CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Urban Research Institute
Project Title:	**Conservation of Biodiversity in Patoku Lagoon and Ishmi River Outlet through Integrated River Basin Management**
Date of Report:	September 14, 2015
Report Author and Contact Information	Dritan Gorica e-mail: dgorica@uri.org.al Cel: +355 69 43 33 808

CEPF Region: Balkans Sub-region, Southwest Balkans corridor

Strategic Direction: Establish the sustainable management of water catchment and the wise use of water resources with a focus on the priority corridor of Southwest Balkans

Grant Amount:180,000.00USD

Project Dates: Start Date:2014/1/1 End Date: 2015/6/30

Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):

URI[1] **–**The organization that had the role of leading the project and ensured synergies and concerted actions among all the project partners.

ASPBM[2]–An organization focused in the protection and conservation of the biodiversity and nature. ASPBM handledthe professional services and drafting the integrated management plan for Ishmi river basin and guided activities with direct focus on biodiversity. Both organizations cooperated for the implementation of best practices, capacity building and consultations through training of local officials and local authorities, as well as raising environmental awareness andpromotion while undertaking best practices at Fushe-Kuqe-Ishem Managed Nature Reserve and Patok Lagoon area covered by the project.

The Commune of Fushë-Kuqe - Communal authorities have been a great partner providing space for the Local Office for Information, Monitoring and Assessment and helped in organizing several activities that demands large public participation, such as the clean-up action, the establishment of road signs for the eco-touristic marks. Also the commune provided human resources to implement other activities such as the hunting ban campaign etc.

EIRLA – an local NGO active in Patoku Lagoon. The main role and contribution was the coordination of the activities with the local stakeholders. It has assisted and participated in all field actions such as summer and winter schools, Patoku day; seminars and clean up action. It has ensured the promotion of the project and its results in local media and institutions.

[1] Urban Research Institute – www.uri.org.al
[2]Albanian Society for the Protection of Birds and Mammals – www.aspbm.org

Conservation Impacts

Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.
Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.

The main result of this project is the enhancement of the biodiversity conservation in the Patoku lagoon as KBA, IBA and protected area as well. Other results include:

a) Produce adequate information and data for biodiversity values and status of the Patoku Lagoon through preparation of an comprehensive assessment especially the threatening factors of it. A total of 11 experienced experts were engaged to prepare the baseline studies and therefore now the stakeholders have a full picture of the status and biodiversity harming factors to be tackled.
b) Improving the knowledge and strengthening the capacities of the stakeholders with role in the biodiversity conservation in the Patoku Lagoon. During this project trainings were held with authorities and lagoon users such as fishermen, and local business companies.
c) Enforcement of the cooperation and dialogue between the main stakeholders such as hunting association of Kurbini, fishermen and authorities. One of the main topics of such dialogue included the cooperation to implement the hunting ban and restriction in the area.
d) Rising of the local community awareness and participation in conservation actions[3]. This process is guided by informative actions and four workshops with 4 local schools and their teachers and filed activates such bird watching and waste clean-up in the lagoon. A specific training seminar were held for the biology teachers of the schools in the Kurbini Education Directory, the teachers were informed with the conservation arrangements, legislation, species and status etc. A specific informative campaign for the impacts and best practice actions was held with 11 businesses inside the Patoku Lagoon Protected area as well.
e) Wildlife saving has occurred under the project, strengthening the cooperation with the local fisherman within the PA has resulted in realizing of two individual of loggerhead turtle[4] (*C.caretta*) and several individuals of divers stacked in the fishing nets. Hunting ban restriction was imposed from the project by employing special guards during 8 months period as well.
f) Increasing know- how and experience for rehabilitation of habitats through experimental nesting platforms. During this project two platforms were constructed and monitored, one has resulted with hatching of two chickens from yellow leg gull. This small success may and be replicated as conservation practice in the habitat impacted areas.
g) Preparing a biodiversity conservation instrument by producing a specific Plan for Integrated Watershed Management Plan of Mati River and Patoku lagoon. This Plan sets forward all necessary measures and actions to be implemented in order to achieve biodiversity conservation and preservation of the Patoku Lagoon system as KBA and fragile area.

