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|  |  2016Project Implementation Review (PIR)of  |  |

**PIMS 4255**

**Improving coverage and managment effectiveness of marine and coasltal protected areas**

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# A. Basic Project and Finance Data

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| Project Implementing Partner: | Ministry of Environment |
| GEF Focal Area: | Biodiversity |
| Country(ies) | (ALB) Albania |
| Project Start Date: | 27-Nov-2010 |
| Planned Project Closing Date: | 30-Apr-2016 |
| Total GEF Grant (U$S) | $ 1,000,000 |
| GEF Grant Disbursed as of 30 June (U$S): | $ 823,514.74 |
| Total Co-financing (as planned in CEO endorsement request): | $ 1,927,500.00 |
| Overall Risk Rating | Low |
| Overall DO Rating | Highly Satisfactory |
| Overall IP Rating | Satisfactory |

# B. Project Contacts and Links

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Partner | Contact Name | Email Address |
| Project Coordinator / Manager | Violeta Zuna | violeta.zuna@undp.org |
| UNDP Country Office Programme Officer | Elvita Kabashi | elvita.kabashi@undp.org |
| Project Implementing Partner | Ministry of Environment |  |
| GEF Operational Focal Point | Pellumb Abeshi | pellumb.abeshi@moe.gov.al |
| Other Partners | National Agency of Protected Areas |  |
| UNDP Technical Adviser |  Maxim Vergeichik | maxim.vergeichik@undp.org |
| UNDP Programme Associate |  Gulsah Isik | gulsah.isik@undp.org |

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| Project website, etc. | http://mett-undp.al/ http://mcpa.iwlearn.org/ http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/operations/projects/environment\_and\_energy/protecting-albania-s-marine-and-coastal-biodiversity.html https://www.facebook.com/ema.m.paco/posts/10209455385491682?pnref=story http://www.gazetadita.al/parku-kombetar-detar-karaburun-sazan/ http://www.ata.gov.al/adzm-e-vlores-takim-me-eksperte-franceze-per-parkun-kombetar-karaburun-sazan-388210.html http://www.noa.al/artikull/p/437099.html https://www.facebook.com/DinaricArcParks/photos/a.318101758296669.73143.312834328823412/413814492058728/?type=3&theater https://www.facebook.com/1384668918438705/photos/a.1393942637511333.1073741828.1384668918438705/1625235934382001/?type=3&theater https://www.facebook.com/425023447643668/photos/a.432735830205763.1073741829.425023447643668/852873688191973/?type=3&theater |
| Links to media coverage |  |

# C. Project Summary

Albania is distinguished for its rich biological and landscape diversity and exceptionally high marine biodiversity. The government has initiated several steps to conserve biodiversity and improve protected area management, however, these have not been fully addressed due to incomplete regulatory and policy framework and lack of capacities. Poor bio-geographical representation and weak institutional framework for marine PA governance and poor capacities are the two main barriers that this project proposes to address. The project will raise the management effectiveness of the marine and coastal protected areas providing effective protection to the hugely diverse ecological mosaic of habitats and biotopes that comprise AlbaniaÃÃÃs coastal and marine zones. Increased effectiveness of institutions and sites will result in removing pressures from unsustainable sand and gravel extraction, unregulated tourism and logging. Investing into cross-sectoral coordination and capacity building will ensure lasting impacts of biodiversity improvements achieved through the project.

