

United Nations Development Programme

Country: Albania

PROJECT DOCUMENT



Project Title: *Improving coverage and management effectiveness of marine and coastal protected areas (MCPAs) - PHASE II.*

Implementing partner: National Agency for Protected Areas (NAPA)

Start date: June 2017

End date: May 2020

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

To ensure comprehensive and effective management of the coastal and marine environment of Albania, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation will work in collaboration with UNDP Albania and the National Agency for Protected Areas (NAPA) to improve the coverage of marine and coastal protected areas throughout Albania that complement the existing system of terrestrial parks.

The project will focus on developing a scientifically designed, stakeholder supported network of MCPAs to effectively protect 30% of representative marine and coastal habitats of Albania. The design of the network aims to provide ecosystem benefits while supporting healthy fisheries (increase in diversity, density, biomass and reproductive capacity) and livelihoods for fishers and their families; providing livelihood diversification opportunities such as sustainable tourism development based on a healthy environment; and build an ecosystem resilient to climate and human induced impacts.

The project will focus on three distinct, but logically and incrementally interrelated, areas of development:

1. intensifying and strengthening management activities for Karaburuni-Sazani MPA to prove that MCPAs can effectively protect marine biodiversity, maintain/restore ecosystem health and provide a sustainable source of economic growth (capitalizing on Phase I of the Project)¹;
2. replicating this model across Albania's coastal and marine areas through the development of a scientifically designed and multiple objective-based network of MCPAs;
3. strengthening the governance-based institutional support to the MCPAs network and ensuring that relevant authorities, administrations and stakeholder groups have the necessary capacities and tools to sustain the management and monitoring of the MCPAs network.


Total Project Budget: 1 million Euro

Total Project Duration: 3 years

Agreed by National Agency of Protected Areas:

NAME	SIGNATURE	Date/Month/Year
Zamir Dedej General Director		July 10, 2017

Agreed by UNDP:

NAME	SIGNATURE	Date/Month/Year
Limya Eltayeb, Country Director		July 10, 2017

¹ A detailed description of the achieved results and lessons learnt from Phase 1 is given in Section 1 of the present Project Document.

I. Situation Analyses

I.1 Legislative and Policy context

Albania became a Candidate country to the European Union (EU): status that was granted in 2014 and confirmed in 2016. In 2012, 80% of Albanians wanted to be part of the EU¹. They demanded for political consensus and reforms to bring Albania close to EU standards as an opportunity to finally improve the quality of their life.

The legal basis for nature protection in Albania is derived from the ***Constitution of the Republic of Albania*** (Law 8417 of 1998). In the constitution, Article 59 states that “The state intends a healthy and ecologically suitable environment for current and future generations, and the rational exploitation of natural resources based on the sustainable development principle”. Article 59 is supported by Article 56 which emphasizes that “Everyone has a right to be informed on the state of the environment and its protection”.

The primary national policy document in Albania is the **National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI) 2014-2020**. Correspondingly, the Environmental Cross-cutting Strategy (ECS), which forms an integral part of the NSDI, is the basic document that represents national policy on environmental protection. This document addresses all environmental components and sets general guidance on problems arising from sectors having an impact in environment. Priority areas under ECS reflect existing commitments to MEAs (Multilateral Environmental Agreement) and the status of Albania as a candidate for membership in the European Union.

Environmental laws in Albania are formulated to be in harmony with the provisions of the Constitution and together form the national environmental legislation. The national legislation on environment is currently undergoing an intensive phase of reform through inclusion of EU Directives on the environment.

Law No. 10431 of June 2011 "On Environmental Protection", defines the principles underpinning all environmental protection activities in the country. The Law on Environmental Protection allocates responsibility for environmental policy and management to the Ministry of Environment (MoE). It also outlines the relationship between the MoE, the National Environmental Agency (NEA) and its Regional Environmental Agencies (REAs), and the Environmental Inspectorate. The **Law on Inspection in the Republic of Albania (No. 10433, June 2011)** determines the structure and organization of the Environmental Inspectorate. Specific national legislation has been developed to regulate aspects of environmental management such as air and water quality management, waste management, environmental impact assessments, chemicals and hazardous waste management, as well as the conservation of biological diversity and the protection of flora and fauna.

The planning, administration and management of protected areas in Albania is directed by a **new Law on Protected Areas (approved in May 2017)**.

The Law on Protected Areas establishes the legal context for the declaration, conservation, administration, management and use of the protected areas and their natural and biological resources through the governmental structure of the National Agency of Protected Areas.

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/archives/commission_2010-2014/fule/docs/articles/20121010_albania_article.pdf

The new law is in compliance with the **European Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992** in the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

Other relevant legislation promoting nature protection in Albania includes:

- Law No. 9587 “*On Biodiversity Protection*” (as amended);
- Law No. 10006 “*On Wild Fauna Protection*”;
- Law No.9867 “*On rules and procedures for international trade of endangered species of flora and fauna*”;
- Law No. 10253 “*On hunting*” (as amended); and
- Law No. 7/2014 “*On the declaration of hunting ban in the Republic of Albania*”.

There are a number of **sectoral policies and strategies**, including those on waste (*National Strategy and National Plan on Waste Management*), water (*National Water Supply and Sewerage Services Sector Strategy*), forest and pasture use (*Strategy on Forest and Pasture Sector Development*) and rural development and agriculture (*Strategy for Rural Development and Agriculture*). The *National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2012 – 2020* (NBSAP) is the main strategic document guiding the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity requirements in Albania.

I.2 Achievements of the first phase and lessons learned

The first phase of the project has been funded (950,000 USD) from the GEF Biodiversity Focal Area. The project also received cash co-financing from the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and UNDP (218,223 and 99,947 USD respectively) and in-kind support from a variety of parallel projects.