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

- Ensured protection and conservation of nature and biodiversity of hotspot area of Patoku lagoon and other coastal biodiversity hotspots in Albania.
- Clear legal and institutional arrangements, regardingintegrated watersheds management.
- Improved institutional capacities in pollution prevention.
- Improved practices on biodiversity conservation.
- Increased environmental awareness of local communities, local and central authorities to ensure the sustainability of biodiversity conservation efforts.
- Private Public Partnership relationships established and institutionalized. Long-term monitoring programs on biodiversity established and integrated in the national monitoring scheme.

[3] A specific Patoku Day was organized in Dec. 2014 and Wetlands International Day was organized inside the Church of Gurrezi in Feb, 2015
[4] http://biodiversitetipatokut.com/rescue-of-sea-turtle-carreta-carreta/

Actual Progress toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:

The adoption and implementation of the Plan for Integrated Watershed Management Plan of Mati River and Patoku Lagoon is a strong tool to achieve the protection and conservation of the biodiversity in Patoku Lagoon. So far is adoption is not done by the authorities due to different reasons and especially related with a recent finalized reform in the water management authority. With this reform it is expected to have more capacities and implementation actions for the protection of water resources and thus an welcomed adoption of the Plan.

A specific report of the institutional arrangements, regarding integrated watersheds management is being prepared and shared to the stakeholders. The report reflects also the recent reform in the water resources management. This report clarifies the role and actions to be taken from institutional chain to enhance the protection of water resources and related habitats.

Implementation of the Plan and trainings held during this project shall result in increased capacities in pollution prevention and biodiversity conservation in the project area. Expected impact of such project result would be seen once the Plan is being implemented. At the moment the project has delivered 4 training with relevant authorities to inform about the pollution sources, needs to tackle and approach to enforce the legislation in effective way. It can be stated that during the project period the Government has allocated the funds for the phase I of Tirana Wastewater Treatment Plant that is a promising investments to reduce the pollution of the Ishmi River from the Tirana capital. The construction operations have already commenced[5].

Regarding the planned long term impact for improving practices on biodiversity conservation during this project an effective cooperation for conservation practices is developed with local fisherman. In this respect several endangered species such as of loggerhead turtle[6] (*C.caretta)* were released from the fishing nets and returned into the sea again. The two fisherman enterprises were involved in conservation actions and construction and guarding of the experimental nesting platforms. A young fisherman is being recruited as representative of the ASPBM in the Patoku Lagoon and is working continuously to foster other members to participate in biodiversity conservation actions.

Environmental awareness actions under the project have affected a community of about 4,000 inhabitants living inside the Patoku Lagoon KBA. Meanwhile four awareness activities were held to inform the local lagoon users and strengthen the education of the school children and teachers as an premise for long term sustainability of the awareness actions.

Under the best practice and waste cleanup actions, URI; a local waste management company V.A.L.E Recycling and Fushe-Kuqe commune established a partnership for cleaning the Patok – Fushe-Kuqe – Ishmi NRM area on a periodic basis. Integration of an specialized company in waste management and the Commune in charge of waste management is a premise to achieve a sustainable mechanism for prevention of pollution in the Patoku Lagoon.

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

- Biodiversity status and threats in the hotspot area of Patoku assessed and addressed through the Integrated Watershed Management Plan and development of Best Practices;
- Biodiversity values of Patoku lagoon are preserved, enhanced and promoted,
- Legal and institutional responsibilities with regard to Integrated Watershed Management are defined and shared among local and central organizations,
- Illegal activities along the watershed and Patoku lagoon that harm ecological integrity and biodiversity of the area are controlled,
- Influence of hydropower projects on coastal erosion is addressed through the responsible authorities licensing those activities,

[5] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qc7NkU6fhKQ
[6] http://biodiversitetipatokut.com/patoku-lagoon-a-treasure-to-protect/

- Local and central capacities on environmental management are strengthened;
- Examples of best practices on eco-tourism, waste cleanup, wildlife management and environmental education are implemented and promoted.

Actual Progress toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:

The biodiversity status and threats in the hotspot area of Patoku assessed and addressed through preparation of eleven specific reports for the presence, status and pressure to the biological species. A specific habitat mapping of the Patoku Lagoon protected area was also designed under the assessment.

