gathered together a diverse community on a mutual event. Local businesses are in huge favor of these events because besides the engagement and promotion, they had the chance to increase their revenues. But these events need to be budgeted sufficiently.

f) Support of local livelihood ideas

There have been successfully supported four local livelihood ideas, mostly with materials and branding. Several people generated additional work and had the chance to promote their businesses and increase their revenues. At least 10 people are engaged with these local businesses. But these activities need to be budgeted sufficiently.

g) Additional funding for 3 years
PPNEA reached to secure a three-year project, 352 959,00 Eu as a continuation of the Lands of Eagles and Castles project.

Challenges:

a) Covid 19 made our work almost impossible for a while but after a while, the situation slowly changed. Many activities were postponed but we reached implementation successfully.

b) D2.1 At least 1 contract for 1 or more local products will be signed with one of the largest supermarkets in Albania.

Signing a contract with big supermarkets is extremely difficult, there is a lack of interest from the supermarkets and the small business that we have supported hasn't capacities to support these supermarkets on ongoing. We find a solution by signing a contract with a small eco market in the capital.

c) D1.10 The first World's Bunker Hotel will be created with a capacity of 4 double rooms as shown by photos before and after the investment!

This activity was canceled and impossible to be implemented due to property issues that the objects have; Still, there isn't a clear owner of these bunkers and several institutions and locals claim their ownership. There were made several attempts to find a comen sense but it was impossible. In addition, according to the assessment done there wasn't enough budget to successfully implement this activity.

d) After opposing the construction of the airport within Vjosa-Narta, some small incidents started to happen to our touristic infrastructures in Narta. A signboard was destroyed, the artificial platform was damaged and the local office was vandalized (but without big damage). These small incidents were reported to the authorities.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS/STANDARDS

NA

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Total Amount of Additional Funding Actually Secured (USD)	
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.

Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania (PPNEA) contact@ppnea.org