It has contributed to the achievement of the Country Programme Outcome “Policies developed and implemented that support the achievement of MDGs” as defined in the CPD for Albania (2006-2010) (Country Programme Outcome Indicators: 2.1.3 National Development plans reflect regional priorities).

With the UNDP support, in 2010, the Albanian government established the marine area near Karaburuni peninsula and Sazani Island as **Marine Protected Area (MPA)**. The first phase provided technical support to the MoE in the definition of the new MPA management structure, roles and responsibilities key personnel, and in the establishment and operationalization of the Administration unit for Karaburuni-Sazani MPA.

The institutional progress culminated with the **establishment of the National Agency of Protected Areas (NAPA)** as the central state institution responsible for the management and administration of PA and with the preparation and approval of the new law on Protected Areas.

To avoid duplications and fragmentations of national plans, a **comprehensive Strategic Plan for Albania’s Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (SPMCPA)** was developed, outlining a ten-year strategy for enhancing coverage and management effectiveness of MCPAs system. The SPMCPA was integrated to the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), which is recently revised to respond to the Albanian Government’s commitments to the CBD/Aichi Targets and EU policies.

The project provided financial and technical support to the development of the **Management Plan of Karaburuni- Sazani MPA**, which was followed for the first time in a protected area by the PA business planning (including issues such as building relations with donors and the private sector, understanding of intra-governmental roles and responsibilities, identification, marketing and implementation of new revenue generation opportunities, reducing costs of PA management). Following the official approval of the Management Plan of Karaburuni-Sazani MPA by the MoE, the Project started the implementation of high priority and visible actions identified during the consultative process.

A **Financial Plan (FP)** was developed for the Karaburuni-Sazani MPA through participatory process, including an assessment of the market and non-market based mechanisms to meet the MPA funding needs. An economic valuation of the critical marine ecosystem services delivered by Karaburuni-Sazani MPA is currently being finalized as a baseline study to the definition of a long-term strategy to finance the Albanian MCPAs network. The results of the evaluation will also contribute to the strengthening of local decision-makers and local stakeholders' buy-in to the MPA. It will also facilitate the implementation of specific management actions, the selection of the most relevant financial tools for the MPA and the enhancement of its management effectiveness.

The **Management Committee of the Karaburuni-Sazani MPA**, which was conceived as an advisory body bringing together key sectors and institutions is established and is functioning regularly. The MPA Management Committee includes representatives from most of the relevant stakeholder groups.

The project aimed originally to assist Karaburuni-Sazani MPA implementing the MCPA monitoring system (METT – Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool), which was adapted, systematized into online software and adopted by the NAPA to monitoring and evaluating PAs management effectiveness. UNDP succeeded to enable NAPA to apply METT, which is being adopted by all other projects in the PAs. NAPA has improved the online application with additional indicators. The online platform <http://www.mett-undp.al> centralizes monitoring inputs from the Albanian PAs system and is managed by NAPA and collects data clustered in the following categories: i) tourism, ii) natural monument, iii) damages. Project might create a new layer for N2000 sites/indicators.

A **Training Manual** with the curricula developed within the project was made available to be applied by the relevant institutions for PAs (NAPA and RAPA) and other NGOs or associations in Albania. A set of training are carried out to build the capacities and skills of managers for effective MCPA management.

The **Final Evaluation of the project**, (December 2016 – January 2017) assessed the achievements and project results, and has drawn **lessons learned** that can both improve the sustainability of benefits from this project and made recommendations to promote the advancement in coastal and marine resource management in Albania. The evaluation was rated in accordance with the guidance provided by GEF and UNDP and through an evidence-based methodology which included document review, interviews conducted on a field mission, and an analysis. The overall rating for the project was highly satisfactory.

The Project has generated important experiences and lessons learned that should be considered in the development of future actions. These include:

→ The *consultative process* undertaken by the project needs to be further strengthened and fine-tuned in order to be highly beneficial to the involved public institutions and local communities;

- A *participatory and integrated approach* needs to be reinforced at all stages of project implementation to engage stakeholders and project partners and allow for stronger ownership and buy-in in the project activities;
- *Networking and governance mechanisms* between marine, coastal and terrestrial protected areas needs to be put into place in order to guarantee sustainable results, in both environmental and economic terms;
- Taking into account the nature of proposed assistance under the first phase of the project, a special emphasis needs to be put on data generation, collection and analysis for evidence-based, transparent and participative responses and solutions;
- a more structured contribution in assessing, identifying, generating and structuring disaggregated data by sex is needed in order to understand what is happening at more granular levels, starting from the formulation to implementation, monitoring and evaluation so as to ensure that policies and services respond to the needs and priorities of men and women.

II. DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

II.1 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR COASTAL AND MARINE INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT

The UNDP/GEF project “*Improving Coverage and Management Effectiveness of marine and coastal protected areas*” (PHASE I) was designed to improve the coverage and management effectiveness of Albania’s network of MCPAs as an essential complement to its network of terrestrial protected areas (PAs) and contribute to Albania’s obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)² and the EU accession process. Significant achievements were made in this area by catalyzing the involvement of stakeholders in the designation process and management of the pilot MPA site, Karaburuni-Sazani in Vlora Bay and by supporting the establishment of a clear institutional and legal framework for MCPA designation and management. However, multiple stages of development are needed before an Albanian ecologically representative MCPA network is fully realized and can provide coastal communities with sustained benefits from the marine and coastal environment.

At this aim, there is a need the development of a second phase of the project on marine ecosystems by capitalizing on other actions undertaken (MAECI/IUCN Project) and those ongoing (NaturAL Project) as well as by substantiating the efforts of other past and present projects (CEMSA and IBECA financed by EU, UNDP EIMS financed by GEF, Ecosystem Services financed by World Bank).