A specific report of the institutional arrangements, regarding integrated watersheds management is being prepared and shared to the stakeholders. This report clarifies the role and actions to be taken from institutional chain to enhance the protection of water resources and related habitats.

The implementation of hunting ban imposed from the Government has synergized with the employment of guards from the project to report the illegal cases. In this respect the direct fauna persecution and illegal actions were drastically reduced but still illegal cases were observed and reported. These cases included several illegal hunting cases and construction of an illegal platform in the outer basin of the lagoon. It can be stated that the project efforts to control the illegal actions in the Patoku Lagoon protected area has also synergized with the newly established Agency of Protected Area[7] and regional Agency of PA of Lezha Prefecture in charge to enforce the management of the project area. Such establishment has reactivated the controlling mechanism of the Patoku Lagoon and the project team discussed and promoted during the trainings and cooperation of this project.

The project had limited impact on addressing the hydropower projects coastal erosion through influencing the responsible authorities licensing those activities. The main results of the project included a specific report for the historical change of the coastal area in Patoku Lagoon; this report is shared with the athorties in charge of law enforcement and natural resources management.

Several thematic trainings and seminars were provided to the local authorities such as the Commune inspectors and to the Regional agencies of law enforcement as the staff of protected areas and forest management; regional agency of environment and to the environmental inspectorate. Such trainings have strengthened the capacities especially to the newly appointed staff (about 70%) of such institutions (appointed during the project course). Guidelines for the species status, presence and conservation were provided to the participants.

A clean up actions with local schools has collected a vast amount of waste mainly plastic in the area. Meanwhile several species were released from the local fisherman as a result of awareness and cooperation mechanism under the project.

Under the best practice actions the eco - tourism trail in the Patoku Lagoon were completed with specific guiding sings. A specific guide[8] and map with local attractions and lagoon trail is prepared and distributed to the tourism and travel agencies. A specific training in cooperation with a specialized touristic agency was delivered in the Patoku Lagoon with participants from the commune, environmental authorities and relevant business in the area. Meanwhile these promoting has been supported with a short movie[9] with the natural assets of Patoku Lagoon.

CEPF Global Monitoring Data

Respond to the questions and complete the tables below. If a question is not relevant to your project, please make an entry of 0 (zero) or n/a (not applicable).

[7] Established in February 2015
[8] http://biodiversitetipatokut.com/touristic-guide-for-patoku-lagoon/
[9] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6CqKn7ltpW0

1. **Did your organization complete the CEPF Civil Society Tracking Tool (CSTT) at the beginning and end of your project? (Please be sure to submit the final CSTT tool to CEPF if you haven't already done so.)**

	Date	Composite Score
Project starting CSTT	27 August 2014	71/100
Ending Project CSTT	11 November 2015	73/100

2. **List any vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species conserved due to your project**

Bird species observed and using the Patoku Lagoon and Ishmi and Mati Rivers deltas

Conservation status		Scientific Name	English Name
IUCN 2015	Albanian 2015		
	VU	*Accipiter gentilis*	*Northern goshawk*
	EN	*Accipiter nisus*	*Eurasian Sparrow hawk*
	EN	*Acrocephalus melanopogon*	*Mustached warbler*
	VU	*Anser albifrons*	*Greater white-fronted goose*
	EN	*Hieraaetus fasciatus*	*Bonelli's eagle*
	EN	*Ardea alba*	*Great egret*
	VU	*Ardea cinerea*	*Grey heron*
	EN	*Ardea purpurea*	*Purple heron*
	VU	*Ardeola ralloides*	*Squacco heron*
	VU	*Asio flammeus*	*Short-eared owl*
LR/NT	CR	*Aythya nyroca*	*Ferruginous duck*
	VU	*Botaurus stellaris*	*Eurasian bittern*
	CR	*Burhinus oedicnemus*	*Eurasian stone-curlew*
	VU	*Buteo buteo*	*Common buzzard*
	CR	*Ciconia ciconia*	*White stork*
	VU	*Circaetus gallicus*	*Short-toed snake eagle*
	VU	*Circus aeruginosus*	*Western marsh harrier*
	EN	*Circus cyaneus*	*Hen harrier*
LR/NT	CR	*Circus macrourus*	*Pallid harrier*
	EN	*Circus pygargus*	*Montagu's harrier*
	VU	*Egretta garzetta*	*Little egret*
	VU	*Falco columbarius*	*Merlin*
	VU	*Falco naumanni*	*Lesser kestrel*
	VU	*Falco peregrinus*	*Peregrine falcon*
	VU	*Falco tinnunculus*	*Common kestrel*
	VU	*Glareola pratincola*	*Collared pratincole*
	VU	*Haematopus ostralegus*	*Eurasian oystercatcher*
	EN	*Hieraaetus penatus*	*Booted eagle*
	EN	*Himantopus himantopus*	*Black-winged stilt*

