

Small Grants –Final Completion and Impact Report

Instructions: CEPF requires that each grantee report on project results and impacts at the end of their grant. To monitor CEPF’s global indicators, CEPF will aggregate the data that you submit with data from other grantees, to determine the overall impact of CEPF investment. The aggregated results of all grantees will be reported on in our annual impact report and other communications materials. Your Final Completion and Impact Report will be posted on the CEPF website.

Ensure that the information provided pertains to the entire project, from start date to project end date.

Please complete all fields and respond to all questions listed below.

Organization Legal Name: Instituti i Politikave Mjedisore/ Institute for Environmental Policy

Project Title: Conservation and propagation of the Albanian tulip

Grant Number: CEPF-109942

Date of Completion of this Report:30 June 2022

CEPF Hotspot: Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot

Strategic Direction:4 Strengthen the engagement of civil society to support the conservation of plants that are critically endangered or have highly restricted ranges

Grant Amount: USD 36,344

Actual expenditure: USD 30,649.59

Project Dates: 1 April 2019 – 31 May 2022

PART I: Overview

1. Implementation Partners for this Project (list each partner and explain how they were involved in the project)

Number	Name of stakeholders	How they were involved in the project	Additional information
1	Municipality of Kukës	Kukës Municipality has been engaged from the start of the project. They were very supportive of the project and showed great interest in protecting the species and in the project. The municipality staff responsible for environment took part in the monitoring field	

		works, surveys and events organized in the framework of the project. This cooperation was crucial to obtain local protection by the Municipality of Kukës for the <i>Tulipa albanica</i> area in Surroj.	
2	Regional Administration of Protected Areas Kukës	Close cooperation with RAPA Kukës allowed the project to find new areas where smaller sub-populations of <i>Tulipa albanica</i> grow. The cooperation with RAPA Kukës was crucial to start the process of giving the area a National Protection of Category III, Natural Monument.	
3	Municipality of Has	The finding of populations of <i>Tulipa albanica</i> , <i>Tulipa kosovarica</i> , and <i>Tulipa luanica</i> in the Municipality of Has, increased the cooperation between the Institute for Environmental Policy (IEP) and Has Municipality. IEP started the process for giving a local protection to the area where the three tulip species are growing together.	The process will be followed by IEP to secure local protection of the area.
4	Environmental CSOs in Kukës	CSOs in Kukës have participated in events, training and awareness raising visits at the site. The participating NGOs are Ekologët Kukës, SIRA NGO, and Women in Progress Kukës	
5	National Agency for Protected Areas – Albania	NAPA Albania was crucial in starting the process for the official Protected Area, Category III protection – Natural Monument, for the Albanian tulip habitat.	
6	Ministry of Tourism and Environment	The Ministry of Tourism and Environment pledged support to give national protection to the Albanian tulip habitat and support IEP in the process. It also raised awareness of the species by participating in the events that IEP organized in the framework of this project.	
7	Community of Kukës	Youth from Kukës, teachers, intellectuals, and media in Kukës	

		participated at the events that IEP held for this project, giving them ideas how to enhance the protection of the tulip.	
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2. Summarize the overall results of your project

The project “Conservation and propagation of the Albanian Tulip” successfully achieved its foreseen results, and even went beyond by securing the local protection for the *Tulipa albanica* habitat and started the process of declaring the area a national protected area, for the future Natura2000 network. The culmination of the advocacy was achieved on 22 April 2022, when the Government of Albania, through the Vice Minister of Environment, pledged support for the application of the Institute for Environmental Policy for declaring the *Tulipa albanica* site a Category III protected area – Natural Monument.

Post from the event can be seen [Here](#) and [Here](#).

The main achievements of the project are:

- Local protection of the *Tulipa albanica* site in Surroj, Kukës by the Kukës Municipality.
- Compilation of the studies and application document necessary for the application at the National Agency for Protected Areas and Ministry of Tourism and Environment to declare the *Tulipa albanica* site, in Surroj, Kukës, a Category III protected area, with the aim of including the site in the Natura2000 network in the future.
- Completed a study of the area of *Tulipa albanica* in Surroj, Kukës, and found 5 new sites where populations of *Tulipa albanica* grow in smaller numbers.
- Completed the Action Plan for the Conservation of the Albanian Tulip.
- Piloted propagation of *Tulipa albanica* from seed, in situ and ex situ with some positive results (however, monitoring is still ongoing as reaching full maturity for the plant might take 5-6 years).
- Raised awareness on the protection of *Tulipa albanica* among the local population and nationally, coupled with training for the young generation and local staff on the protection of *Tulipa albanica*.
- Set the basis for declaring local protection for the area where *Tulipa kosovarica* and *Tulipa albanica* grow together in Has Municipality.