# D. Progress toward Development Objective

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| **Objective/Outcome** | **Description** | **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Target Level at end of project** | **Level at 30 June 2014** | **Level at 30 June 2015** | **Level at 30 June 2016** |
| Objective | To improve coverage and management effectiveness of AlbaniaÃ¢s marine and coastal protected areas. | Area under protection as Coastal and Marine Protected Areas | 100,236 ha (existing coastal protected areas - mainly coastal wetlands) | An additional 12,570.82 ha declared as AlbaniaÃ¢s first MPA (Karaburun Ã¢ Sazani) An additional 3,500 ha in the process of being declared as MPAs (Rodoni Cape-Lalzi Bay and Pagane-Kepi i Stillos) | The Ministry of Environment is being supported to designate two other MCPA, Porto Palermo (approx. 6,100 ha) and Cape of Rodoni (approx. 3500 ha). All resources are mobilized and expert team has been established commencing site assessment as well as community and stakeholders analyses through rural participation approaches in this process. | Two other MCPA, Porto Palermo (and Cape of Rodoni are in the process to be proclaimed. Public hearing are organizes and respective reporting are delivered. The draft Decision of Council of Ministers for Porto Palermo foresees the status Natural Park for a surface of 2,067.75 ha. It is planned to be proclaimed within 2015. | Strategic Plan for MCPAs is incorporated in the Strategic Document for Biodiversity Protection, approved by the Government in January 2016. In line with the Strategic Plan for the MCPAs, two other MPAs, Porto Palermo and Cape of Rodoni are in the process of being proclaimed. Assessment and public hearings conducted. The Porto Palermo area of 2,067.75 ha is planned to be proclaimed as a Natural Park; respective documents are being circulated among the line ministries. |
|  |  | Enabling environment created for revision of the existing MCPA status, facilitated by the project | Weak capacities for revising MCPAs status | At least 2 MoE experts capable for conducting revision of MCPA according the international standards. | The project is developing curricula and training modules on marine biodiversity conservation and management. Initial workshops have been organized involving local specialists, MCPA administration, as well as experts from the Ministry of Environment. The process is enabling the key persons of different institution to take further MCPA revision status issues as per international standards and also in view of actual Territory Administrative Reform in Albania. | Training curricula and modules on marine biodiversity conservation and management are developed. Training workshops have been organized involving more than 45 local specialists, MCPA administration, as well as 5 experts from the MoE. A Manual on Training on Integrated Management of MCPAs is published. | Target achieved as reported in 2015. Curricula and 8 training modules on marine biodiversity conservation and management are developed. The Manual on Training on Integrated Management of MCPAs is published. It is used as a reference material in several trainings already organized in the country by the National Agency of Protected Areas, NGOs and other organizations that focus on capacity building on MCPAs issues. |
|  |  | Improvement in management effectiveness of Karaburuni-Sazani MPA measured through change in METT scores | Baseline METT Score as percent of Total Possible Score is 17% | Target is 45-55% | METT assessment report accomplished on December 2013 for MCPA Karaburuni-Sazan. The score 39 responds well to the improvement of the overall management and some limited efforts in conservation measures. | METT assessment report accomplished on 16th December 2014 through e regional training workshop in Divjaka PA. METT assessment is accomplished for all coastal PAs The score for MPA Karaburun-Sazani, increased from 39 to 45 attesting for the efforts made in enforcement and management of the site. The project is developing a user friendly electronic format for METT (web based) | METT score for Karaburun-Sazani is 47%. The assistance to the National Agency of Protected Areas (NAPA) and the Ministry of Environment is ongoing in frame of management effectiveness of PAs. The METT tool is applied and assessment of management effectiveness of PAs (including Karaburuni-Sazani MPA) was performed in 2015. The methodology and assessment forms were adopted and incorporated in an online platform http://www.mett-undp.al The website was further enriched with info and reporting entries from the NAPA relevant to visitors survey, illegal activities, nature and culture monument etc. Finally, the web based METT tool is established and functional, allowing links with project website and other relevant sites, contributing to make this assessment tool more user friendly (website pattern, navigation structure etc.). The main development which attest for the change (increase) of the METT are institutional progress (establishment of NAPA) and regulatory /management arrangements (functioning of NAPA). In addition, the project has assisted the Marine Park administration on capacity building and with logistic in order to improve its daily work. |
|  |  | Increased Systemic, Institutional and Individual capacities for establishing and managing an MCPA system | See UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard in Annex 5 for baseline Systemic - 37% Institutional - 29% Individual - 38% | See UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard in Annex 5 for target Systemic - 90% Institutional - 87% Individual - 95% | Systematic 40%, Institutional 36% Individual 43% UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard for MCPA, shows an increase of 6% for institutional capacity levels (vs two other capacity levels, systematic and individual). Assessing all strategic areas of support (Capacity to conceptualize and formulate policies, legislations, strategies and programmes, capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes, capacity to engage and build consensus among all stakeholders, capacity to mobilize information and knowledge and capacity to monitor, evaluate, report and learn); while compared to baseline there is an increase of 3-5 % for all institutional capacity levels against the strategic areas of support. | Systematic 40%, 67% Institutional 36% 58% Individual 43% 57% Compared with 2014, UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard for MCPA, shows an increase of 27% for systematic, 22% for institutional and 14% for individual level. There are development in legislation, strategies and programmes. A new institution is established, National Agency for Protected Areas, which shows the political will towards Protected Areas and will help on building consensus among all institutions and stakeholders, capacity to mobilize information and knowledge and capacity to monitor, evaluate, report and learn. Compared to the baseline there is an increase of about 30 %. | Systematic 67% Institutional 67% Individual 67% Compared to the baseline there is an increase of about 50%. Compared to the reported scores in 2015, UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard for MCPAs shows an increase for systematic, institutional and individual levels. The legislation is under development and biodiversity strategy and action plan is approved. A new institution is established, National Agency for Protected Areas shows the political will towards Protected Areas and will help on building consensus among all institutions and stakeholders, capacity to mobilize information and knowledge and capacity to monitor, evaluate, report and learn. |
| Outcome 1 | Improved bio-geographical representation of marine and coastal protected areas (MCPA) | Strategic Plan for AlbaniaÃ¢s Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (SPMCPA) | No Strategic Plan has been developed for this sub-system of the national PA system | SPMCPA is developed and approved by the Inter-ministerial Council or the Council of Ministers | The process of updated National Biodiversity strategy and Action Plan is ongoing and the Ministry of Environment leads this exercise. The SPMCPA developed by the Project through wide consultations is being taken into consideration. | The updated ?Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan? is approved by the government and the SPMCPA is taken into consideration and incorporated in the document. | The Strategic Plan for MPCAs has been part of the Strategic Document of the Biodiversity Protection and Action Plan approved by the Government of Albania with the DCM No 31, date 20.01.2016. The document is delivered to the Convention of Biodiversity. |
|  |  | Legal Instrument establishing MPA at Karaburuni-Sazani (12,570.82 ha.) | No Legal Instrument | Legal Instrument is approved by the Council of Ministers | The law on biodiversity is revised establishing the legal frame for the Natura 2000 network, as well as appropriate conservation measures for selected habitats and species in Albania. The legal expertise has provided a report with legal opinion regarding the management of the MPA (institutional, legal and financial aspects) accomplishing a combined review of all legal acts pertinent to environment conservation and management, management structures, considering also revision status of the Law on PA and the possible models/ mechanisms for MPA administration, revenues mechanisms, EU approximation process, sanctions that could be applied/ enforced during MCPA management. All these are taking into consideration the changes and restructuration actually being undertaken with the Forestry Directorate Service in the country (which also include the PA administration), which basically split the inspection from the management. | The law on biodiversity is revised. A new law on PA is under development, accomplishing a combined review of all legal acts pertinent to environment conservation and management, possible models/ mechanisms for MCPA administration, revenues mechanisms, changes with establishment of NAPA National Agency for Protected Areas as the biggest institutional development taking over the management of PA with direct dependence from the Minster of Environment, splitting the management of protected areas form the forestry service structure | The law on biodiversity Nr. 9587 dd 20.7.2006 has been amended and gazetted (Nr. 68/2014). With the establishment of the National Agency of Protected Areas, the work on review and analyses of the Albanian legal framework related to PAs is ongoing. A new law on Protected Areas is under preparation and is going to be approved during 2016. |
|  |  | Legal Instrument incorporates best practice in design of such an instrument and can serve as a model for declaration of future MPAs | There are no MPAs in Albania and, therefore, no examples of a legal instrument establishing an MPA | Legal Instrument for Karaburuni-Sazani MPA is developed as a model for future MPAs | The legal frame analyses for MPCAs and recommendations to improve legislation and approximate it with EU directive is accomplished and a roadmap thereof is prepared . | The roadmap is prepared for the MCPA legal frame and recommendations to improve legislation and approximate it with EU directive. In additions the PA law is paying due attention on all latest institutional progress and development of relevant sector (tourism activities, zoning, enforcement, environmental inspectorates, fisheries inspectorates, the Coast Guard, etc.) | The Management Plan for Karaburuni Sazani MPA followed the participatory approach. It has been approved by the Minister of Environment decree Nr. 750, dd 24.11.2015. The approved management plan stems from the initially developed business/financial plan which was shared with all concerned stakeholders. The findings and recommendations have been considered by the National Agency of Protected Areas and are being implemented jointly with UNDP. |