	EN	*Larus michahellis*	*Yellow-legged gull*
	EN	*Merops apiaster*	*European bee-eater*
	CR	*Phalacrocorax pygmeus*	*Pygmy cormorant*
	VU	*Nycticorax nycticorax*	*Black-crowned night heron*
VU	CR	*Pelecanuscrispus*	*Dalmatian pelican*
	VU	*Pandion haliaetus*	*Osprey*
	CR	*Phascianus colchicus*	
	EN	*Platalea leucorodia*	*Eurasian spoonbill*
	EN	*Plegadis falcinellus*	*Glossy ibis*
	VU	*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*	*Eurasian bullfinch*
	EN	*Recurvirostra avosetta*	*Pied avocet*
	VU	*Remiz pendulinus*	*Eurasian penduline tit*
	EN	*Sterna hirundo*	*Common tern*
	VU	*Sterna sandvicensis*	*Sandwich tern*
	VU	*Tyto alba*	*Barn owl*
	VU	*Upupa epops*	*Hoopoe*

Mammals species observed and using the Patoku Lagoon and Ishmi and Mati Rivers deltas

Conservation status		**Scientific Name**	**English Name**
IUCN, 2014	**Albanian (based on IUCN, 2011)**		
LC			
LC		*Talpa stankovici*	*Balkan mole*
LC		*Crocidura leucodon*	*Bicolored shrew*
LC		*Crocidura suaveolens*	*Lesser white-toothed shrew*
LC	DD	*Suncus etruscus*	*Etruscan shrew*
LC	NT	*Rhinolophus blasii*	*Blasius's horseshoe bat*
NT	VU	*Rhinolophus euryale*	*Mediterranean horseshoe bat*
LC	NT	*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*	*Greater horseshoe bat*
LC	NT	*Rhinolophus hipposideros*	*Lesser horseshoe bat*
LC	NT	*Myotis mystacinus*	*Whiskered bat*
LC	DD	*Myotis emarginatus*	*Geoffroy's bat*
LC	LC	*Myotis blythii*	*Lesser mouse-eared bat*
LC	LC	*Myotis myotis*	*Greater mouse-eared bat*
LC	DD	*Nyctalus leisleri*	*Lesser noctule*
LC	DD	*Nyctalus noctula*	*Common noctule*

LC	DD	*Plecotus auritus*	*Brown long-eared bat*
LC	DD	*Plecotus kolombatovici*	*Kolombatovic's long-eared bat*
LC	DD	*Plecotus austriacus*	*Grey long-eared bat*
NT	NT	*Sciurus vulgaris*	*Red squirrel*
LC	LC	*Glisglis*	*Edible dormouse*
LC	DD	*Muscardinus avellanarius*	*Common Dormouse / Hazel dormouse*
LC	NT	*Microtus thomasi*	*Thomas's pine vole*
LC	DD	*Musspici legus*	*Steppe mouse*
LC	EN	*Canis aureus*	*Golden jackal*
NT	VU	*Lutra lutra*	*European otter*
LC	VU	*Meles meles*	*European badger*
LC	LC	*Mustela nivalis*	*Least weasel*
LC	EN	*Mustela putorius*	*European polecat*
LC	NT	*Martes foina*	*Beech Marten, Stone Marten*
LC	EN	*Felis silvestris*	*Wildcat*
LC	VU	*Suss crofa*	*Wild boars*
VU	DD	*Physeter macrocephalus*	*Cachelot*
LC	DD	*Ziphiuscavirostris*	*Cuvier's beaked whale*
LC	VU	*Delphinus delphis*	*Short-beaked common dolphin*
LC	NT	*Tursiopstruncatus*	*Common bottlenose dolphin*
35 lloje	**31 lloje**		