3. Briefly describe actual progress towards each planned long-term and short-term impact (as stated in the approved proposal)

List each long-term impact from your proposal

a. Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
To ensure the survival of the species <i>Tulipa albanica</i> , conservation of its habitat, and creation of a generation of skilled botanists and professionals in	The project fully achieved its aims, by ensuring local protection of the <i>Tulipa albanica</i> habitat in Surroj, Kukës Municipality. The project also started the legal process for the inclusion of the <i>Tulipa albanica</i> habitat, in Surroj,

<p>the protection of endemic species in the KBA area ALB 15.</p>	<p>Kukës, under the Protected Areas of Albania, Category III of protection, Natural Monument. The project monitored the species, gathered data and information needed to ensure its survival, propagated the species via seeds in-situ and ex-situ. It also increased capacities of the local authorities to monitor and safeguard the habitat of the species.</p> <p>It compiled the Conservation Action Plan for <i>Tulipa albanica</i>. This document represents an initial step towards an integrated framework for the conservation of the specie and it is the first action plan prepared from this species in Albania. It attracted students and CSOs in protecting <i>Tulipa albanica</i> and its habitat, and the other endangered species that grow in this habitat. Lastly, it raised awareness on the protection of the species in Kukës and in the whole Albania in general.</p>
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b. Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
<p>1. Increase knowledge and skills through surveys and studies, to support assessment and planning for the conservation of <i>Tulipa albanica</i>;</p>	<p>Indicators: Conduct targeted surveys throughout the range of <i>Tulipa albanica</i> and the area around to check for possible additional populations: A total of 15 surveys were conducted, with 5 new smaller and scattered sub-populations of <i>Tulipa albanica</i> found in Kukës and Has municipalities.</p> <p>- Define its distribution and abundance during the flowering period: Thorough counting and survey were conducted during 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022, measuring the number of individuals and the changes in distribution in the main site in Surroj, and in the Has site where few individuals of <i>Tulipa albanica</i> were found among a large population of <i>Tulipa kosovarica</i>. Hybridization has been observed in all the other new sites, except the main site of Surroj.</p> <p>- Meet with the local population, local government officials, university, RAPA, other stakeholders: Communication and continuous meetings with all stakeholders was one of the main activities besides surveys and on-the-field expeditions. Several meetings were carried out with the local population of Kukës and of the remote areas in organized and informal events.</p> <p>- Distribution of study in workshops, delivery via email/post, articles in the media, posts on social media, personal meetings, posters; signposts: A study was compiled and printed, and distributed during the public events and meetings organized in the</p>

	<p>framework of this project. Findings from the project, information, and pictures have been disseminated throughout the project via our social media, website, articles in the media, interviews and videos broadcasted in different national and local Albanian TV channels. Two large info boards were put in the city of Kukës, with information about <i>Tulipa albanica</i> and the protected habitat where it grows.</p>
<p>2.Strengthen the engagement of stakeholders and local inhabitants to support the conservation of Tulip albanica;</p>	<p>Indicators: Awareness raising among local population with face-to-face meetings, engagement in the field, brochures, and erection of appropriate signs. We will ensure that inhabitants know about the species, and about ways they can accidentally damage the species, and how to prevent causing damage to it. We will use workshops to help stakeholders in developing the skills and knowledge required to prevent and manage threats to <i>Tulipa albanica</i> and its habitat: Several face-to-face meetings and events with the local population of Kukës and of the area near the <i>Tulipa albanica</i> habitat have been organized. The small village of Surroj is around 6-7 km far from the habitat, and have been present in the meetings and events that the project organized on <i>Tulipa albanica</i>. A brochure and the study on <i>Tulipa albanica</i> have been produced, printed and distributed. The events and workshops we organized where we brought together the representatives of the Kukës Municipality, Regional Administration of Protected Areas of Kukës, Ministry of Tourism and Environment, local and national CSOs, and local inhabitants, strengthened the awareness and cooperation between all parties in protecting the species and the area.</p>
<p>3.Help the emergence of a new generation of young professionals in endemic plant conservation.</p>	<p>Indicators: Meet with the interested students from Kukës and other cities studying in Tirana, to involve them in the conservation plan/ expeditions, and to raise their attention toward the Albanian tulip and associated plants of interest: 3 meetings with youth from Kukës and expeditions have been organized by involving botany students as well, and one of the students has been actively part of the other expeditions to work on the propagation of the <i>Tulipa albanica</i>.</p>

<p>4. Create a conservation plan together with local and central authorities for <i>Tulipa albanica</i> and other endangered and endemic plants that might be encountered in the area of study (habitat of <i>Tulipa albanica</i>);</p>	<p>Indicators: Conservation plan in place, compiled by being based on data collected during survey. The Action Plan for the Conservation of the Albanian Tulip has been completed in English and Albanian, with the data gathered during more than 3 years of monitoring and field trips. The 'Action Plan for the Conservation of the Albanian Tulip' has been the main document in the folder with documents for the application to declare the habitat a Category III protected area, Natural Monument. The document was submitted to the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, and the process to get Category III protection has been started.</p> <p>-Engagement local and central authorities. Local authorities (Municipalities of Kukës and Has, and the Regional Administration of Protected Areas of Kukës) have been engaged from the start of the project, and have been key players for the achievement of this project, like the Local Protection for the habitat of <i>Tulipa Albanica</i> by the Kukës Municipality. The project managed to raise the issue protecting the species by introducing to the local authorities the species, risks and the need to protect <i>Tulipa albanica</i>. It also raised their capacities on the protection of <i>Tulipa albanica</i> by providing them with data collected from the field. In parallel, central authorities were actively engaged by the project, like the Ministry of Tourism and Environment and the National Agency for Protected Areas. This active engagement led to the start of the legal process for the inclusion of the <i>Tulipa albanica</i> habitat under the Protected Areas of Albania, Category III of protection.</p>
<p>5. Support innovative actions for the conservation of the two subpopulations of <i>Tulipa albanica</i> working with land owners and managers, local authorities;</p>	<p>Indicators: Interest from local authorities in protecting <i>Tulipa albanica</i> has increased; support given to propagate the species into another location. The activities of this project led to increasing interest from the local authorities in giving protection to <i>Tulipa albanica</i>, work together with the Institute for Environmental Policy in propagating the species and increased the awareness of the population of Kukës about the species. <i>Tulipa albanica</i> is now known to the local community, and there is a certain pride developed in protection the species by identifying Kukës with <i>Tulipa albanica</i>.</p>
<p>6. Ensure the continuation of the species by propagating the plant in other areas, especially protected areas.</p>	<p>Indicators: Propagating and planting the species into other locations. Seeds were collected and disseminated in-situ and ex-situ, in prepared plots for monitoring and on the soil, mimicking the natural way of propagation. The locations outside the <i>Tulipa albanica</i> habitat where the project</p>