The **needs assessment**, conducted, since January 2017 jointly by AICS Tirana and UNDP Albania, through extensive consultation with the respective institutions and during the communication and outreach with the responsible stakeholders, unveiled **three typologies of challenges** with regards to coastal and marine integrated management: i) the Karaburuni-Sazani MPA needs to adapt to the *environmental provisions* of the 2017 Law on Protected Areas; ii) the *governance structures* of the Karaburuni-Sazani MPA need to adapt both to the

² Albanian internal waters represent 735 km² and the territorial waters (extending from the internal waters to 12 nautical miles offshore) represent 5,322 km². The total is about 6,000 km², and the country needs to declare 600 km² to comply with the 10% MPAs requirement of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Aichi targets, 2012).

above Law on Protected Areas and to the Territorial and Administrative Reform (2015); iii) innovative governance mechanisms should be put in place with regards to coastal, marine and terrestrial protected areas integrated management.

Hence, **three categories of direct beneficiaries** are jointly identified: i) National Agency of Protected Areas (NAPA) and Regional Agency of Protected Area Vlore (RAPA Vlore) staff; ii) Municipality of Vlore staff; iii) local coastal communities of Vlore. The **indirect beneficiaries** of the project are the local, urban and rural, communities of the Municipality of Vlore.

The diversity of habitats, as well as the position of the coast, among the three bio-geographical sectors of the Mediterranean (Western, Eastern and Adriatic), have historically resulted in high marine and coastal biodiversity in Albania. However, today, Albanian marine waters host about 64 species of international concern including threatened or endangered: 5 fish species, 6 shark species, 3 species of sea turtle and the Mediterranean monk seal. Additionally, there are five species of cetaceans in Albanian waters, three of them are identified by ACCOBAMS as species in greatest danger of disappearing from the Mediterranean - namely short-beaked common dolphin, common bottlenose dolphin, and sperm whale.

In the last 20 years, Albania has undergone profound transformation in terms of spatial distribution of human activities, and in the standard of living in urban areas, especially for those areas that are growing rapidly³. With a population of about 3 million, Albania is today a middle-income country with a credible, multi-party democracy and market economy. Emigration and urbanization brought a structural shift away from agriculture and toward industry and service, allowing the economy to begin producing a variety of services ranging from banking to telecommunications and tourism. Migration towards coastal areas combined with rapid and largely unregulated urban, tourism and industrial development have led to water pollution, soil erosion, drainage of wetlands, extensive solid waste dumping and over fishing, threatening marine and coastal biodiversity and the sustainability of ecosystem goods and services. This has resulted in one of the highest rates of biodiversity loss in Europe.

In less than a decade, fishing along the entire marine stretch to a depth of 2 to 30 meters has led to the depletion of breeding grounds of *Sparidae*, *Soleidae*, *Mullidae*, and other families. Divers have illegally extracted the bivalve mollusc (*Lithophaga lithophaga*) in a way that damages coastal reefs. Bivalves (*Tapes decussatus*, *Venus verrucosa*, *Mytilus galloprovincialis*, *Perna nobilis*), and crustaceans of large size and high commercial value (such as *Palinurus elephas*, *Homarus gammarus*) have been illegally collected. Marine vertebrates such as sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), dolphins, sharks and otter (*Lutra lutra*) are trapped in fishing nets, and in most of the cases are killed instead of being released.

The weak institutional framework for MCPA governance and poorly defined regulatory policy and legal framework all contribute to the inability of MCPAs to effectively address a range of pressures on the coastal and marine environment, including activities and impacts such as unsustainable sand and gravel extraction, unregulated tourism and logging – resulting in coastal degradation and water quality impacts.

Finally, a specific attention will be paid to **mainstream gender** throughout all project activities. Female participation will be promoted and encouraged in the capacity building activities, outreach activities and workshops. Gender indicators will be taken into consideration during the program implementation; the priorities and needs of male and female community members will be sought out and reflected; the skills and capacities of men and women will be

³ World Bank (2016) website: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/albania>

utilized; engagement and participation of male and female government officials will be actively encouraged.

II.2 STATUS OF MCPAs IN ALBANIA

In addition to the notable reforms in nature protection policy, governance and legislation, Albanian has made significant progress in improving the coverage of its protected area system, effectively doubling the extent of the protected areas over the last 10 years from 238 347 ha in 2005 to 477 566 ha in 2016⁴.

The protected area system covers an area of 477 566 ha, some 16.61% of the total surface area of the country (including the regional parks), National Parks (~46% of the total area of the protected area estate), Managed Natural Reserves (~28%) and Protected Landscapes (~21%) collectively represent almost 95% (433 545ha) of the total extent of the protected area system. The first Marine Protected Area (MPA) in Albania was designated in 2010 as the “Karaburuni-Sazani” Marine National Park (124.3 km²)⁵.

The Ministry of Environment’s *Strategic Plan for Marine and Coastal Protected Areas* (SPMCPA), which was developed within the UNDP/GEF MCPA Project (PHASE I), identified the following new 11 priority areas to be assessed for protection:

1. The Bay of Porto-Palermo
2. The area from Vjosa river mouth to Sazani and Karaburuni (the entire Vlora Bay)
3. The area from Cape Rodoni to Patoku lagoon
4. The coastal area from Buna river mouth to Viluni lagoon
5. Bay of Drini and Mati (this area includes all three previous areas) The area from Kalaja e Turres to Spille
6. The area in front of Himare-Porto-Palermo-Borsh
7. The area north of Durres (currila) to Bishtpalla
8. Southern bay of Saranda-Butrint
9. Northern Bay of Saranda
10. The coastal area in front of Kune-Vain Lagoon

The selection involved the following 3-stage process:

1. Identification of sites according to ecological criteria: i) high natural biological diversity, ii) representativeness, iii) productivity and iv) important for a species.
2. Prioritization of sites for designation: i) species or habitats that are endangered, declining or threatened with extinction, ii) important for a habitat/biotope according to N2000 list of habitats, iii) important for species according to N2000 list of species of concern, iv) sensitivity, v) naturalness.
3. Practical considerations: i) size, ii) cultural/recreational values, iii) degree of acceptance, iv) potential for restoration and v) success of management measures.