Amphibians and reptile species observed and using the Patoku Lagoon and Ishmi and Mati Rivers deltas

Conservation status			**English Name**
IUCN, 2014	**Albanian (based on IUCN, 2011)**	**Scientific Name**	
		Amfibia	
LC	LC	***Trituruscarnifex***	Italian crested newt
LC	LC	*Lissotriton vulgaris*	Smooth newt
LC	NT	*Bombinavariegata*	Yellow-bellied toad
LC	LC	*Hylaarborea*	European tree frog
LC	NT	*Bufobufo*	Common toad
LC	NT	*Pseudepidalea (Bufo) viridis*	European green toad
LC	VU	*Pelophyllax (Rana) balcanica*	Balkan Water Frog
LC	LC	*Ranadalmatina*	Agile frog
LC	VU	*Pelophyllax (Rana) lessonae*	Pool frog
		Reptilia	

EN	EN	***Carettacaretta***	Loggerhead sea turtle
EN	CR	*Cheloniamydas*	Green sea turtle
NT	NT	*Emys orbicularis*	European pond turtle
LC	VU	*Mauremysrivulata*	Balkan pond turtle
NT	NT	*Testudohermanni*	Hermann's tortoise
NE	NT	*Pseudopusapodus*	Sheltopusik
LC	NT	***Hemidactylusturcicus***	Mediterranean house gecko
NE	NT	*Cyrtodactyluskotschyi*	Kotschy's Gecko
NE	NE	*Anguisfragilis*	Slow worm
LC	NT	*Algyroidesnigropunctatus*	Blue-throated keeled lizard
LC	LC	*Lacertatrilineata*	Balkan green lizard
LC	LC	*Lacertaviridis*	European green lizard
LC	NE	*Podarcismuralis*	Common Wall Lizard
LC	NT	*Podarcistauricus*	Balkan Wall Lizard
LC	NT	*Ablepharuskitaibelii*	European Copper Skink
LC	NT	*Hierophis (Coluber) gemonensis*	Green Whip Snake
LC	VU	*Platyceps (Coluber) najadum*	Dahl's Whip Snake
LC	NT	*Zamenis (Elaphe) longissimus*	Aesculapian snake
NT	VU	*Elaphequatuorlineata*	Four-lined snake
NE	NE	*Malpolonmonspenssulanus*	
LC	LC	*Natrixnatrix*	Grass snake
LC	NT	*Natrixtessellata*	Dice snake
LC	NT	*Telescopusfallax*	European cat snake
LC	LC	*Viperaammodytes*	Horned Viper

Hectares under Improved Management:

Project Results	Hectares*	Comments
3. Did your project strengthen the management of an existing protected area?	5000 ha	Fushe-Kuqe – Patoku – Ishmi NRM
4. Did your project create a new protected area or expand an existing protected area?		
5. Did your project strengthen the management of a key biodiversity area named in the CEPF Ecosystem Profile (hectares may be the same as questions above)	5000 ha	Fushe-Kuqe – Patoku – Ishmi NRM
6. Did your project improve the management of a production landscape for biodiversity		

conservation		
Total	5000 ha	

** Include total hectares from project inception to completion*

7. In relation to the two questions above on protected areas, did your project complete a Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT), or facilitate the completion of a METT by protected area authorities? If so, complete the table below. *(Note that there will often be more than one METT for an individual protected area.)*

Protected area	Date of METT	Composite METT Score	Date of METT	Composite METT Score	Date of METT	Composite METT Score
Natural Managed Reserve of Patok-Fushe Kuqe-Ishem.	11 May 2014	23				
Idem	December 2014	24				
Idem	28 June 2015	32				

Direct Beneficiaries: Training and Education

Did your project provide training or education for PA management and sustainable use	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**	**Brief Description**
8. Adults for community leadership or resource management positions	47	15	62	The protected areas and environmental protection and management authorities of the Lezha Region. • Environmental inspectorate (28) • Directory of Forests and Protected Areas (20) • Regional Agency of Environment (7) • Kurbini Hunter Association.
9. Adults for livelihoods or increased income	16	8	26	Local community and business inside the Patoku Lagoon protected area. Involved in two day activities; Patoku Day and Wetland International day.
10. School-aged children	31	29	60	Gurrezi High School “Nikoll Miri”. Awareness and network actions; Bird watching; Patoku nature exhibition; waste cleanup;
11. Other	11	7	18	Lezhe region biology teachers of 9 high Schools. Trained for the PA and Biodiversity of the region to improve the teaching practices and modules.