	propagated the seeds, were selected by analyzing the similarity of elements with the habitat of <i>Tulipa albanica</i> , like orientation, soil, geology, altitude and risk factors stemming from human activity.
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4. Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

After a year of advocating and information provided about *Tulipa albanica* and the importance to protect the species, the local protection for 72 ha of the *Tulipa albanica* habitat in Kukës was finally approved by the Council of the Kukës Municipality on 22.04.2020. This decision was ratified on 30 April 2020 by the Prefect of Kukës.

The new information we provided to the National Agency for Protected Area and to the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, coupled with the completion of the Action Plan for the Conservation of the Albanian Tulip, led to the state administration to invite the project team to submit the application for declaring the *Tulipa albanica* habitat a Category III protected area. The Vice Minister of Environment welcomed the application and pledged support for the process of declaring the habitat a Natural Monument.

PART II: Project Products/Deliverables

5. List each product/deliverable as stated in your approved proposal and describe the results for each of them:

#	Deliverable Description	Deliverable Update
1	A thorough survey and study on Tulip albanica, its distribution and population;	<p>A total of 15 surveys and fieldtrips to check for new populations and/or subpopulations of <i>Tulipa albanica</i> and to disseminate the species, were conducted every spring during 2019-2022.</p> <p>Fieldworks</p> <p>2019: Four fieldtrips were conducted in spring 2019, to survey and monitor the population of <i>Tulipa albanica</i> in Surroj, Kukës, and to check for new populations and/or subpopulations. Participants: project team, project expert, students from Tirana University, biology department. New smaller subpopulations were discovered in Gjabrrica and Gjallica.</p> <p>Two fieldtrips were conducted to achieve propagation with seeds was done <i>in-situ</i> and in experimental pots.</p> <p>2020: IEP conducted four fieldtrips in May 2020, to check for new sites of <i>Tulipa albanica</i>, survey the previous propagation of the pilot sites and check for new potential sites for the propagation of the Albanian tulip. Two small groups of <i>Tulipa albanica</i> have been discovered in a distance of 0.5-3 km far from the main site. Considerable</p>

		<p>number of <i>Tulipa kosovarica</i> and some <i>Tulipa luanica</i> have been spotted during the visit in Oplas, Has, the main population of <i>Tulipa kosovarica</i> in the Republic of Albania. Small groups of <i>Tulipa sylvestris</i> were also found in the habitat of <i>Tulipa albanica</i>. Climate change has negatively affected the <i>Tulipa albanica</i> population this year due to the heatwave of up to 34 degrees Celsius during 14-19 May 2020, which damaged many individuals of <i>Tulipa albanica</i>.</p> <p>25 May 2020, IEP together with the Municipality of Kukës organized an event in Kukës, to present the decision for the declaration of the Albanian tulip habitat under local protection and to introduce the project and the species to the general public. The event was attended by staff of the Municipality of Kukës, civil society representatives, media and the general public of Kukës.</p> <p>The study on the species with its distribution and populations was completed and distributed to stakeholders and the wider public.</p> <p>2021: Four fieldtrips were conducted in spring and summer 2021. Sites with a large population of <i>Tulipa kosovarica</i> co-inhabiting with smaller numbers of <i>Tulipa luanica</i> was discovered in Has. Scattered populations of <i>Tulipa sylvestris</i> have been found in many sites in Kukës and Has municipalities. New site with few individuals of <i>Tulipa albanica</i> were found in in Përtejdrinit, Gjallicë and Bardhoc.</p>
2	<p>A monitoring program based on data collected during the survey;</p>	<p>The monitoring program was completed with data from the surveys, which also served as basis for the Action Plan for the Conservation of <i>Tulipa albanica</i>. The study of flora and analysis of plant associations was based on the transect method by randomly selecting quadrants (Braun-Blanquet, 1964; Reiss et al., 2000). Sampling areas were randomly selected within each vegetation, standing from ASL 370 m to 900 m altitude. During the sampling process data on altitude, slope, m2 area, etc. are also included. During the visits photos of habitat plants were taken, videos were recorded. The designation of other plant species is based on the literature in the Albanian language (Albanian Flora) and the foreign language literature of the flora of neighboring countries and other publications, which are listed in the references list. For the status of other rare and endangered species we based our assessment on the IUCN Red List of globally endangered species (Walter, 1998) and the Red List of the Republic of Albania.</p>