⁴ Refl. www.mjedisi.gov.al

⁵ INCA 2013 “Strategic Plan for Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (SPMCPAs)” developed with the support of UNDP in the frame of the Project “Improving Coverage and Management Effectiveness of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas”.

However, due to major information gaps on the distribution and conservation status of important species and habitats along the Albanian coast, only habitats and species which are already considered threatened or endangered (NATURA 2000, National red lists) were considered in the selection process.

While the distribution of *Posidonia* beds, sand dunes and coastal lagoons along the Albanian coast is well documented, there is little knowledge about the extent of different types of reefs. Reef distribution was therefore defined based on expert judgement using the physical map of Albania. No adequate and detailed information about the conservation status of all these habitats exists to date. For the distribution range of mammals and fish, the IUCN Red List Spatial Data was applied, while for birds, the “Bird species distribution maps of the world. Version 2.0” was used (courtesy of BirdLife International and NatureServe).

Due to the data limitations, the current site selection for MCPAs identified in the SPMCPA is still far from being representative or from meeting the Convention on Biological Diversity target of 10% coverage.

II.3 KEY BARRIERS

The UNDP/GEF MCPA Project (PHASE I), together with the legal, institutional and policy reforms carried out by the Albanian Government in recent years, have started to address some of the most critical barriers to developing an effectively designed and fully functional network of MCPAs for Albania. The following barriers remain and will be addressed through this project:

Table 1. Barriers to be addressed

Challenge	Status 2016
<p>1. Poor Bio-geographical Representation of Marine Biodiversity</p>	<p>The system of MCPAs identified in the SPMCPA is far from being ecologically representative. Several assessments of habitat and species distribution and conservation status as well as fish abundance have been conducted in recent years by local NGOs, local and international researchers with the support of international donors (APAWA, Royal Albanian Foundation). However, data are still limited and, more importantly, they are not contributing to a national system of data collection and monitoring system. No coordination has been put in place yet.</p>
<p>2. Weak Institutional Framework for MCPA Governance</p>	<p>Inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral coordination is still limited.</p> <p>The Management Committee of Karaburuni-Sazani, which was established within the UNDP/GEF MCPA project, represents a first step towards improved coordination and will serve as a model for MCPAs throughout Albania.</p> <p>The National Agency for Protected Areas (NAPA) is committed to further facilitating management committees at each PA. Additionally, it has recently established a Coordination Forum to further coordination among projects, organizations and donors supporting PAs in Albania.</p>
<p>3. Capacities at the Individual and Institutional Levels</p>	<p>The administrative capacity and professional standards of bodies charged with the implementation of the EU acquis needs to be strengthened and the independence of regulatory bodies safeguarded. Challenges include limited enforcement due to the weak capacity of the environmental authorities at both the central and regional levels, and a lack of resources for monitoring and ensuring full compliance with environmental standards.</p> <p>NAPA employs today about 224 people, of which 20 in the central office and 204 in the Regional Administration of Protected Areas (RAPA). New staff will be hired in the coming years. However, Albanian PAs are still very poorly resourced and severely understaffed. Most of the staff needs continuous capacity building, through training, exchange programs and study visits.</p>

Challenge	Status 2016
	<p>Moreover, turnover rate within public administration remains high, particularly following political elections. New elections are planned for 2017. This might have an impact at the governance level.</p> <p>NAPA is committed to deliver a series of professional and technical training workshops for MCPA staff and will facilitate study visits and staff exchange programs, but no comprehensive capacity development program has been developed yet</p>
<p>4. Sufficient and Sustainable Funding for Protected Areas in Albania</p>	<p>While the Decision No. 102 (4/2/2015) makes provision for NAPA to source funding from the state budget, donors, delivery of ‘services’ and ‘other legal sources’, the current funding baselines for the Albanian PA system, and the capacities to administer and improve PA revenue streams, are still well below the levels required to ensure that the protected area system can effectively serve its function as an important tool to protect biodiversity. If NAPA is to fulfil its PA mandate, it will need to have the ability to: (i) secure sufficient, stable and long-term financial resources for protected areas; (ii) allocate these resources in a timely manner and appropriate form to cover the full costs of protected areas; and (iii) ensure that the protected areas are managed effectively and efficiently with respect to conservation and other complementary objectives.</p>

III. Project Rationale and Strategy

III.1 Intervention strategy and approach

The second phase intervention strategy and approach is based on the achievements and recommendations of the first phase project. More specifically, pursuing toward conservation of biodiversity in marine environment, this proposal intends to ensure the successful future of the MPA through an **integrated management approach**.

The social, cultural and economic benefits that a PA shares among the stakeholders are met with the final aim to guarantee the due sustainability of an MPA when management plan and governance framework are interconnected and long-term financing and large scale community support are secured.

For coastal communities to thrive, they need to live alongside healthy and abundant natural resources that provide long-term benefits including food security, income generation opportunities, cultural values, and quality of life factors. A well-designed network of MCPAs can provide an opportunity to replenish and maintain the population and diversity of fishery species and associated habitats so that local communities can increase and sustain catch, along with other benefits provided by an intact ecosystem (e.g. nature-based tourism, etc.).

Albania is a country where designating and effectively managing MCPAs is still a fairly new concept and where sustainability is still far from being mainstreamed in any economic development planning considerations concerning coastal and marine areas.