|  |  | Clearly demarcated buffer zones in Karaburuni-Sazani MPA, with specific guidance on permissible activities included in the Management Plan | No buffer zones defined | Buffer zones and permissible activities defined | Report on marine and coastal areas buffer zone assessment is prepared, as well as the respective guidelines/ recommendations on setting up buffer zones for MPAs. The integrated management planning process (Karaburuni - Sazani) is paying due attention to the buffer zone addressing activities and measures that incorporate the littoral areas and terrestrial habitats conservation and management, as natural continuation of the marine habitats. This is clearly embedded in the conceptual model of the management plan (themes subthemes, goals and management objective which are currently under elaboration and close consultation with stakeholders and use groups) | Assessment report on marine and coastal areas buffer zone is finalized, including guidelines/ recommendations on setting up buffer zones for MPAs. The integrated management planning process (Karaburuni - Sazani) developed with significant participatory approach has considered the buffer zone. | The Management Plan for Karaburuni Sazani MPA has been approved by the Minister of Environment Decree Nr. 750, date 24.11.2015. The Management plan includes a section on the buffer zone and permissible activities resulting from the preparatory analyses and qualitative survey. |
|  |  | Clearly demarcated buffer zones in existing 9 coastal PAs, with specific guidance on permissible activities for inclusion in the Management Plan | No buffer zones defined No Management Plans in place. | Buffer zones and permissible activities defined | In addition to what was already reported in the previous period, a management plan for the MPA Karaburun - Sazani and a buffer zoning roadmap with practical know-how and support to MCPA management structures, are being prepared. It provides with development of buffer zone protocols and rules as well as how to establish and think of management arrangements covering buffer zone issues like ecology, topography, socio-economy, institutional, geographical position, administration etc.) | The management planning for the MPA Karaburun - Sazani and the buffer zoning roadmap are developed. Buffer zone protocols and rules are being provided as respective management arrangements. In addition the management plan for Porto Palermo MPA has also developed the site zoning and site boundaries with due attention in the buffer area as well. The zoning process has started in the meantime for the Cape of Rodoni. | In-depth assessment for main sensitive marine and coastal areas, including ecological quantification of MPAs ecosystems and GISbased maps produced for all coastal areas. This work was done in support of NAPA. As newly established National Agency, NAPA invested considerable efforts in verifying and defining borders of all PAs (terrestrial and coastal), considering also the need for zoning updates. This exercise was particularly useful for the accurate accounting and transfer of forests, grazing and other ecosystem habitats, formerly under the General Directorate of Forests, to the newly established NAPA. The main achievement of this work captured completion of the qualitative survey of these sites, administering of all possible information regarding zoning (and habitat when available) with the proper demarcation and buffer zones, description of biodiversity values and environmental state in target areas, distribution, ecological and environmental state of the most important and sensitive species, biocenosis in the targeted area, zoning (and habitat when available) mapping (maps and cartography) of the targeted area through the GIS expertise. |
|  |  | Process of identification of additional MPAs at Rodoni Cape-Lalzi Bay and Pagane-Kepi i Stillos has begun. | Currently the adjacent areas have a protection status as CPAs only. | Technical and scientific work for realizing designation of these areas is complete, and political consultation process has been initiated | There are actually two processes going on for the designation of two additional MPAs: Porto Palermo (approx. 6,100 ha) and Cape of Rodoni (approx. 3,500 ha). In close cooperation with an Albanian NGO, INCA and RAC/SPA, the project accomplished an ecologic evaluation for the Porto Palermo site. Actually, the documentation is being prepared for the proclamation of the Marine Park of Porto Palermo, as well as stakeholder consultation hearings. Simultaneously, the project is committed to commence the assessment and preparation of all relevant documentation for designating CAPE of Rodoni as an additional MPA. This includes a more in-depth assessment, planning, zoning, based on sound scientific knowledge and ecological quantification of ecosystems and related fisheries. A team of experts undertook a quantitative survey of this site. This analysis will provide criteria and justification for designating the areas as MPA. Data collection and analysis go along with public hearings, meetings with local stakeholders and discussions with experts, national and local government officials and scientists on socioÃ¢Âeconomic aspects with a particular attention on fisheries, touristic activities and any other relevant aspects. | Processes for the designation of two additional MPAs: Porto Palermo and Cape of Rodoni are progressing well. According to the SPMCPA, the two priority areas to be proclaimed are Porto Palermo (not Pagan Kepi Stillos) and Rodoni Cape. Ecologic evaluation, public hearing organized with MoE, relevant document for designating these sites, as well as meetings with local stakeholders, including informative materials and posters are accomplished. The draft Decision of Council of Ministers for Porto Palermo foresees the status Natural Park for a surface of 2,067.75 ha. It is planned to be proclaimed within 2015. | Two other MPAs, Porto Palermo and Cape of Rodoni are in the process of being proclaimed. Assessment and public hearing conducted. The Porto Palermo area of 2,067.75 ha is planned to be proclaimed as a Natural Park and the set of the regulatory documents (including the Management Plan) have been circulated among line ministries. Valuation of ecosystem services (ES) is undertaken as an assessment tool. In this framework it was developed a study with focus on rapid economic valuation of ES, beneficiary identification and financing instruments for the Marine Protected Areas. This enabled assessment of the current economic valuation of critical marine ecosystems and determination of the potential for long-term financing of the Albania MCPAs system. Also, the methodologies and approaches for such assessment were provided, including examination of the range of goods and services within the Karaburun-Sazani MPA, conducting an Ecosystem Value Transfer to identify the value of the ecosystem services. In addition, options are explored for multi-criteria valuation of ecosystem services provided by the marine areas, assessing the equity and efficiency of the payments, as well as compensation schemes. |
| Outcome 2 | Improved management arrangements for MCPAs based on clear institutional responsibilities and development of capacities | Management Boards at MCPAs | 0 | At least 2 MCPAs have Management Boards | 2+ According to Albanian Law on PA, and bylaw, each PA must organize and function with management committees. The MPA Karaburun-Sazani is functioning regularly. Two meetings were organized during the reporting period focusing on site management, project progress, main problems and other related issues. The project plan was also discussed and approved at the Management Committee. | 2 + There is organized another MC meeting during reporting period (5th MC, 27 January 2015) focusing and discussing the site management plan, project progress, main problems and other progress (mainly management plan document and priority actions), as well as financial issues. The project plan for 2015 is discussed and approved at the Management Committee. | 2 + The Management Committees (MCs) have been established for all Coastal Protected Areas and meetings are organized annually. MC of the MPA Karaburun-Sazani is a cross sectoral body, which hosts representatives of the main central and local relevant authorities, NGOs, user groups and other stakeholders. The MC for Karaburun-Sazan MPA has functioned also as project board convened each quarter discussing the management plan, project progress, main problems, as well as financial issues. Its 6th meeting was held on 15 January 2016. |
|  |  | Inter-institutional agreements on management of marine and land-based threats to MCPAs | 0 | At least 2 official agreements or memorandum of cooperation/ understanding between relevant ministries/institutions | 2+ Memorandums of Understanding are continuing to be implemented with the Municipality of Orikumi and the Fishery Management Organization. MoUs with Municipality of Orikumi has been implemented successfully. Satisfactory performance was marked also on MoU implementation with Fishery Management Organization. This year the success of cooperation was on protection and conservation of marine biodiversity. Monitoring and patrolling was focus on whole coastline from San Vasil bay till Grama Bay including Sazani island. With relevance to MoU with FMO, one of the principal objectives was collection of some fish population data and other illegal activities. Weekly report by Municipality of Orikum and FMO rangers on activities on MPA Sazan Karaburun were produced. Close collaboration with Regional Directory of Service Forestry of Vlora and preparation of next MoU with this institution. New relations and collaboration with local institution, Prefecture of Vlora, Commune Center, Regional Directory of Environment of Vlora, Coastline National Agency, NGOs. | 2 + MoU are continuing to be implemented with the Municipality of Orikumi and Regional Agency of PA with focus collection data and info on illegal activities. Monthly reports by Municipality of Orikum and Regional Agency of PA deliver to the Ministry of Environment. MoU/ Micro capital Grant Agreement with an Albanian NGO (INCA) is in place for the implementation of priority actions in Karaburun-Sazani MPA as per management plan. Cooperation and synergies include Prefecture of Vlora, Commune Center, Regional Directory of Environment of Vlora, Coastline National Agency, NGOs. Synergies and logistic are ensured with National Agency for Protected Areas, NAPA (recently established, February 2015) for the protection and conservation of marine biodiversity. | 2 + Expansion of the MPAs has been completed and pilot demonstration of the MPA Karaburun-Sazani administration and management has been conducted. It was very efficient in securing synergies among the international and local expertise, including a multilateral well known organization, but also with prominent Albanian expertise such as WWF, Conservatoire du Littoral, INCA and local institutions. A successful instrument applied for the enforcement purpose resulted in the MoUs between: 1) UNDP and Orikumi municipality on control and supervision of the illegal activities in and around MPA 2) UNDP and National Agency of Protected Areas, which has secured efficient control and management in the Karaburuni-Sazani MPA. 3) UNDP and INCA/WWF on implementation of priority management actions Very successful patrolling of the area is accomplished by 6 rangers who report periodically and assist with information and raising awareness for the MPA Karaburun-Sazani. |
|  |  | Management effectiveness of existing 9 CPAs is being tracked | Baseline METT Scores as percent of Total Possible Score to be estimated by the end of 2nd year | Progress in METT scores assessed annually thereafter | There is ongoing work with training of PA/ MPA administration on METT. A national workshop was held on December 2013 with more than 30 participants from all over the country. The METT was introduced and exercised with some of the PA including the completion of METT online, calculation and review of the scores. The pilot sites evaluated were NP of Llogara 48 % and sea landscape of Narta scoring 32 % | 9 + Regional training workshop on METT accomplished on 16th December 2014. METT assessment results are: PN Korab Korit. - 44% Shebenik - 67% NP Lure - 44% NP LLogara 67% Bize Martanesh -44% NP Valbona - 67% NP Tomorri - 67% NP Kune Vaini 56% Porto Palermo - 44% NP Mali i Dajtit - 67% NP Karavasta - 78% Fushe Kuqe Ishem-67% NP Hotove - 56% The score for MPA Karaburun-Sazani, increased from 39 to 45 attesting for the efforts made in enforcement and management of the site. The project is developing a user friendly electronic format for METT | METT as an assessment of management effectiveness tool continued to apply at national scale with involvement of all PAs personnel, including Karaburun-Sazani MPA making clear comparative analyses with the earlier results. METT score for Karaburun-Sazani is 47% in 2015. The methodology and assessment forms were adopted and incorporated in an online platform http://www.mett-undp.al The website was further enriched with info and reporting entries from the PAs pertinent to visitors survey, illegal activities, nature and culture monument etc. Finally, the web based METT tool is established and functional, allowing links with project website and other relevant sites, contributing to make this assessment tool more user friendly (website pattern, navigation structure etc) |