		<p>Subpopulations only with the yellow form that usually appear in cluster form with small number of individuals, while subpopulation only with red form appearing with rare and scattered individuals. Field observations indicate that the yellow individuals of Tulips begin to bloom earlier than the red individuals. Blooming period lasts around 15 days starting usually from 20 April to 10 of May. Based on the monitoring surveys in the locality of Kolsh, the number of individuals has decreased from about 260 individuals mature in May 2013 to 185 individuals in May 2019, and in 180 In May 2020. Such decline may have different reasons but among the prominent threats remains the negative impacts in the habitats from human activities in the area.</p> <p>In the surveys conducted in Oplas Mountain and Maja e Sukës, individuals were found only in the red tulips individuals. The tulip subpopulation on Mount Oplas is healthier than on the top of Suka and the municipality of Kukës. Number of individuals counted in the locality Mali I Oplasit on May 2019 was 430 mature individuals, while in Maja e Sukës on May 2019, there were 60 individuals. The sites are located not far from human settlements and are under pressure from grazing by livestock of residents of surrounding villages, fires risks and mining activity.</p>
3	<p>Increased capacities and skills among young professionals and local authorities in protecting <i>Tulipa albanica</i> and other endemic species;</p>	<p>Two members of the staff of the Municipality of Kukës participated in some of the fieldtrips to survey and propagate <i>Tulipa albanica</i>, and other endemic species found in the area, like <i>Dioscorea balcanica</i>. Kukës Municipality was also engaged closely during the compilation of the Action plan for the conservation of Albanian tulip. An important aspect of engaging stakeholders has been the awareness raising on protecting the species of around 40 youth from NGOs of Kukës and among botany students of the Tirana University, Biology Department. We taught them the basics methods of identification of <i>Tulipa albanica</i>, how to protect them, how to propagate them, and what actions should be undertaken to conserve the habitat of <i>Tulipa albanica</i>.</p>
4	<p>Conservation plan in place, compiled by being based on data collected during survey, in cooperation with local authorities and young botanists;</p>	<p>The Action Plan for the Conservation of <i>Tulipa albanica</i> was prepared and printed out in English and Albanian. The plan prepared by integrating the data that were collected during surveys and fieldtrips, and suggestions and comments from the central and local governmental stakeholders and non-governmental stakeholders in joint</p>

		efforts to conserve the Albanian Tulip species as a unique asset of Albanian biodiversity genome.
5	Achieving propagation of the plant and achieving other populations in other areas, and storage of seeds;	<p>Thousands of seeds were collected and propagated in-situ and ex-situ, by planting them in prepared plots and by spreading them in the environment mimicking the natural dissemination.</p> <p>The dissemination of seeds were carried out in summer 2019, 2020, and 2021, by collecting the seeds that were still in the pods and planting them in prepared plots <i>in-situ</i> and experimental plots <i>ex-situ</i>. The dissemination was carried out by the team of the project, the expert of the project, the new botanist who became part of the efforts to save <i>Tulipa albanica</i>, and in cooperation with the staff of the Municipality of Kukës.</p>
6	More awareness among local inhabitants and local authorities on the need to protect the plant and other endemic plants, and on how to prevent accidental damage;	<p>The local population of Kukës and the general Albanian public was made aware on the <i>Tulipa albanica</i>, its importance and how to protect it via the brochures prepared and distributed, articles written in the media, posts and articles on social media, dissemination of the articles produced by the project to different media channels, TV interviews and broadcasts, and by the info boards that were installed in the center of the city of Kukës. Continuous meetings with the Municipality of Kukës, Municipality of Has, Regional Administration of Protected Areas of Kukës, National Agency for Protected Areas, and with the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, were key to the convince the Municipality of Kukës to give a local protection to the <i>Tulipa albanica</i> habitat in Surroj, and set the basis for a future local protection for the Oplas population in the Municipality of Has. Cooperation has been continuous with academia and students as well, although the small number of students who are interested in the species and botany in general.</p>
7	Declaration of the proposed <i>Tulipa albanica</i> site as protected area locally, by the Kukës Municipality	<p>After a year of advocating and information provided about <i>Tulipa albanica</i> and the importance to protect the species, the local protection for 72 ha of the <i>Tulipa albanica</i> habitat in Kukës was finally approved by the Council of the Kukës Municipality on 22.04.2020. This decision was ratified on 30 April 2020 by the Prefect of Kukës.</p>
8	Training of the local administration to protect the <i>Tulipa albanica</i> protected area	<p>3 training sessions on the protection of the <i>Tulipa albanica</i> were organized for the staff of the Municipality of Kukës, Has, local CSOs, youth, interested individuals and other stakeholders.</p>
9	Advocacy aimed at the central government to declare the protected area for <i>Tulipa albanica</i>	<p>The new information we provided to the National Agency for Protected Area and to the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, coupled with the completion of the Action</p>

		<p>Plan for the Conservation of the Albanian Tulip, led to the state administration to invite the project team to submit the application for declaring the <i>Tulipa albanica</i> habitat a Category III protected area. The Vice Minister of Environment welcomed the application and pledged support for the process of declaring the habitat a Natural Monument. The legal process for the inclusion of the <i>Tulipa albanica</i> habitat under the Protected Areas of Albania, Category III of protection has already started in spring 2022.</p>
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6. Please describe and submit any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

Products from the project:

1. Action plan for the conservation of Albanian Tulip "*Tulipa albanica*"
2. Brochure to raise awareness on the protection of *Tulipa albanica*
3. State of *Tulipa albanica*, geographic distribution in Kukës region and associated plants

Methodology:

The study on *Tulipa albanica* and the important associated plants in the tulip habitat in the study areas was done according to the classical method.