Consequently, the project **intervention strategy**, beyond the measurable targets defined, will have the general aim of establishing well-functioning governance mechanisms to run MCPAs, with specific focus on the effectiveness and sustainability. The project will achieve this through constantly monitoring variables and progress at technical level for each mechanism foreseen and amending swiftly as needed based on progress analysis. Each mechanism to be established under each of the project outcomes will be considered as a **pilot intervention** and the expected result of such piloting will be to achieve, by the end of the program, consolidated and

sustainable mechanisms that can be run other MCPAs and MPAs, hence constituting **valuable experiences to be replicated and up scaled at National level**.

The specific objective will be achieved through **an incremental approach to both building the capacity and moving forward with the process to design an MCPA network** and ensuring a more sustainable economic development of the Albanian coastal and marine areas.

Hence, the three project outcomes, correspond to the *incremental approach* logic: i) first, strengthening the effective implementation of the model of practice of the Sazani-Karaburini MCPA (taking stock of the first phase; ii) consequently, building institutional capacities and setting up pilot governance MCPA mechanisms and structures; iii) scaling up at National level the pilot model in order to build a long-lasting integrated network between MCPAs and MPAs, and MCPAs themselves.

III.2 Project relevance

The project contributes to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 14 “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”.

The project is relevant to the **Italian Development Cooperation “Documento Triennale di Programmazione e di Indirizzo 2016-2018”**, which gives particular attention to environmental mitigation and resilience measures, risk management systems as well as to the strengthening of social cohesion, economic development and inclusive governance models on the utilization of environmental resources⁶.

The project reflects all the principles ascribed to the **“Linee Guida Ambiente” of the Italian Development Cooperation**, and is specifically based on the principle of “environmental integration as a fundamental tool to ensure sustainable development”⁷.

The project is relevant to the **strategy of the 2017-2019 Italian Development Cooperation Agency in Albania** which designs Italy as a lead development and integration partner for the development of the “Sea Region”, combining different financing mechanisms (soft loans, bilateral grants and EU cross-border and decentralized grants), in an integrated economic approach, aiming at specific interventions in fisheries and stock assessment, aquaculture, ports and marinas infrastructure, responsible and sustainable tourism, marine and coastal protected areas development, capacity-building and sector vocational education and training.

The project is also relevant to the **Italian-Albanian Development Cooperation Protocol 2014-2016**, with specific reference to the pillar “Invest in people and social cohesion” and “Competitiveness and Innovation for growth”.

The project is also relevant to the National Strategy on Gender Empowerment (2016) and to the **“Linee Guida sull’empowerment delle donne”** of the Italian Development Cooperation.

Finally the project is relevant to the disposal of Title II of **the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union**, Art. 11, that states that “environmental needs and actions should be integrated in the definition and implementation of the EU policies, with particular reference to the promotion of the sustainable development.”

⁶ Documento Triennale di Programmazione e di Indirizzo 2016-2018”, p.41

⁷ Linee Guida Ambiente , 2011, p.52

The project will leverage the experience and expertise from other programs and projects within Albania and the broader region. The intention is to build on the lessons learned from these projects, amplify the results of these projects and/or build partnerships through these projects.

Complementary Program Partners with specific activities identified in this proposal

ACTIVITY N.	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	ERSHIP
1.1	Action Plan, Environmental Education Strategy, Financial Plan for the Information Centre of K-S MPA	Collaborate with and build off of the experience of the IUCN/AICS, NaturAL projects ⁸ on PA Visitor Centres.
1.2	Implement the Karaburuni-Sazani MPA Sustainable Tourism Plan	Technical support from the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation programme assisting the Albanian Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) ⁹ .
1.3	Assessing fishery associations and support the transition to Sustainable Fisheries for Karaburuni-Sazani MPA	Replication of the NEMO project model. The original NEMO project aimed at strengthening socio-economic trans-border development in the coastal communities of Libya, Tunisia and Egypt through the promotion of the fishing sector. The project is being replicated in other coastal areas in the Mediterranean.
2.1	Strengthen the Management Committee of the Karaburuni-Sazani MPA	Build on and strengthen the Management Committee of Karaburuni-Sazani MPA by extending and securing the engagement of all government agencies and economic sectors with authority and interest in the marine/coastal areas.
2.2	Capacity development	Collaborate and build off of the experience of the IUCN/AICS, NaturAL project and seek synergies with other parallel actions (e.g. Conservatoire du Littoral, MedPAN, IUCN, INCA, WWF).
3.1	Collect socioeconomic and biophysical baseline data in coastal and marine areas	Build off of the results of IUCN/AICS NaturAL project, CEMSA and IBECA EU projects, UNDP/GEF EIMS project, and taking into account any existing databases and programs (e.g. National Waste Management Program (Ministry of Infrastructure), as well as national strategies (e.g. rural development strategy of the Ministry of Agriculture for agro pastoral products and fishery). Build partnerships with local, national and international universities (University of Vlore, Tirana, IAM Bari, University of Genova, Napoli, Lecce) will be considered for baseline data collection and analysis.
3.4	Engage experts in characterizing and assessing priority areas	
3.5	MCPA network design with coastal communities	
3.3	Develop stakeholder-based GIS decision-making tool DSS	Build off of the experience of the IUCN/AICS Project in Velipoje and Shebenik PAs in terms of the development of a Decision Support System (DSS), as well as of the successes of the NaturAL Project in terms of Natura 2000 network site identification. It will also take into consideration and expand on the biodiversity database BioNNA currently used at NAPA and collaborate with the EIMS UNDP/GEF Project for what it concerns the Information Environmental Management System structure currently designed for the Albanian Ministry of Environment.

III.3 PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

The long term goal of the project is to secure the long-term protection of Albania's unique coastal and marine biodiversity for current and future generations.