|  |  | Number of manuals/ guidebooks prepared as a resource for imparting further training | Very limited | 6 training modules | 6 Training needs assessment and development training modules for Marine and Coastal Protected Areas involved personnel has been accomplished and the process is still ongoing with the final workshop planned for august 2014. During this process there has been a very wide problem analyses in terms of lack in knowledge and capacities, SWAT analyses, collection of all relevant info and pertinent information to best practices on MCPA management, stakeholder identification and involvement, targeted groups identification and involvement, development of a questioner for the local authorities and MCPA personnel and NGOs. There were 32 questioners filled in perform the participant and assessed from the experts. The finding show that about 70% of participants are sufficiently trained as basic education (university or high school and only 28 % think that they still lack education while, more than 37% think that they do not have sufficient knowledge on the awareness and environment education need in the area. Study visit is conducted in 3 MPA in Croatia. 15 participants from the Ministry of Environment, National Agency for Coastal Protection, NGOs, Municipality, etc. participated and exchanged experience with the Croatian MPA. 6 training modules are under preparation. A training of trainer manual is going to be finilised. | 6 + Training curricula and modules on marine biodiversity conservation and management are developed. A number of trainings and workshop has been organized during 2013-2014, involving more than 45 local specialists, MCPA administration, as well as 5 experts from the MoE. The final training workshop was held on August 2014 A Manual on Training on Integrated Management of MCPAs is published. Other publications are on the way include buffer zone guideline, a passport for the Albanian MCPA, and a photo album for Karaburun-Sazani MPA values. | 6 + Curricula and 8 training modules on marine biodiversity conservation and management are produced and training sessions are conducted. The 'Manual on Training on Integrated Management of MCPAs' is published. It is a reference material for several training organized in the country by the National Agency of Protected Areas, NGOs and other institutions which focus on enhancing capacities and knowledge on MCPAs issues. It also is considered a valuable source for extension services in both terrestrial and coastal Protected Areas. In addition, two other publications (a touristic guide and information support for rangers) produced to facilitate the daily work of rangers and tourists/ operators ac. (Ref. 'Orik guide' and 'In Blue'). |
|  |  | Gap between funding needs of Karaburuni-Sazani MPA and available funds | Gap to be assessed by end of 1st year | At least 50% of funding needs are being met. | The management plan under preparation will address very specifically the financial mechanism and the tools to sustain the MCPA financing. All alternatives and scenarios are under discussion. The MoE has meantime increased the annual budget for the MCPAs, but still the main funds are coming from donor agencies | The priority actions taken from the MP document are duly addresses. A Micro Capital Grant Agreement is signed with INCA addressing the financial gap in funding priority management actions of the MCPA Karaburun-Sazani which will capture, design and establish the buoys system, repair and maintenance of some moles, drafting and implement the code of conduct for the observation of wildlife, updating inventory and monitoring of caves, assess the situation of underwater objects, fishing capacity assessment, awareness packages and tourist products, training, etc. The Business Plan for MPA Karaburun-Sazani is under preparation. The NAPA has meantime sustained the government efforts and is providing government funds for accomplishing management action and conservation measures at MCPA Karaburun-Sazani. | The Management plan (including the financial plan) for the Karaburuni-Sazani MPA has been approved and is being implemented. Enforcement mechanisms for the supervision of the MPA are strengthened through different agreements allowing for more efficient control and supervision of the illegal activities in the project site, Karaburuni-Sazani MPA. 6 rangers are in place and patrolling the area, reporting periodically and assisting the simple monitoring, and raising the awareness for the MPA Karaburun-Sazani, protection of forests in the coastal area. Joint patrolling missions are conducted periodically with participation of Guard Coast, Delta force (border policy) and other inspection bodies. The main local partners of the project in site are the Vlora Regional Agency of Protected Areas (local branch of the NAPA) and the Municipality of Vlora (under the actual territorial reform); therefore the MoUs were accordingly revised and addressing additional MPA management activities such as: (1) establishing the information center in the site as one of the most significant activities that strengthen capacities for marine ecosystem, information and awareness raising; and (2) extended patrolling (yearlong) with respective rangers patrolling and reporting Logistic equipment and support is provided for the MPA administration to enable better control and access in the area particularly, provision for the first time with a navigation speed boat including training and certification of two skippers. Another agreement is under implementation with INCA (national experienced NGO) to accomplish some priority actions as per the Management Plan like: (1) preparation of three preliminary assessment studies for terrestrial trails on buffer zone, diving sites and mooring buoys; (2) works for establishing the mooring buoys and to repair of the existing docks; (3) underwater and terrestrial trails. In addition, the Ecosystem Value Transfer conducted identified the value of the ecosystem services, exploring options for multi-criteria valuation of ecosystem services provided by the marine areas and assess the equity and efficiency of the payments and compensation schemes. According to the National Agency of Protected Areas financial data, approx. 150,000 USD are dedicated to the Marine Park Karaburun-Sazani. This amount represents almost 70% of the estimated annual running cost of the MPA administration based on Management Plan document which, after analysing the management scenarios against the main conservation and management priorities, estimates the relevant budget. The project with its fund has helped to reach the management objectives of the year. |
|  |  | Increased understanding of the fish resources of the MPA | Very limited studies on fish resources for the targeted area (s) | At least 3 site diagnoses missions and reports for K-S MCPA, deep insights fishery cross-sectorial studies scoping the management and conservation of this sector | No significant changes. | 3 There are three mission accomplished in cooperation with Conservatoire du Littoral assessing the habitats and species on the target area including fish populations. The reports are delivered and taken into consideration for the Management Plan preparation of MPA Karaburun-Sazani. | 3 + The socio-economic study on MPA area has included an assessment on fishery resources and fish stock. A recent study coordinated and supported by the project focused on fish stock population in the Vlora bay including the MPA Karaburun-Sazani and on improving artisanal management fishing in MPA based both on outputs from the present study and experience gained from long term fishery scientific programs in the area. The study was lead by the Royal Albanian Foundation and the Agriculture University of Tirana, Aquaculture Department. Following the Waitt Foundation expeditions and studies, the final report with findings, results and recommendations were presented in a final workshop. The final report reveals information and analyses from all Albanian marine area, with comparative analyses of main marine habitats; the results on Posidonia, coralligenous and water quality in the Karaburun-Sazani MPA indicate a very good status. |
|  |  | Aware inhabitants and stakeholders adjacent to the MPA (and countrywide) of MBD values | No means and tools available at local level to deliver information to stakeholders. No media coverage and no website for the targeted site. Local media (radio and TV) has never run programme on MCPA and /or MBD values). | At least 3 dedicated programmes on MCPA and MBD conservation are mediatised per year.by EoY 5. All school children in Orikumi and Vlora are fully aware of globally important biodiversity in the K-S MCPA by EoY 5. | Successive mission of CdL in cooperation with local NGO and local experts in applying CARLIT methodology to calculate indices for environmental quality on the basis of a mapping of the abundance of plant species in the mediolittoral stage and the high horizon of the upper infralittoral stage including the populations of Cystoseira, the type of the substrate and the coastal geomorphology. Also, trainings are envisaged for MoE, Local administration, NGO staff etc. with this method. Albanian experts on botany, herpetology, mammalogy, expert on invasive species, ornithology, marine biology, naturalist and photographer have synergized their work, and reports are published. | 3 + There have been produce a short documentary for the MPA site, and several public awareness activities (celebration of significand days such as 22nd May, 2nd February, 5 June, etc.) The Environment Film Festival has conducted its 3rd edition in Albania. The project has been actively part focusing on marine biodiversity films and involving the local schools. Awareness campaign is being conducted as part of implementation of the Management Plan in Karaburun-Sazani MPA. Knowledge and information is also produced and delivered in scope of new MPA designation processes (Porto Palermo and Cape of Rodoni through workshops and posters). | 3 + 2 articles have been published in 2 national newspapers ('Telegraf' and 'Dita'). A video documentary is going to be produced by a professional expert. Remarkable achievements has been the knowledge and information delivered in the targeted site and nationally, on important values and needs for protection of the MCPA - the project has prepared and organized awareness campaign, leaflets, eco-guide and branding materials, targeting all concerned stakeholder as well as wider public. Several awareness campaign, public hearing, thematic classes and site visits have been conducted in close cooperation with the regional education public institutions, Vlora University and local NGOs. Other productions are: - the photo-album for the MPA Karaburun-Sazani, which was published and widely delivered noting a very impressive acknowledgement; - a guide for the MCPAs titled In Blue - eco-guide for Orik area MPAs have been part of the annual Environment film, Photo exhibition on several local and national occasions. Information tables, branding materials are prepared and distributed. The International Biodiversity Day and World Environmental Day are celebrated. An information tool iVlora is developed and published through website and apps providing public communcation and information platform for communities and visitors on environmental issues, sustainable tourism, PAs of Vlora region particularly for the Karaburun-Sazani MPA. The project maintains a website: http://mcpa.iwlearn.org |