For this purpose, in order to have complete information on the vegetation and flora of the area we have also made 15 surveys and fieldtrips during April-September of years 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022.

The study of flora and analysis of plant associations was based on the transect method by randomly selecting quadrants (Braun-Blanquet, 1964; Reiss et al., 2000).

Sampling areas were randomly selected within each vegetation, standing from A.S.L. 370 m to 900 m altitude. During the sampling process data on altitude, slope, m² area, etc. were also included.

During the visits photos of habitat plants were taken and videos were recorded.

Seeds were taken for the tulip to be planted outside the area for further study.

The *in-situ* and *ex-situ* propagation of *Tulipa albanica* by collecting seeds in July-September, and mimicking its natural dispersion with the help of wind and water. As seeds are stacked in pods which burst open when the stem and pod dry out, they fall from the pod when wind shakes the stem. The seeds are then transported by rainwater in crevices and eroded gullies, where they germinate in absence of any or with minimal competition by other plants.

During the project, we saw that when due to climate and weather effects, the spring was either late or it was short and went to summer immediately, flowering and seed production of *Tulipa albanica* was also decreased. The sites where *ex-situ* propagation was carried out, were chosen by analyzing the similarity of elements with the habitat of *Tulipa albanica*, like orientation, soil, geology, altitude and risk factors stemming from human activity. The new *ex-situ* site where the

project planted seeds of the Albanian tulip is 6-7 km far from the original site of *Tulipa albanica*. Seeds were planted in terraces prepared by mimicking the habitat where *Tulipa albanica* grows.

PART III: Lessons, Sustainability, Safeguards and Financing

Lessons Learned

7. Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building.

- Close relation with local stakeholders, especially with local shepherds and teachers, led to the finding of new locations where subpopulations of *Tulipa albanica* grows. These relations were established during the fieldtrips, where the staff of the project was also accompanied by the environment expert of the Municipality of Kukës. Meetings with the civil society and local populations were carried out in Kukës, formally and informally. We learned much more information about possible sites of the species during the informal meetings than during the formal conference style meetings.
- It is important to engage the local authorities from Day 1 of the project in order to secure sustainability and acceptance of the action. This helped us not only achieve the goals set up in the planning of the project during application phase, but even to go beyond these goals. The local authorities need to feel ownership of the results of the project, which is facilitated by the activities of the project and work done in cooperation with the local authorities. Often, project suffer from the 'bubble' effect, where projects and activities are carried out only by the NGO implementing the project, whereas local authorities are just invited in events. This does not secure ownership of the project, and has minimal energy put by the local authorities in the project, as they do not see it as their "own" project.

Sustainability / Replication

8. Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated, including any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability.

Through this project, the Institute for Environmental Policy has started in March 2022 the legal process for the inclusion of the Tulia albanica habitat under the Protected Areas of Albania, Category III of protection. The Institute for Environmental Policy will look for further funding to follow and conclude the process of declaring the *Tulipa albanica* site a Protected Area under Category III of protection, and put the other areas that have been discovered under local or central protection.

The IEP will also look for further funding to secure the conservation of *Tulipa albanica*, by implementing and supporting the local authorities in implementing the activities foreseen in the Action Plan for the Conservation of the Albanian Tulip.

Safeguards

9. If not listed as a separate Deliverable and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social or environmental safeguards that your project may have triggered.

The project raised awareness on the protection of *Tulipa albanica* among the local population. Several face-to-face meetings and events with the local population of Kukës and of the area near the *Tulipa albanica* habitat have been organized and grievance mechanism was explained to the participants.

After a year of advocating and information provided about *Tulipa albanica* and the importance to protect the species, the local protection for 72 ha of the *Tulipa albanica* habitat in Kukës was approved by the Council of the Kukës Municipality on 22.04.2020. This decision was ratified on 30 April 2020 by the Prefect of Kukës. The project also started the legal process for the inclusion of the *Tulipa albanica* habitat under the Protected Areas of Albania, Category III of protection, Natural Monument. On 22 April 2022, the Government of Albania, through the Vice Minister of Environment, publicly pledged to support the application of the Institute for Environmental Policy for declaring the *Tulipa albanica* site a Category III protected area – Natural Monument. The land is not in use by any person, it is a scrubland, which might occasionally be grazed by passing herds of goats/sheep. During the project there was not identified any grazing area/route.

During the project we did not receive any claim or conflict arises. We were prepared that persons, who have any complaint, would be invited to hand a written complaint based on the grievance mechanism that was presented to stakeholders during organized meetings.

Additional Funding

10. Provide details of any additional funding that you have secured to support this project.

N/A

a. Total additional funding (US\$)

b. Type of funding

Please provide a breakdown of additional funding (counterpart funding and in-kind) by source.