⁸ <http://www.natura.al/index.php?lang=en>

⁹ http://www.itacalbania.org/settore_info.php?l=e&ids=250

The specific objective of the project is:

To develop scientifically based and stakeholder supported MCPA network which considers the entire ecosystem (including humans) and aims to maintain healthy, productive and resilient ecosystems so they can provide the ecosystem services humans require while allowing for the recovery and maintenance of the unique marine biodiversity of Albania. In doing so, the project will address the institutional setting, the socio-economic needs of coastal communities and the capacity building challenges to ensure effective management of the network.

The specific objective will be achieved along the following *Outcomes* and *Outputs*:

OUTCOME 1. STRENGTHEN THE MODEL OF PRACTICE FOR MCPAs IN ALBANIA

Karaburuni-Sazani Marine National Park advances towards becoming a Model of Practice for future MPA development in Albania, proving that MPAs can effectively protect marine biodiversity, maintain/restore ecosystem health and provide a sustainable source of economic growth.

Output 1.1: Strengthen the capacities of the RAPA Vlore for better controlling and managing the MCPA and support local tourism related activities.

- a. During the phase I, UNDP has provided RAPA with a rubber boat for patrolling the area. Although a very important and useful investment the experience so far has indicated the need for an additional boat (not rubber boat). The additional boat will improve the capacities of the RAPA for patrolling the western side of Karaburun and thus better controlling and preventing illegal activities (illegal fishing, diving).
- b. Boat anchoring along the Karaburuni peninsula has been identified as one of the main threats to marine biodiversity. The project will provide a series of floating docks to be employed at the most visited beaches along the Karaburun peninsula during summer.
- c. Additional to floating docks the project will provide several mooring buoys particularly for diving boats. This will not only avoid anchoring but will also serve to limit diving to designated places.
- d. Considering that the above-mentioned equipment will be used seasonally (during summer), it is necessary to provide for a storage house¹⁰ to keep them during winter.

Output 1.2: Support the functionality of the Information Centre of Karaburuni-Sazani MPA to raise the awareness and educate local communities and MPA user groups on the values and benefits of MCPAs and increase their engagement in the MPA management.

- a. Based on the experience gathered during the phase I of the Information Centre develop through participatory process and make operative a Strategic Plan for the Information Centre. The Strategic Plan will define the mission and management structure of the Centre, its financial/business plan and will include an environmental education and awareness raising plan. The Strategic Plan will be conceived to address the needs and expectations of local communities (Vlora, Oriqumi) and other user groups (e.g. tourists, nature-based tourism service providers).
- b. Identified priority activities will be implemented within the life span of the Phase II (e.g. activities with schools, tourist operators, fishery user groups)

¹⁰ Considering that along the Karaburun peninsula there are some unused military buildings, it could be the case that one of these buildings is transformed into a storage house.

Output 1.3: Support the implementation the Karaburuni-Sazani MPA Sustainable Tourism Plan

- a. Support the establishment of the Vlora diving center
- b. A number of signalling buoys marking the border of the MPA and or its Core Zone will be installed. During phase 1, UNDP in cooperation with the CPEF funded project has installed 7 signalling buoys along the border of the MPA. This investment was well seen from most of stakeholders since provide a clear visual idea about the extension of the MPA.
- c. In cooperation with RAPA Vlore produce and install several information tables (boards) providing information on different activities to be carried out within or around the MPA.
- d. In conjunction with nature-based tourism service providers (boat owners and divers), develop a Code of Conduct (Best Management Practices) to prevent, control and/or minimize impacts from tourism activities in Karaburuni-Sazani MPA
- e. Engage tourism accommodation providers (hotel owners) in Vlora bay in a Sustainable Tourism Certification Process such as Eco label.

Output 1.4: Assessment of the status of fisheries organizations to support transition to sustainable fisheries in line with Maritime and Fisheries Policies 2014-2020.

OUTCOME 2. STRENGTHEN GOVERNANCE-BASED INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY AND SUPPORT TO THE MCPAS NETWORK

NAPA is the lead agency on the development and implementation of a network of MCPAs for Albania, however, successful execution requires a forum for cooperation and collaboration between stakeholders at all levels of government from municipalities to the national level ministries.

Output 2.1: Strengthen the Management Committee of the Karaburuni-Sazani MPA, the National Park Llogara and the Natural Complex Karaburuni-Reza e Kanalit-Orikum-Tragjas-Dukat, and build the foundations of a collaborative decision-making body for the future MCPA network.

- a. Support and facilitate the RAPA of Vlore as technical secretary in the organization of the biannual meetings of the Management Committee and ensure the active participation to the meetings of all relevant agencies, stakeholder groups and economic sectors with authority on or direct interest in coastal and marine areas and resources.
- b. Develop an inter and intra-government agency decision-making model (set of protocols and procedures based upon the structure of a Decision Support System) that will be used as a collaborative format for addressing management issues in regards to the MCPAs network (Albania-wide), both for long-term planning purposes as well as for addressing immediate and unanticipated needs to natural resource management on an on-going basis.

Output 2.2: Support continued capacity development of relevant authorities, administrations and stakeholder groups participating to the Management Committee, for the effective implementation and monitoring of the MCPA network, through a balanced combination of in-class workshops, on-the-job activities and study visits.

OUTCOME 3. SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MCPA NETWORK BY REPLICATING THE KARABURUNI-SAZANI MPA MODEL

As within any natural resource management planning process, the thoroughness of the pre-planning process has an effect on how well the multi-stakeholder process moves forward, the MCPA network meets the intended objectives and the support from stakeholders when it comes to implementation. To ensure a well-designed and results-based network of MCPAs, the location, size, distribution and management of the sites should be informed by sound biophysical and socioeconomic data. And, as learned from Karaburuni-Sazani MPA, successful stakeholder engagement is the key to developing and implementing results-based MCPAs. Accordingly, an upfront investment in characterizing stakeholders, developing relationships, and providing trade-off schemes will most likely result in benefits for everyone from the MCPA network.