12. List the name and approximate population size of any "community" that benefited from the project.

No	Village	Families no. 2008
1	Gurrez	557
2	Fushe – Kuqe	429
3	Gorre	372
4	Patok	208
5	Adriatik	495
		Total 2,061
	Total population number	8,736 inhabitants

Describe the success or challenges of the project towards achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives.

The main success include the effective cooperation with the local community and target users such as fisherman in construction and guarding the experimental nesting platforms and release of the species stacked in their nets. Cooperation and participation of the local officials has been very helpful in facilitation the project implementation and achieve its objectives. Participation of the local community and especially the schools administration and pupils indicate a long term partner for the project sustainability.
There were also several challenges during the project. The main can be listed as the coincidence of the project period with restructuring reform of water resources management, protected areas authorities and local government have led in some confusion and motivation to cooperate with the project. The participation of high policy making officials from the Ministry of Environment was difficult to be ensured in the local events of the project, such presence would help to increase the project ownership in the authorities.
Regarding the long term objectives of the project several challenges are noticed such as; the weak planning and implementation of environmental policies and especially the lack of funds for law enforcement authorities. The establishment of the new municipalities will require certain time to establish effective management and development capacities and policy instruments such as municipal waste management and pollution prevention. The investments and capacities towards wastewater treatment and best practices are quite missing at all and the policies, legislation and incentives to achieve that are still behind the needs. The economic slowdown of the country is seen as threat to investments for environment and nature and can emerge serious threats to the natural resources exploitation such as overfishing, hunting and intensive agriculture use of the area.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

None

Project Components

Project Components*: Please report on results by project component. Reporting should reference specific products/deliverables from the approved project design and other relevant information.*

Component 1 Planned (as stated in the approved proposal):

1. Assessment report on current biodiversity status inPatoku lagoon, Patok-Fushe-Kuqe- Ishmi NatureManaged Reserve (NMR).
2. Assessment report on human activities and their impacts on Ishmi and Mati River Basin and Patoku lagoon.
3. Gap analysis report on institutional and legal framework responsible for the integrated management of river basins and preservation and promotion of Patoku biodiversity hotspot
4. Reports on the main findings of the consultations undertaken with main stakeholder's groups of Mati and Ishmi River Basin and Patok-Fushe-Kuqe-Ishmi NMR including Patoku lagoon.
5. A thorough set of indicators developed, needed to monitor the impact of the implementation of the Integrated Watershed Management Plan and conservation effort undertaken so far.
6. An Integrated Watershed Management Plan focused on biodiversity and covering Patoku lagoon, Patok- Fushe-Kuqe-Ishmi NMR, Ishmi and Mati River Basins.
7. New project-proposal for the implementation of the priority measures foreseen by the IWMP prepared and delivered to the government and donor community.
8. Completing the METT1 and CSTT.

Component 1 Actual at Completion:

Actually all the component 1 activities/deliverables are completed and delivered. Under this component 11 baseline assessment reports have been delivered. Consultation reports and the gap analyses of institutional reports are delivered as well. The

There has been delivered a report with the assessment on human activities and their impact on Ishmi and Mati river basin. The Integrated Watershed Management Plan is complied including the set of indicators developed aiming at monitoring the impact of the implementation of the IWMP. A specific project proposal for participatory climate change adoption in the Patoku Lagoon is also drafted and submitted for funding at the Regional Environmental Centre.

Component 2 Planned (as stated in the approved proposal):

- Hunting ban imposed in Patok - Fushe-Kuqe-Ishmi Protected Area (Nature Managed Reserve).
- Platforms developed and settled, as available nesting sites for water birds and wintering grounds for wintering water bird species.
- Clean up action undertaken in Patoku lagoon and Ishmi River outlet ,in partnership with national recycling businesses.
- Established partnership with national recycling industry.
- Eco-touristic signs produced and delivered in the project area
- 30-40 persons trained as local eco-tourist guides.