Donor	Type of Funding	Amount

Additional Comments/Recommendations

11. Use this space to provide any further comments or recommendations in relation to your project or CEPF.

Climate change is rapidly changing the habitats and species survival. This should be taken into consideration in the coming projects. Therefore, also adaptation and flexibility in the actions of the projects to the new realities should be taken into consideration. Thinking “out of the box” should be applied to save species.

PART IV: Impact at Portfolio and Global Level

Contribution to Portfolio Indicators

12. In order to measure the results of CEPF investment strategy at the hotspot level, CEPF uses a set of Portfolio Indicators which are presented in the Ecosystem Profile of each hotspot. Please list these below and report on the project’s contribution(s) to them.

Indicator	Actual Numeric Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
2.0 Number of hectares of KBAs with enhanced protection or management	72 hectares	Munella Mountain-Oroshi Mountain-Lura Lakes, ALB 15, 72 ha are under local protection by the Municipality of Kukës. These 72 ha will be protected as a Natural Monument, Category III of protection when the process will be completed. The process might take year and needs further data and monitoring to be provided by IEP.
4.5 Number of locally endemic or highly threatened plant species for which improved knowledge is available	4	Monitoring by checking the number of flowering individuals of <i>Tulipa albanica</i> (endemic to Albania and locally CR), <i>Tulipa kosovarica</i> , (locally endemic and locally EN), <i>Tulipa sylvestris</i> (VU in Albania), <i>Dioscorea balcanica</i> (locally endemic and locally EN).

		<p>The status is according to the Albanian Red List of Flora and Fauna.</p> <p>The number of individuals has been counted during spring of 2019-2022 and the change in the number of the populations and subpopulations has been written down. Climate, weather, natural and human factors have been observed, together with their impact on the species. All these data have been laid down in the Action Plan for the Conservation of <i>Tulipa albanica</i></p>
4.6 Number of KBAs for which information on plants is improved	1	<p>ALB 15: Munella Mountain-Oroshi Mountain-Lura Lakes. The site of <i>Tulipa albanica</i> in Surroj is within the ALB15 KBA. However, other subpopulations of the species have been found out of the KBA, like the one in Has Municipality.</p>
4.7 Number of young professionals with substantial experience in plant conservation gained	5	<p>Gentian Stafa from IEP: joined the project as a volunteer and became an avid botanist participating in the survey and propagation fieldtrips. Mikaela Mahilaj a botanist who conducted the field surveys and supported the compilation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of <i>Tulipa albanica</i>, two young environmental specialist from Kukës Municipality (Ervin Shahu and Besart Halilaj) and a student from PPNEA – Melitjan Nezaj, who joined</p>

		the fieldtrips and learned about the species, how to survey and protect it.
5.2 Number of Regional thematic experience-sharing events	1	Regional conference in Malta: 2nd Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week in 2019. IEP team gained experience about protection of plants and approach to follow. Through discussion with colleagues, we learned how to be cautious about the site protection from mass tourism.

Contribution to Global Indicators

Please report on all Global Indicators that pertain to your project.

13. Benefits to Individuals

13a. Number of men and women receiving structured training.

Report on the number of men and women that have benefited from structured training due to your project, such as financial management, beekeeping, horticulture, farming, biological surveys, or how to conduct a patrol.

# of men receiving structured training*	# of women receiving structured training*	Topic(s) of Training
22	16	Training conservation of <i>Tulipa albanica</i> and safeguarding the environment of the species. Trainees were staff from the Municipality of Kukës, civil society members from Kukës, nature enthusiasts, students and teachers.
3	2	Training on species monitoring surveys. Trainees were from the civil society, botany students and a professor from the Agricultural University of Tirana.
Total men: 25	Total women: 18	

**Please do not count the same person more than once. For example, if 5 men received structured training in beekeeping, and 3 of these also received structured training in project management, the total number of men who benefited from structured training should be 5.*

13b. Number of men and women receiving cash benefits.

Report on the number of men and women that had an increase in income or cash (monetary) benefits due to your project from activities such as tourism, handicraft production, increased farm output, increased fishery output, medicinal plant harvest, or payment for conducting patrols.

# of men receiving cash benefits*	# of women receiving cash benefits*	Description of Benefits

**Please do not count the same person more than once. For example, if 5 men received cash benefits due to tourism, and 3 of these also received cash benefits from increased income due to handicrafts, the total number of men who received cash benefits should be 5.*

N/A

14. Protected Areas

Number of hectares of protected areas created and/or expanded

Report on the number of hectares of protected areas that have been created or expanded as a result of your 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 PA*	Country(s)	Original # of Hectares**	# of Hectares Newly Protected	Year of Legal Declaration/ Expansion	Longitude***	Latitude***

** If possible please provide a shape file of the protected area to CEPF.*

*** Enter the original total size, excluding the results of your project. If the protected area was not existing before your project, then enter zero.*

**** Indicate the latitude and longitude of the center of the site, to the extent possible, or send a map or shapefile to CEPF. Give geographic coordinates in decimal degrees; latitudes in the Southern Hemisphere and longitudes in the Western Hemisphere should be denoted with a minus sign (example: Latitude 38.123456 Longitude: -77.123456). To obtain the latitude and longitude of your protected area, use google map, right click on the center of your protected area, and select "What's here?", and copy the latitude and longitude appearing in the popup window.*

15. Key Biodiversity Area Management

Number of hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) with improved management

Report on the number of hectares in KBAs with improved management, where tangible results have been achieved to support conservation, as a result of your project. Examples of improved management include, but are not restricted to: increased patrolling, reduced intensity of snaring, invasive species eradication, reduced incidence of fire, and introduction of sustainable agricultural/fisheries practices. Do not record the entire area covered by the project - only record the number of hectares that have improved management.