# E. Annual Project Quality Assurance Assessment

|  |
| --- |
| Project Governance |
| Are at least 40 percent of the personnel hired by the project, regardless of contract type, female? | Y |
| Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board meetings during reporting period (30 June 2015 to 1 July 2016) | January 2016  |
| Did the Project Board function as intended this reporting period?  | Y |
| Please add any comments on project governance. | Based on the DCM nr. 86, date11.2.2005 on establishment of the Management Committees for Protected Areas as advisory body and supporting decision making, the Ministry of Environment has established the Management Committee for MPA Karaburuni-Sazani with an order nr. 446 date. 16.8.2012. Meantime, a Minister Order officially established the Project Board nr. 225, 14.5.2012.The first Management Committee meeting of MPA Karaburun-Sazani was convened on 17.12.2012. The Project Board has the same membership, and it was decided to merge both structures into one. The Management Committee/ Project Board has functioned regularly discussing the main issues in the area, Project activities, challenges and financial issues. |
| Annual Work Planning |
| Have project inputs been procured and delivered on time and budget this reporting period? | Y |
| Will the project be able to close on time as planned? | Y |
| Please add any comments on annual work planning. | The project office has accomplished respective annual planning ahead for the successive year. The content work plan has reflected the achievements of the previous year and the problems faced; respectively, the interventions are foreseen in support of the outputs, the implementing partner are identified and reconsidered. The AWPs is then used as the bases (building blocks) for the mid-year and annual progress reports, as well as for the funding allocations; it has provided deliverables and a detailed list of activities. The annual plan and the budget are approved by the Project Board meetings which are chaired by the MoE. The Project Board memberships are representatives of many national and local institutions and organizations, and it is integrated with the Management Committee of the MPA Karaburun-Sazani. |
| Stakeholder engagement and target groups |
| Please discuss how stakeholders and target groups were directly engaged in the decision-making, implementation and monitoring of the project this reporting period. | The established management mechanisms and activities and programes derived thereof attest for active involvement of all relevant stakeholders (local and national). They indicate an improvement of the performance on site conservation and administration, namely the establishment of the Management Committee for Karaburuni â Sazan MPA, as a cross-sectoral body that advises on implementation actions and synergies among all national and local initiatives in the area. Its functionality supports decision making. There are six meetings organized so far focusing on site management, project progress, main problems and other related issues. The project planning and financial issues is also discussed and approved at the Management Committee.in addition, the preparation of the Management Plan and Business Plan followed the participatory approach. |
| Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) |
| Please discuss how the project M&E Plan was implemented and used to support effective project management this reporting period (e.g. please consider whether progress data against the indicators in the project results framework was reported using credible data sources and collected according to the M&E plan, including sex disaggregated data as relevant; whether lesson learned were used to take corrective actions as necessary; whether evaluations were conducted following the UNDP-GEF guidance available at www.undp.erc.org; and other issues as relevant). | The project office has accomplished (wherever necessary âperiodically), as planned, the Inception phase and meetings/reports, quarterly reporting to UNDP and the Ministry of Environment, annual reporting to Ministry of Environment and GEF (including risks and challenges.Periodic site visits by the project management unit, Ministry of Environment and UNDP have been conducted. The project Mid Term Review undertook an assessment of the achievements and a detailed consultative review of the planned project activities and recommended some adjustments. The midterm review conducted a detailed examination of indicators/targets to confirm that these were still appropriate particularly in respect to monitoring the status of seagrasses Posidonia Oceanica and the medio and infralittoral communities in the region, understanding of the fish resources of the MPA and the level of awareness on environment issues within the population adjacent to the MPA. As a consequence the logframe was revised and 2 indicators were revised changed. The revised logframe was approved by the Project Board, UNDP and the Project Director. So, these two additional indicators have been added and baseline surveys conducted: (i) the status of the marine resources, and (ii) the awareness of local community members on environmental or MPA aspects.The Evaluation of the MTE was satisfactory to highly satisfactory. Results and findings of the midterm review were shared with the Project Board. |
| Social & Environmental Standards |
| Were any new social and environmental impacts and risks identified this reporting period? | Y |
| Please discuss how social and environmental impacts and risks were managed this reporting period, as relevant.  | So far, most remarkable impacts of the projectâs activities include sustained increase in fish resources, decrease in illegal fishing (especially through the use of explosives), improved awareness of ecosystem concerns, fish resources, MPAs within communities. The capacity building activities delivered to target groups in both perspectives as âgeneral managementâ as well as the technical elements were conducted. The enforcement mechanisms (particularly deployment and presence of the well-equipped rangers) and implementation of priority management activities, which has provided an identity for the MPA and acted as a deterrent to illegal activities were very significant for a positive impact in the MPA. |