Component 2 Actual at Completion:

- The hunting ban campaign was implemented during breeding season. And before that period of time, two nesting platforms were constructed which resulted to be a success since some seagulls had laid eggs in this platforms.
- A partnership with the national recycling industry V.A.L.E. Recycling was built.
- The clean up action was delivered on May 22 in two different areas of the Patok- Fushe-Kushe – Ishmi Protected area. Eco-touristic signs and track has been produced and delivered in two main track for Patoku lagoon. One is the track that leads to Godulla, a virgin place with low bushes and the second the track that leads to Mati Delta, a wonderful place for bird watching. There were 35 people trained as local eco-touristic guides, this people were from local businesses, local travel agencies etc.
- A partnership with the national recycling industry V.A.L.E. Recycling was built.

- The clean up action was delivered on May 22 in two different areas of the Patok- Fushe-Kushe – Ishmi Protected area.
- Eco-touristic signs and track has been produced and delivered in two main track for Patoku lagoon. One is the track that leads to Godulla, a virgin place with low bushes and the second the track that leads to Mati Delta, a wonderful place for bird watching.
- There were 35 people trained as local eco-touristic guides, this people were from local businesses, local travel agencies etc.

Component 3 Planned (as stated in the approved proposal):

- Winter and summer school "Natural values of Patoku lagoon" organized with junior experts.
- 30 persons trained on best practices about environmental protection and conservation in Patok lagoon area, including representatives of private and public stakeholders.
- Establishment of Patoku day (Wetlands International Day or Biodiversity day).
- Publication and distribution of the Integrated Watershed Management Plan.
- Web site assigned to the project activities and other biodiversity activities related to it.
- Posters, booklets and on-line newsletter for Patoku lagoon.

Component 3 Actual at Completion:

- Winter and summer school where organized in October 2014 and April 2015 with the high school students of of Fushe-Kuqe commune, promoting the natural values of Patoku lagoon.
- Another important activity that took place in the same time was local government training staff, about 32 persons, on best practices about environmental protection and conservation of the lagoons.
- We established the Patoku day to be on December 13, 2014 and every year after.
- All the materials like posters, booklets, online newsletter, Integrated Watershed Management Plan and website are produced and are available.

Were any components unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?

There are no components unrealized.

Please describe and submit (electronically if possible) any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

Lessons Learned

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

The integration of the project into the environmental policies and plans is very challenging but risky in countries with weak and not stable institutions such as Albania. In this respect the adoption of the Plan is expected to undergo some delays and maybe postponed from the authorities especially the finance authorities that will not be able to allocate the funds for its implementation.

Project Implementation: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

One of the aspects that lead in its success is that our project had in its core the conservation of the biodiversity and that the techniques we proposed were in harmony with the ecosystem. Also the area that we proposed was in urge need for changes because a lot of species were in danger as the result of the human activity.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

- The local community is willing to get informed and contribute in the conservation process; school children are important awareness element that can influence their families and aggressive actions against the biodiversity;
- A continuous informing system may strengthen the cooperation with local community and bring benefits to enforcement and conservative measures;
- One key constrain to progress with the conservation actions remains the weakness of the management system itself, instability in the administration staff (due to dismissal and appointment due to political changes) creates gaps in knowhow and management;
- Legitimate groups of interest such as fisherman are valuable partners if guided and involved in conservation projects, in this respect several species were saved from the fishing nets as part of the cooperation process with the project;
- Lack of basic enforcement logistic for the inspection authorities is one of the main factors for weak law enforcement in the protected areas;
- Participation and interest of the local community in nature conservation activities is limited and hard to be tackled in a short term prospective.

Additional Funding

Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of the CEPF investment in this project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes

Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:

A *Project co-financing (Other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)*

B *Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project.)*

C *Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

Sustainability/Replicability

Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.

The administrative reform in Albanian has started during 2014 and finalized inJuly 2014. This reform has reduced the number of Local Government Units from 333 to 61 municipalities; this new division has entered in force since July 2015 (following the recent elections). In this respect the Fushe Kuqe Commune since July 2015 is part of newly established Kurbini municipality. This shift was not planned in the project proposal but is more adequate for the project aim to achieve integrated management of river basin and improve the land use planning by better balancing the use of natural resources.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

Commence of the construction for Tirana wastewater treatment plant.