If you have recorded part or all of a KBA as newly protected for the indicator entitled “protected areas”, and you have also improved its management, you should record the relevant number of hectares for both this indicator and the “protected areas” indicator.

Name of KBA	KBA Code from Ecosystem Profile	# of Hectares Improved *
Munella Mountain-Oroshi Mountain-Lura Lakes	ALB 15	72

The project contributed to the improvement of this KBA by putting 72 hectares under local protection of the Kukës Municipality and started the process to put them under national protection, as a Natural Monument. The project also prepared the Action Plan for the Conservation of *Tulipa albanica*. At the moment, Kukës Municipality with the support of the Regional Administration for Protected Areas of Kukës and the Institute for Environmental Policy are monitoring the area, patrolling and checking for any damage to the species, and propagating the seeds of *Tulipa albanica* every year.

** Do not count the same hectares more than once. For example, if 500 hectares were improved due to implementation of a fire management regime in the first year, and 200 of these same 500 hectares were improved due to invasive species removal in the second year, the total number of hectares with improved management would be 500.*

16. Production landscapes

Number of hectares of production landscape with strengthened management of biodiversity

Please report on the number of hectares of production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity, as a result of your project. A production landscape is defined as a landscape where commercial agriculture, forestry or natural product exploitation occurs.

- For an area to be considered as having "strengthened management of biodiversity," it can benefit from a wide range of interventions such as best practices and guidelines implemented, incentive schemes introduced, sites/products certified, and sustainable harvesting regulations introduced.
- Areas that are protected are not included under this indicator, because their hectares are counted elsewhere.
- A Production Landscape can include part or all of an unprotected KBA.

Name of Production Landscape*	# of Hectares with Strengthened Management**	Latitude***	Longitude***	Description of Intervention

** If the production landscape does not have a name, provide a brief descriptive name for the landscape.*

***Do not count the same hectares more than once. For example, if 500 hectares were strengthened due to certification in the first year, and 200 of these same 500 hectares were strengthened due to new harvesting regulations in the second year, the total number of hectares strengthened to date would be 500.*

**** Indicate the latitude and longitude of the center of the site, to the extent possible, or send a map or shapefile to CEPF. Give geographic coordinates in decimal degrees; latitudes in the Southern Hemisphere and longitudes in the Western Hemisphere should be denoted with a minus sign (example: Latitude 38.123456 Longitude: -77.123456). To obtain the latitude and longitude of your production landscape, use googlemap, right click on the center of your production landscape, and select "What's here?", and copy the latitude and longitude appearing in the popup window.*

N/A

17. Benefits to Communities

CEPF wants to record the non-cash benefits received by communities, which can differ to those received by individuals because the benefits are available to a group. CEPF also wants to record, to the extent possible, the number of people within each community who are benefiting. Please report on the characteristics of the communities, the type of benefits that have been received during the project, and the number of men/boys and women/girls from these communities that have benefited, as a result of your project. If exact numbers are not known, please provide an estimate.

Please provide information for all communities that have benefited from project start to project completion.

Name of Community	Community Characteristics (mark with x)							Country of Community	Type of Benefit (mark with x)								# of Beneficiaries		
	Small landowners	Subsistence economy	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists / nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Other*		Increased access to clean water	Increased food security	Increased access to energy	Increased access to public services (e.g. health care, education)	Increased resilience to climate change	Improved land tenure	Improved recognition of traditional	Improved representation and decision-making in governance forums/structures	Improved access to ecosystem services	# of men and boys benefiting	# of women and girls benefiting
Kukës						X	X	Albania									X	10000	10000

*If you marked "Other" to describe the community characteristic, please explain:

Urban and Rural communities of Kukës benefited from the project with information and knowledge on *Tulipa albanica*, its habitat, how to protect it and, and through the increased media attention to the area due to the events that the project organized to promote the protection of

the species. The local protection of the *Tulipa albanica* habitat, benefits the whole population of Kukës, urban and rural alike, by stopping mining activities in the area, which would have destroyed the habitat.

The project improved the biodiversity and ecosystem services for the Kukës Municipality by offering them more knowledge on how to protect the species, its habitat and the other plants that live on this habitat. It gave them knowledge on how to propagate *Tulipa albanica* to other areas. It also compiled an Action Plan for the Conservation of *Tulipa albanica*, which will serve as basis for the further conservation actions in the area. The project also provided a set of tools to the Regional Administration of Protected Areas of Kukës, to carry out activities of the action plan.

18. Policies, Laws and Regulations

Report on policies, laws and regulations with conservation provisions that have been enacted or amended, as a result of your project. “Policies” pertain to statements of intent formally adopted or pursued by a government, including at sectoral or sub-national level. “Laws and regulations” pertain to official rules or orders, prescribed by authority. Any law, regulation, decree or order is eligible to be included.

Number 1: Local protection established.