# F. Ratings and Comments on Project Progress

**Project Progress toward Development Objective**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Role | 2016 Rating | 2016 Comments |
| Project Manager/Coordinator | Highly Satisfactory | The project is continuing to sustain management and conservation work at the targeted site MPA Karaburun-Sazani and putt a lot of efforts to the expanded the representation of the MPAs in Albania. The Strategic Plan for MCPAs prepared by the project is fully considered by the government on the process of the updating of the Biodiversity Strategy. The Strategic Document of the Biodiversity Protection and Action Plan was approved by the Government with the Decision of Council of Ministers No 31, date 20.01.2016 Following, there seem a more clear and direct political support to expand the MPAs representation. Two additional MPAs, Porto Palermo and Cape of Rodoni are in the process of assessment and designation. Ecological studies and public hearing reporting are delivered. The Natural Park status is foreseen for Porto Palermo for a surface of 2,067.75 ha (under proclamation process). The establishment of the National Agency for Protected Areas (NAPA) as the biggest institutional development taking over the management of PAs with direct dependence from the Minster of Environment, splitting the management of Protected Areas from the Forestry Service structure, was a crucial moment to mobilize resources for institutional strengthening and legal framework review. A new law on PA is under development, accomplishing a combined review of all legal acts pertinent to environment conservation and management, mechanisms for MCPA administration, revenues mechanisms, etc. NAPA and the Ministry of Environment have been assisted in frame of management effectiveness of PAs. The METT tool is applied and assessment of management effectiveness of PAs (including Karaburuni-Sazani MPA) is performed for 2015. Due to a better management and resource mobilization, increased institutional and technical capacities, strengthened administrative unit, it is noticed an increase of METT score for Karaburun-Sazani from 17% to 47%. The methodology and assessment forms were adopted and incorporated in an online platform http://www.mett-undp.al The website is a platform used by other initiatives like NATURA 200 (BE project) was further enriched with info and reporting entries from the NAPA pertinent to visitors survey, illegal activities, nature and culture monument etc. The Management Plan for Karaburuni â Sazani MPA is developed following the participatory approach. It has been approved with a Minister of Environment decree Nr. 750, date 24.11.2015. It has been followed with the development of a business/financial plan which is the first experience in Albania. The priority actions have been started implementation in agreement with the National Agency of Protected Areas and national NGOs. Efficient management and participation of different stakeholders, the MoUs was signed with different institutions and local NGOs aiming an improved coordination and cooperation of central and local institutions on Karaburuni-Sazani Marine Protected Area, addressing concerted efforts for the surveillance and mitigation of illegal activities in the coastal area and buffer zone- 6 rangers are hired and reporting regularly to the local project office and Protected Area administration. This was also accompanied with provision on the most needful logistic and equipment support to enable MAP patrolling, supervision as well as help with awareness and visibility. With establishment of NAPA and definition of its objective and functions, several of the functions of cross-sectorial forum are embodied in this agency therefore, the support and cooperation for NAPA has emphasis and encompassed all relevant issues to marine biodiversity conservation and management. Again during 2015-2016, targeted groups of MCPAs administrations received training and know how, delivered through updated and online modules on METT, as a tool to track management effectiveness (national trainings were accomplished) with participation of Coastal Protected Areas staff and the staff of Biodiversity Directorate at the Ministry of Environment (37 participants). A Training Manual on Integrated Management of MCPAs was developed, published and delivered to the targeted administration. A guide for the MCPAs titled âIn Blueâ was developed and published. A technical report with assessment of the network of coastal protected areas (updating the mapping of the PAs with indication of the main habitats and ecosystem) is produced assisting NAPA on reviewing the boundaries, zones and buffer zones for the CPAs. Significant branding, communication and public awareness was achieved through the production and publication of the MPA Karaburun-Sazan photo album âThe treasures of the two seasâ. It was also accompanied with other efforts and achievements such as enrichment and update of the project website http://mcpa.iwlearn.org producing of awareness tools, and publications, celebrating the WWD and WED, delivered locally and nationally MCPA publicity and information materials. The project did also succeeded to establish and made operational a very attractive CEPA with significantly improved branding, corporate identity tools (communication and public awareness, website, publication, eco-informative-touristic application iVlora and info kiosks erected both with local authority premises and also with the info center of the MCPA for the wider public and visitors). Albanian government has committed in prodoc $300,000 as local contribution, which are disbursed to the project. In additions, in kind contribution approx. $ 1,600,000 is dedicated to the project objectives accomplishment through different national and local institutions and other projects. During the MTR, the project indicators were updated based on common understanding to better measure and reflect the work performance with the habitat conservation and public awareness and knowledge information. These were endorsed by the Ministry of Environment, stakeholders and the project board. The indicators have been uploaded to PIR. The project frame and outputs provide the first national model for planning, management and conservation of the MCPAs habitats. The project results are sustainable and replicable to other potential MPAs since there are already better institutional and legal benchmarks, an operational example of the MPAs, practice and curricula for the management of the MPAs and know-how on public information, participation, awareness. |
| UNDP Country Office Programme Officer | Highly Satisfactory | The project has marked progress towards achievement of the long term goal improvement of the coverage and management effectiveness of marine and coastal protected areas. UNDP, through its work on Protected Areas contributed to the set up and running of the National Agency of Protected Areas (NAPA). The agency is being supported with training and capacity building as well as technical advice on preparation of the agency long term strategy for Nature protection in Albania. NAPA with a total of app. 204 employees both the central office and the regional branches have conservation management and monitoring functions as well as legal, financial management and communications capacity. UNDP support with the legal frame and capacity building is associated with performance management and tracking to achieve the long term goal of overall management effectiveness of the countryâs system of protected areas, covering 460,060ha of marine and terrestrial habitats. Building on successful assessments and guidance of the current UNDP project the government of Albania is further prioritizing financial sustainability and effective management of the national ecological infrastructure. A first step has been mobilizing external and internal support to improve the funding baseline for, and building the financial management capacities of, the protected area system in Albania. A new trust fund for Prespa Park and Ohrid called âPRESPA OHRID NATURE TRUSTâ just started implementation. In addition a new GEF 6 project that is about to start seeks to assist the government in reducing existing funding gaps for the system of protected areas, improving the management of individual protected areas, improving cost-efficiencies in individual protected areas and building the financial management capacities of protected area staff in the NAPA. Llogara-Karaburuni protected area Complex is one of the priority areas under the above mentioned project. Stage 2 of the territorial reform currently supported in the country by UNDP provides impetus for exploring effective arrangements for management of protected areas and will have a specific focus in involvement of local people so that local rights over and access to natural resources will bring commitment to their effective conservation. |
| Project Implementing Partner |  |  |
| GEF Operational Focal point |  |  |
| Other Partners |  |  |
| UNDP Technical Advisor | Satisfactory | Comments forthcoming Terminal PIR |