One of the main sources of pollution in Patoku Lagoon catchment is the discharge of Tirana city sewage wastewater and its suburbs' settlements. All the sewage is discharged in Ishmi tributaries without treatment, it is calculated that about 110'500 m3/year or about 40% of total wastewater in Albania is discharged in Ishmi river basin. This amount of wastewater has been discharged for decades into this river but after 90" the volume is increased from 4-5 times thus acceleration and increasing the negative effects in Adriatic Sea bay.

During the project course the Albanian Government and Tirana Municipality have finalized the feasibility study of a Sewage Treatment Plant for Tirana, the project was granted from Japan Government with 79 million USD out of 100 million the total project budget. The construction operations have commenced in July 2015 and expected to be finalized within two years. The functioning of this plant will release positive impacts in water ecology and use in Ishmi River and its outlet bordering Patoku lagoon. The discharge of the untreated sewage in the Ishmi river basin was identified (in the assessment report under the project) as one of the major threats for the ecosystems of Patoku lagoon area. This action is also in line with the IRM Plan of Mati and Ishmi rivers outlets under the project.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.

Regarding the implementation of environmental and social safeguard policies URI has followed all the instruction of the Social and Environmental Safeguard policies provided by World Bank Safeguard Policies. URI has posted in different areas of the commune posters with grievances information in order to inform the inhabitants regarding the activity that URI was making in Patoku lagoon. Also URI has implemented in project website a special place for people to leave their grievance if there would be any.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

None

Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

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

Please include your full contact details below:

Name: Dritan Gorica
Organization name: Urban Research Institute
Mailing address: Rr. “Asim Vokshi”, Nd. 14, Hyrja 11, Ap. 56, Tirana, Albania.
Tel: +355 4 22 56 840
Fax:
E-mail:dgorica@uri.org.al

Performance Tracking Report Addendum

CEPF GlobalTargets

(Enter Grant Term)

Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant.
Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.

Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.	Describe the principal results achieved from March 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	Yes	5000 ha	5000 ha	Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one. Fushe-Kuqe – Patoku - Ishmi
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	Yes	5000 ha	5000 ha	Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one. Fushe-Kuqe – Patoku - Ishmi
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	Yes	5000 ha	5000 ha	Fushe-Kuqe – Patoku - Ishmi
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	Yes	Not available		Kune Vaini, Tale Lezhe,
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1below.	Yes	Total families of 2,061 and total inhabitants 8,736		Fushe-Kuqe – Patoku - Ishmi

If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table ????

Table 1. Socioeconomic Benefits to Target Communities

Please complete this table if your project provided concrete socioeconomic benefits to local communities. List the name of each community in column one. In the subsequent columns under Community Characteristics and Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit, place an X in all relevant boxes. In the bottom row, provide the totals of the Xs for each column.

Name of Community	Community Characteristics								Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit											
									Increased Income due to:											
	Small landowners	Subsistence economy	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists/nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Communities falling below the poverty rate	Other	Adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices	Ecotourism revenues	Park management activities	Payment for environmental services	Increased food security due to the adoption of sustainable fishing, hunting, or agricultural practices	More secure access to water resources	Improved tenure in land or other natural resource due to titling, reduction of colonization, etc.	Reduced risk of natural disasters (fires, landslides, flooding, etc)	More secure sources of energy	Increased access to public services, such as education, health, or credit	Improved use of traditional knowledge for environmental management	More participatory decision-making due to strengthened civil society and governance.	Other
Fishermen		x							x				x						x		
Hunters		x									x		x						x		
Local SME								x	x	x	x							x			
Farmer	x								x				x		x	x					
Pupils						x							x	x				x	x		
Roma community				x									x					x		x	
Local inhabitants		x								x			x	x				x		x	
Total	**1**	**3**		**1**		**1**		**1**	**3**	**2**	**2**		**6**	**2**	**1**	**1**		**4**	**3**	**2**	

If you marked "Other", please provide detail on the nature of the Community Characteristic and Socioeconomic Benefit:
Local SME are local businessmen that own small restaurants or markets in the lagoon and surrounding areas.