Numbers 2 and 3: Expected protection in Has in 2 years. (Not yet to be counted)

18a. Name, scope and topic of the policy, law or regulation that has been amended or enacted as a result of your project

No.	Name of Law, Policy or Regulation	Scope (mark with x)			Topic(s) addressed (mark with x)															
		Local	National	International	Agriculture	Climate	Ecosystem Management	Education	Energy	Fisheries	Forestry	Mining and Quarrying	Planning/Zoning	Pollution	Protected Areas	Species Protection	Tourism	Transportation	Wildlife Trade	Other*
1	Local protection for the <i>Tulipa albanica</i> habitat in Surroj, Kukës	X													X					
2	Expected protection at National Level for the <i>Tulipa albanica</i> habitat in Surroj, Kukës – If supported by further surveys, studies, advocacy, it might be possible in 2023-onwards.		X												X					

3	Expected protection for the <i>Tulipa albanica</i> and <i>Tulipa kosovarica</i> habitat in Has - If supported by further surveys, studies, advocacy, it might be possible in 2023-onwards.	X													X				
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* If you selected “other”, please give a brief description of the main topics addressed by the policy, law or regulation.

18b. For each law, policy or regulation listed above, please provide the requested information in accordance with its assigned number.

No.	Country(s)	Date enacted/ amended MM/DD/YYYY	Expected impact	Action that you performed to achieve this change
1	Albania	04.30.2020	Blocking of any operation that damages the environment in the protected area. Increased monitoring and surveillance.	Advocacy, sharing of data and information, preparation of an action plan for the conservation of <i>Tulipa albanica</i> , training and seminars.
2	Albania	Expected in 2023-2025	Blocking of any operation that damages the environment in the protected area. Increased monitoring and surveillance by rangers, implementation of the action plan for the conservation of the species under protection.	Advocacy, sharing of data and information, preparation of an action plan for the conservation of <i>Tulipa albanica</i> , training and seminars.
3	Albania	Expected in 2023-2024	Blocking of any operation that damages the environment in the protected area. Increased monitoring and surveillance.	Advocacy meeting, sharing of data and information.

19. Biodiversity-friendly Practices

Number of companies that adopt biodiversity-friendly practices

Please list any companies that have adopted biodiversity-friendly practices as a result of your project. While companies take various forms, for the purposes of CEPF, 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.

No.	Name of Company	Description of biodiversity-friendly practice adopted during the project	Country(s) where the practice has been adopted by the company
1			
2			
...			

N/A

20. Networks & Partnerships

Number of networks and/or partnerships created and/or strengthened

Report on any networks or partnerships between and among civil society groups and other sectors that you have created or strengthened as a result of your project. Networks/partnerships should have some lasting benefit beyond immediate project implementation. Informal networks/partnerships are acceptable. Examples of networks/partnerships include: an alliance of fisher folk to promote sustainable fisheries practices, a network of environmental journalists, a partnership between one or more NGOs with one or more private sector partners to improve biodiversity management on private lands, or a working group focusing on reptile conservation.

Do not list the partnerships you formed with others to implement this project, unless these partnerships will continue after your project ends.

No.	Name of Network / Partnership	Year established	Did your project establish this Network/ Partnership? Y/N	Country(s) covered	Purpose
1					
2					
...					

21. Sustainable Financing Mechanism

List any functioning sustainable financing mechanisms created or supported by your project. 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 service

(PES) schemes, and other revenue, fee or tax schemes that generate long-term funding for conservation. To be included, a mechanism must be delivering funds for conservation.

21a. Details about the mechanism

No.	Name of Financing Mechanism	Purpose of the Mechanism*	Date of Establishment**	Description***	Countries
1					
2					
3					

*Please provide a succinct description of the mission of the mechanism.

**Please indicate when the sustainable financing mechanism was officially created. If you do not know the exact date, provide a best estimate.

***Description, such as trust fund, endowment, PES scheme, incentive scheme, etc.

N/A

21b. Performance of the mechanism

For each Financing Mechanism listed previously, please provide the requested information in accordance with its assigned number.

NO.	Project intervention (mark with x)			Has the mechanism disbursed funds to conservation projects?
	Created a mechanism	Supported an existing mechanism	Created and supported a new mechanism	
1				
2				
3				

N/A

22.Red List Species

If the project included direct conservation interventions that benefited globally threatened species (CR, EN, VU), as per the IUCN Red List, add the species below.

Examples of interventions include: preparation or implementation of a conservation action plan, captive breeding programs, species habitat protection, species monitoring, patrolling to halt wildlife trafficking, and removal of invasive species.

Genus	Species	Common Name (Eng)	Status (VU, EN, CR or	Intervention	Population Trend at Site (increasing,

			Extinct in the Wild)		decreasing, stable or unknown)
<i>Tulipa</i>	<i>Tulipa albanica</i>	Albanian Tulip	CR	Preparation and start of the implementation of a conservation action plan, species habitat protection, species monitoring, seed propagation.	Decreasing until 2020, a slight increase and stabilization has been observed during 2021-2022

Part V. Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final completion and impact reports are made available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our e-newsletter and other communications.

Provide the contact details of your organization (organization name and generic email address) so that interested parties can request further information about your project.

Organization Name: Institute for Environmental Policy

Generic email address: iep@iep-al.org