**Project Progress in Project Implementation**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Role | 2015 Rating | 2016 Rating | 2016 Comments |
| Project Manager/Coordinator | Satisfactory | Highly Satisfactory | - Integrated management planning process (Karaburuni and Sazani) with consideration also in the buffer zone is finalized. The plan is developed following the participatory approach involving all stakeholder groups such as Municipality of Orikumi, Local and Regional authorities, Forestry Service Directorate, Regional Environmental Directorate, scientific institutions, national and local NGOs, diving center, fishermen, teachers, architects, user groups, international experts, etc. The plan went through a very wide public hearing process and was approved by the Management Committee of the MPA and from the Ministry of Environment on December 2015. - The business plan is also part of this process and provides alternatives to future sustained management and conservation of the MPA Karaburun-Sazani. The business planning is an integral part of the management plan for PAs but, so far, none of the 14 management plans for main PAs in Albania, as well as none of the 6 species and habitants conservation plans, had developed respective business planning ; therefore the Karaburun-Sazani MPA business plan was first in the row to address and provide an overall economic picture on the characteristics of the area, performing diagnostic analysis of the present situation, that enable the business management of this target area. Expected budget of the MPA, the current approach to funding the K-S MPA and whether the available resources are likely to be adequate for meeting conservation needs and proposed management actions, recommendations for sources of revenue to cover the expected budget. A very wide and structured participatory process as well as the management plan model, responded to marine management risks and conservation scenarios, considering all stakeholders, user groups and potential conflict among them, allowing the plan to be developed, lunched in regional workshops and approved by the Management Committee of the MPA. The business/financial plan as a follow up process is progressing, outlining and streamlining main findings relevant to an appropriate MPA administration. Apart of this, the project was very efficient in securing synergies among the international and local expertise, with multilateral well known organization, but also with prominent Albanian expertise such as WWF, Conservatoire du Littoral, INCA, APAWA and ECAT Tirana. In turn, the project is engaged to sharing such experience with a regional effort to preparing two business plans (UNDP Montenegro). - With the changes following the territorial reforms in Albania, the former MoUs were replaced with the MoU with NAPA aiming to improve patrolling of the MPA and the respective buffer zone, law enforcement and control mechanisms in the area. This marked a very dynamic and close cooperation with NAPA particularly in view of process for establishing the Information Centre in Rradhima, as one of the most significant activities that strengthen capacities for marine ecosystem management and conservation and increases the knowledge and information on values of the ecosystem. Another MoU which focused cooperation with a national NGO was the MoU with INCA on implementation of priority actions as per the Management Plan for Karaburun-Sazani MPA, like accomplishment of preliminary assessment studies for underwater and terrestrial trails, and also establishment of mooring buoys system, repairing and maintenance of the existing docks in the vicinity of the K-S MPA. These activities have secured efficient control and supervision of the illegal activities in the Karaburuni-Sazani MPA. METT is applied and assessment of management effectiveness of MPAs is performed from 19 % in 2011 in 45% in 2014 and 47% in 2015 for the MPA Karaburun-Sazani. - The project has successfully organized and accomplished some of the most significant environment benchmark events, including lectures at the Vlora University. These activities were associated with intensive awareness campaign, which were covered by the national and local media. A very important photo album was produced and published revealing the main values of the habitats, species, landscape and culture of the target areas of S-K MPA. The project assisted and was involved in the fourth edition of the Environment Film Festival, coordinated by EU Delegation, inviting main local communities to use this opportunity to know and explore through the artistic and documentary films, the main issues of the environment protection and biodiversity conservation, seeking to raise social awareness towards nature. In addition, it was designed, developed and established an info platform for visitors /tourists with pertinent data on the area as an appropriate mechanism established for communicating with stakeholders. - The Management Committees has been functional and provided advice and support. The Management Committee being cross-sectorial is functioning also as the Project Board. During this reporting period, the MC has co-opted new members namely the Mayor of Vlora and NAPA (with the establishment of this Agency during 2015 as the main institution responsible for management, administration and conservation of the PAs in the country). - The process of expansion of the MPA, with the two other MPAs, Porto Palermo and Cape of Rodoni has continued. Assessment reports and public hearings are conducted for both sites. A draft management plan and a draft Decision of Council of Ministers were developed for Porto-Palermo. - Based on the curricula and training modules on marine biodiversity conservation and management published lately, there are several training organized with K-S MPA and some other coastal PAs). This has allowed PA staff and other interested groups to refer and get more insights into their daily management practice. In this perspective, NAPA is coordinated and collaborating with local authorities to review also the system which provides extension services, whereby the training manual will assist in team building, knowledge on biodiversity conservation, legal and policy considerations, PA planning, administration, public participation, monitoring, operational patrolling. - Regarding the financial issues, the expenditures till June 2016 from GEF allocation are 836,778 USD out of 950,000$ while 113,222 almost committed; from UNDP 99,947 USD out of total 100,000; from the GoA 156,054 USD. So far, GoA has transferred to the project 248,341 from 300,000 USD. - In view several challenges (institutional, legal, regulatory, financial as well as technical) and complete first experience with establishing and strengthening an MPA, the project could meet the main objective and also achieved expected results. It is a very good example for other potential MPA in Albania - Today there is an MPA established for Karaburun- Sazani; there is an administration function and moderately equipped for daily management and enforcement, based on an well developed and approved management plan; there is a NAPA which is responsible for all marine sites and particularly for conservation and management of the marine habitats into the MPA, in addition to unreplaceable role for interdisciplinary and inter-institutional coordination. Above all there is a model of how MPA can be established and strengthened, including training curricula and capacity building tools to be shared elsewhere with forthcoming MPA in Albania. |
| UNDP Country Office Programme Officer | Highly Satisfactory | Highly Satisfactory | The activities under the reporting period are implemented according to the endorsed work plan and stipulated timelines. The government co-financing from the Ministry of Environment was delivered in full, yearly delivery has been above 90%. The Park Management Committee gathers regularly and serves as a steering committee of the project containing a broad range of stakeholders from other sectors (e.g. Municipalities with interests including Tourism, fishing associations, etc.) where important issues affecting the marine and coastal protected area are discussed and follow up actions are taken especially as regards the local governance of protected areas. The Management Plan for MCPA Karaburun â Sazan accompanied by a business plan is approved by the Minister of Environment Order No: 750 dated 24/11/2015. METTâ is supporting a monitoring and reporting system that is fully transferred and now in use by NAPA staff. It indicates the performance of management of all Pas in the country. Capacity building and on the job training continues. NAPA has also adopted the monitoring and patrolling system that was implemented by the project in Karaburun Sazani in cooperation with local and central institutions. Implementation of priority actions in Karaburun Sazani such as preliminary assessment studies for underwater and terrestrial trails, and also establishment of mooring buoys system, repairing and maintenance of the existing docks in the vicinity of the Karaburun Sazani MPA as benefited from cooperation with other national and international entities operating in the area. In addition the construction of the Information center in Rradhime will be built with government co-financing. The process of expansion of the MPAs, is progressing faster with Porto Palermo, where the draft management plan and a draft Decision of Council of Ministers are pending final approval. |
| Project Implementing Partner |  |  |  |
| GEF Operational Focal point |  |  |  |
| Other Partners |  |  |  |
| UNDP Technical Advisor | Satisfactory | Satisfactory | Comments forthcoming Cumulative delivery 82%. Terminal evaluation in September 2016. Project closure in December 2016 |

# G. Project Planning

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Key project milestone** | **Status** | **Original Planned Date (Month/Year)** | **Actual or Expected Date (Month/Year)** | **Comments** |
| **Inception Workshop** | **delayed/completed** | **April - 2011** | **July - 2011** | **Reported in previous PIRs** |
| Mid-term Review | delayed/completed | 9 - 2014 | 9 - 2014 | Reported in previous PIRs |
| Terminal Evaluation | on schedule | September - 2016 | September - 2016 |  |
| Project Closure |  | April - 2016 | December - 2016 | According to project progress so far and respective delivered budget, in current course of activities and circumstances, it was estimated that management actions and synergies with authorities and concerned institutions will not be possible to close on due date. Therefore, an extension of the project was requested preferable in order to complete some of the man pending activities and overcome the time-constraints, mainly to accommodate legal changes (NSBAP and Marine Strategy) into the actual processes for designation of the new MPA of Porto Palermo, as well as the implementation of the envisaged priority actions for K-S MPA and full operation of the MPA K-S administration. The Project Board and MoE supported the project time frame extension.  |

# H. Critical Risk Management

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Critical Risks Type(s) | Critical Risk Management Measures Undertaken in 2016 |
|  | The project had no critical risks this reporting period |

# I. Environmental and Social Grievances

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Related environmental or social issue | Grievance was not related to an environmental or social issue. |
| Status |  |
| Significance |  |
| Detailed description |  |