Output 3.1: Carry out a gap analysis on the existing information and on the basis of the outputs feed a dedicated database with specific baseline data (both desk top and field collection as needed) from key locations throughout the marine and coastal areas of Albania (e.g., territorial waters, coastal lagoons). Selection of sites will be informed by the objectives established for the network of MCPAs (see Activity 3.2b)

- a. Gap analysis and consecutive data collection on habitat viability and living marine species abundance and distribution to identify critical areas for habitat protection
- b. Gap analysis and consecutive data collection on uses and the socioeconomic value of these areas to be considered for MCPAs

Output 3.2: Support the establishment of a network of MCPAs for Albania

- a. Defining the vision of the MCPA network: Hold a workshop with relevant government stakeholders and project staff to determine: the make-up of the *stakeholder planning teams*, structure of the planning process, geographic units for the planning process (whole coastline or sub-regions) overall budget requirements, technical support, timelines, data needs
- b. Defining the process to establish the MCPA network: Hold a workshop with relevant government stakeholders to determine overall objectives for the MCPA network (drivers of the design of the network) and the communication activities that will be implemented in support of the planning process.
- c. Presentation of proposals: Hold a workshop with the above actors to provide technical recommendations in designing the MCPA network

Output 3.3: Develop stakeholder-based GIS decision-making tool (DSS) populated with Albanian coastal and marine data sets and capable of developing and analysing trade-off scenario options to meet management objectives, and building off of previous experiences in Albania.

Output 3.4: Establish priority areas for protection for the MCPA network based on identified objectives (see Activity 3.2b)

- a. Engage experts in characterizing and assessing the identified priority area including location, size and distribution of sites based on species life history factors and habitat types (this will be further ground-truthed and verified by local knowledge of stakeholders).

Output 3.5: Identify, characterize and start to work with each identified key coastal community representatives (stakeholders) to engage in the MCPA network establishment process.

- a. Identify, characterize and begin the socialization process with stakeholders throughout the coastal range of Albania using Nemo Project approach to provide them with the opportunity to recognize the need and value of MCPAs.
- b. Hold a workshop with stakeholders to identify *the Community Expectations From Their MCPA* and the *Characterization and Mapping of Natural Resource and Social Targets* specific to their management area.
- c. Use the GIS decision-making tool (DSS) (Activity 3.3) to assist in developing different scenarios and understand to what extent each scenario meets the objectives for the MCPA network with each identified key coast community

III. 4 EXPECTED RESULTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

The long term goal of the project is to secure the long-term protection of Albania’s unique coastal and marine biodiversity for current and future generations.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

To develop scientifically based and stakeholder supported MCPA network which considers the entire ecosystem (including humans) and aims to maintain healthy, productive and resilient ecosystems so they can provide the ecosystem services humans require while allowing for the recovery and maintenance of the unique marine biodiversity of Albania. In doing so, the project will address the institutional setting and capacity building challenges to ensure effective management of the network.

(i) **Expected results**

Table 2. Project Expected Results

The project results can be summarized in three general areas as following:

Area	2016 Baseline	Expected Results at End of Project
Area under protection as Coastal and Marine Protected Areas	In 2016, Albania featured: - 8 mainly coastal PAs established along the coast ¹¹	Priority areas for MCPA network protection characterized, including location, size and distribution of sites based on species life history factors and habitat types, to increase coverage of the coastal and marine protected areas of

¹¹ National Marine Park Karaburuni-Sazani (IUCN II), Protected Landscape of Buna river and surrounding wetlands (including Velipoja and Viluni wetland area) (IUCN V), Managed Nature Reserve of Kune –Vaini-Tale (IUCN IV), Managed Nature Reserve of Patok-Fushekuqe (including the Patoku lagoon), Managed Nature Reserve of Rrushkulli, National Park Divjake-Karavasta (including the Karavasta lagoon), Protected Landscape of Vjosa river (including the Narta lagoon), National Park Butrinti (Including the Butrinti lake). From: Vaso, Adrian (2013) “Buffer Zone Assessment with Relevance on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas” – UNDP Albania

Area	2016 Baseline	Expected Results at End of Project
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 coastal areas under an International Protection Status (e.g. World Heritage sites, SPAs – Barcelona Convention)¹² - 11 marine and coastal sites identified for protection in the SPMCPA ¹³. Two of these areas, Porto Palermo and Cape of Rodoni, are in the process to be proclaimed. Assessment and public hearing conducted in the two areas. For Porto Palermo is foreseen the status of Natural Park and the documents for proclamation of the Park (with a surface of 2 067.75 ha) have been shared with relevant ministries. <p>However, the identified system of MCPAs is far from being ecologically representative.</p>	<p>Albania through the engagement and contribution of experts and user groups/stakeholders.</p>
<p>Enabling environment created for the expansion and completion of the MCPA network status</p>	<p>A Management Committee of Karaburun-Sazani MPA was established as a cross-sectoral body through Ministerial order: it hosts representatives of the main central and local authorities, NGOs, user groups and other stakeholders and is chaired by NAPA.</p> <p>In 2016, a Coordination Forum was established and set operative by NAPA including all donors and projects operating on PAs in Albania.</p> <p>Staff of the Ministry of Environment, NAPA, RAPA and other institutions have been trained on issues related to MPA designation and management. Curricula and 8 training modules on marine biodiversity conservation and management were developed and are today applied by NAPA and other NGOs in Albania.</p> <p>The EU funded “NaturAL” project is also building the capacity of NAPA and its Regional Administrations in PA planning and management.</p>	<p>The Management Committee of the Karaburun-Sazani MPA, the National Park Llogara and the Natural Complex Karaburun-Reza e Kanalit-Orikum-Tragjas-Dukat is operative and addressing immediate and unanticipated needs to natural resource management on an on-going basis.</p> <p>An inter- and intra-government agency decision-making model (set of protocols and procedures) is developed to collaboratively address management issues concerning the MCPA network throughout Albania, both for long-term planning purposes and immediate and unanticipated needs to natural resource management, on an on-going basis.</p>
<p>Increased Systemic, Institutional and Individual capacities for establishing and managing an MCPA system</p>	<p>UNDP scorecard ratings = Systematic 67% - Institutional 67% - Individual 67%</p> <p>Compared with 2015, the UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard for MCPAs shows an increased systematic, institutional and individual capacity. The legislation is under development. A new institution is established, NAPA, which shows a strong political support to PAs. NAPA will help</p>	<p>Development Scorecard for MCPAs shows an increased systematic, institutional and individual capacity by at least 20% in each category.</p>