# J. Communicating Impact

|  |
| --- |
| Tell us the story of the project focusing on how the project has helped to improve peoples lives. |
| Prospective on coastal management in Albania DEVELOPMENT OF KARABURUN-SAZANI MANAGEMENT PLAN Coastal management has been practiced in Albania over the years to try to stem the increasing tide of destruction to coastal habitats and the decline of fishery. UNDP Project of MCPA and other stakeholders came together to present the main elements developed until now under the management plan so far for the Karabaruni - Sazani vision values and threats. This Initiative is taken for an Ecotourism strategy to maintain valuable cultural resources In Albania, UNDP and the Global Environment Facility support the Governmentâs plans to double marine protected areas, and improve their overall management. UNDP focuses its efforts to improve management and conservation of marine ecosystems in the piloted area of Karaburun â Sazani, which is home to several species and habitats of national and global importance. UNDP project of MCPA aims to protect Albaniaâs unique coastal and marine biodiversity for current and future generations. The project also works to improve the coverage and management effectiveness of Albaniaâs network of marine and coastal protected areas as an essential complement to its network of terrestrial Protected Areas. The phases and sequences of the activity undertaken to strengthen the development of Karaburuni-Sazani management plan are: - Integration with the community involves introducing the changes in the last 10 years and such as quality of life in the area - Reserve establishment and management of core group to lead resources management activities and the engagement of participants in the development of the MCPA management plan through workshops giving information and similar. - Monitoring and evaluation over the management plan engaging local experts and targeted stakeholders. - Strengthen and supporting activities by establishing different forums, Meetings, workshops and consultation techniques. The management plan on MPA in Albania aims to inspire the impact on tourism and rise of awareness on biodiversity and promoting the values of MCPA Promoting the sustainable tourism in the area and ensure the sustainable use of natural resources. Everybody should work towards preserving marine and coastal resources for the benefit of sustainable tourism and people living in the area. The project of MCPA UNDP Albania focuses its efforts to improve management and conservation of marine ecosystems in the piloted area of Karaburun âSazani, which is home to several species and habitats of national and global importance UNDP together with other international and local partners seek to advance the conversation on womenâs political participation in Albania both within individual parties and across parties, civil society, parliament and government. Interventions also aim at improving bio-geographical representation of marine and coastal protected areas improving of their management. |
| What is the most significant change that has resulted from the project this reporting period? |
| The most significant change during the reporting period would be the establishment and notable strengthening of the MPA administration (development of management and business planning tools and enforcement structures (patrolling and observation tools). |
| Describe how the project supported South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation efforts in the reporting year. |
| Collaboration with the National Agency of Protected Areas, WWF, Conservatoire du Littoral, MedPAN and other international expertise facilitated South-South initiatives through the exchange of experience on MPA business planning, PES, training as well as other forms of support to MPA Karaburun-Sazani; Support was provided to increase and improve communications among mentioned partners, which led to a greater awareness on MCPA and wider access to available knowledge and experience. |

# K. Partnerships

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Partners | Innovation and Work with Partners |
| Civil Society Organisations/NGOs | I. Association INCA. It was involved on implementation of some priority actions has followed preparation of Management Plan for MPA Karaburun-Sazani. II. University of Tirana, Faculty of Natural Science together with other partner- namely through APAWA - under PIM initiative on assessment of Sazani island and Karaburuni coast. The Dean is Project Board member. During second semester 2015 they were involved in activities carried out during a Marine Expedition conducted in Albanian waters, sc ientific dive survey of areas along the Albanian coast, that are under consideration for marine protection. III. APAWA association - It works together with other partner under PIM initiative on assessment of Sazani Island and Karaburuni coast. Recently they marked a very fruitful cooperation with local stakeholders in Vlora (namely fisherman groups and local University) in promoting fish restoration in the MPA Karaburun â Sazan in cooperation with the Italian organization MedReAct, supported by the Waitt Institute (USA). The estimations under this project are based on the scientific results of the expedition Marine Institute Wait, conducted in Albania in 2015, collecting data on fishing community IV. WWF - Cooperating in the framework of a regional project on capacity building for Mediterranean MPAs administrator. It is contributing on the implementation of the priority actions as per the Management Plan for the MPA Karaburun-Sazani. V. SEEP, local NGO, is assisting on public awareness activities, mainly at local level VI. ECAT Tirana, Albanian well-known organization is assisting on public hearing for the process of designation MPA the Cape of Rodoni VII. Blue expedition, local association, is involved photo documents for the Albanian sea. |
| Indigenous Peoples | NA |
| Private Sector | i) Fisherman group of Vlora is taken over activities that formerly Organisation of Management Fishery carried out. It provides assistance in development and implementation of management plan of the Karaburuni-Sazani MPA and assists with surveying and patrolling of the MPA. Its representative is co-opted as project Board member. ii) There are 500 small scale vessels and nearly 1,000 persons involved in this activity. Other important activities include farming and livestock (mainly sheep) rearing in coastal areas and its mountainous zone. They are involved in the management plan process and awareness activities. They are partner also in implementation of the management plan and in the preparation of business plan for the MPA. iii) Tour and Hotel Operators - They have been involved in management planning for the MPA and tourism development plan. They are active partner in defining appropriate types of tourism, routes, and other management actions. They are one of the partners in the business plan preparation process. iv) Jehona Shpk is assisting with METT development online, setting up info kiosk in the MPA and Vlora municipality, as well as adopting the METT with additional entry fields to consider and observe touristic and visitors fluxes, illegal activities, including the situation with nature, cultural and historical monuments. |
| GEF Small Grants Programme |  |
| Other Partners | i) National Agency for Protected Areas, with the main goal to safeguard the conservation of nature and biodiversity through management of protected areas network, development of information, environmental education and public awareness about the protected areas and supporting sustainable economic development activities. It is the main partner in all project activities, while the project assists in logistics and capacity building. Monitoring equipment and office hardware were provided for the local branch of NAPA in Vlora. ii) Municipality of Vlora (which after the recent territorial reform in Albania is the local authority responsible also for Orikumi area including marine and terrestrial territories adjacent to MPA) â the Mayor of Vlora is also co-opted as MB member and actively involved in project implementation. iii) Conservatoire du Litoral, France â it implements a program on capacity building of MPAs. It is the main actor of PIM initiative for biodiversity assessment of Sazani and Karaburuni coast. It was cooperated on preparation of the Management Plan of Sazani Island, integrating with the Management Plan of Karaburuni-Sazani MPA iv) Albanian National Coastal Agency represents the main state institution for management of the Albanian coast. The project is cooperating in different project activities, mainly for the proclamation of new MPAs. v) RAC/SPA it is cooperating under MedMPAnet on capacity building for preparation of the strategy to achieve Aichi targets vi) EU Delegation in Albanian - Main organiser of the Albanian Environmental Film Festival. The project is actively participating in the region of Vlora. |

# L. Progress toward Gender Equality

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Has a gender or social assessment been carried out this reporting period? | No |
| If a gender or social assessment has been carried out what where the findings? |  |
| Does this project specifically target woman or girls as direct beneficiaries? | Yes |
| Please specify results achieved this reporting period that focus on increasing gender equality and improving the empowerment of women. | The project has worked (as expected from the Project Document) to consider gender issues in general terms (for example, membership of the Project Steering Committee). The gender issues were considered by encouraging, engaging and promoting women participation in almost each and every site activity. Women were specifically involved in Management Planning and Business Planning processes. |

# M. Annex 1 - Ratings Definitions

**Development Objective Progress Ratings Definitions**

*Highly Satisfactory (HS):*  Project is expected to achieve or exceed all its major global environmental objectives, and yield substantial global environmental benefits, without major shortcomings. The project can be presented as 'good practice'.

*Satisfactory (S):* Project is expected to achieve most of its major global environmental objectives, and yield satisfactory global environmental benefits, with only minor shortcomings.

*Moderately Satisfactory (MS):* Project is expected to achieve most of its major relevant objectives but with either significant shortcomings or modest overall relevance. Project is expected not to achieve some of its major global environmental objectives or yield some of the expected global environment benefits.

*Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU):* Project is expected to achieve of its major global environmental objectives with major shortcomings or is expected to achieve only some of its major global environmental objectives.

*Unsatisfactory (U):* Project is expected not to achieve most of its major global environment objectives or to yield any satisfactory global environmental benefits.

*Highly Unsatisfactory (HU):* The project has failed to achieve, and is not expected to achieve, any of its major global environment objectives with no worthwhile benefits.

**Implementation Progress Ratings Definitions**

*Highly Satisfactory (HS):* Implementation of all components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised implementation plan for the project. The project can be presented as 'good practice'.

*Satisfactory (S):* Implementation of most components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan except for only few that are subject to remedial action.

*Moderately Satisfactory (MS):* Implementation of some components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with some components requiring remedial action.

*Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU):* Implementation of some components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with most components requiring remedial action.

*Unsatisfactory (U):* Implementation of most components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.

*Highly Unsatisfactory (HU):* Implementation of none of the components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.