¹² Butrinti lagoon is part of World Heritage site (UNESCO), Kune, Vaini, Patoku, Karavasta, Narta, Orikuimi, Butrinti lagoons are identified as potential Special Protected Areas (SPAs - Barcelona Convention) and Important Bird Areas (IBAs), Velipoja, Viluni, Karavasta and Butrinti lagoons are designated as Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention). From: Vaso, Adrian (2013) “Buffer Zone Assessment with Relevance on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas” – UNDP Albania

¹³The coastal area from Buna river mouth to Viluni lagoon, The coastal area in front of Kune-Vain Lagoon, The area from Cape Rodoni to Patoku lagoon, Bay of Drini and Mati (this area includes all three previous areas), The area north of Durres (currila) to Bishtpalla, The area from Kalaja e Turres to Spille, The area from Vjosa river mouth to Sazan and Karaburun (the entire Vlora Bay), The area in front of Himare-Porto-Palermo-Borsh, The Bay of Porto-Palermo, the Northern and Southern bay of Saranda. From: INCA 2013 “Strategic Plan for Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (SPMCPAs)” developed with the support of UNDP in the frame of the Project “Improving Coverage and Management Effectiveness of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas”.

Area	2016 Baseline	Expected Results at End of Project
	building consensus among all institutions and stakeholders, mobilize information and knowledge and increase capacity to manage, monitor, evaluate, and report.	
Improved management effectiveness of Karaburuni-Sazani MPA as a replicable model	Stakeholders are unanimous in considering the results achieved in Karaburuni-Sazani MPA as a success. There is today strong interest in replicating this model and expanding it to an ecologically representative network of MCPAs starting with Porto Palermo MPA and Cape of Rodoni MPA. However, there are indications that institutionally and operationally there is still work to be done. And for this to be a truly replicable model lessons learned and best practices should be well documented and made easily accessible	A Strategic Plan for the Information Centre of Karaburuni-Sazani MPA, including an environmental education and awareness raising plan and a financial plan developed and made operative by implementing identified priority actions; the current Sustainable Tourism Plan implemented; at least 2 hotel owners in Vlorë Bay engaged in a certification process; An assessment completed contributing to transition to Sustainable Fisheries as by EU Maritime and fisheries policies 2014-2020.

(ii) Partnerships

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

NAPA is the main government institution in charge of this project. However, the scale and scope of the project encompasses a broad range of government entities from the National to Municipal level. These entities will be subject to engagement in this project in different capacities based on their jurisdictional authority in relationship to MCPAs.

Table 3. Government partnerships

Authority	te and Role in the project
NATIONAL GOVERNMENT	
Council of Ministers	Council approves all enabling legislative and regulatory frameworks for the functioning of the protected area system; including NAPA.
Ministry of Environment	The Ministry is the focal point institution for the implementation of the CBD, and an implementing partner for MCPAs. It is responsible for preparing the enabling legislative and regulatory framework for MCPAs activities and ensuring that they are presented to the Council of Ministers for approval. The Ministry is responsible for creating the enabling conditions for implementation of all MCPAs activities develop and present a motivation for an increase in funding from the state budget for the MCPA network.
National Agency of Protected Areas (NAPA)	The NAPA is the key institution to benefit from the project, and will be responsible for the sustainability of all project activities. It has the status of a General Directorate in the MoE and is organised with Regional Protected Area Administrations (RAPA) at the regional level. It is responsible for the management, protection, development, expansion and operation of the national PAs system, which in 2016 accounted for about 16% of the territory of Albania. NAPA manages the network of protected areas and other natural networks as Natura2000 under management plans. NAPA monitors flora and fauna in these areas. Member of the Project Board and Management Committee
National Environmental Agency/ Regional Environmental Agencies	The NEA issues any required environmental permits in the coastal and marine environment and will enforce provisions of environmental legislation relating to EIAs, environmental permitting and coordination of monitoring activities in the MCPA network. Cross sectorial institution - partner

Authority	Role and Role in the project
State Inspectorate of Environment, Forests and Water	The SEIFW supports the enforcement of legislation on environmental protection, forest, water and fisheries activities in the coastal and marine environment. Member of the Management Committee
Ministry of Urban Development	It ensures the compliance of development and construction activities in the coastal and marine environment. Cross sectorial institution - partner
National Spatial Planning Agency	It develops planning standards and supervises implementation of spatial planning instruments. Cross sectorial institution - partner
Inter-institutional Operational Maritime Centre (IMOC)	The IMOC is an inter-ministerial institution which has as its own task to ensure the surveillance of Albanian maritime space to realise organisation, planning, cooperation and leading of operations at sea in compliance with national and international maritime legislation. IMOC guaranties management and control of Albanian maritime borders, safety of life at sea and interaction of state institutions that have responsibilities and interests in the maritime space. It plans, organizes and directs maritime operations in Albanian Maritime Domain, in accordance with international and national maritime legislations. IMOC guarantees management of Albanian Sea border, and interaction of institutions that have responsibilities and interests in Albanian Maritime Domain. Cross sectorial institution - partner
Ministry of Economic Development, Tourism, Trade and Entrepreneurship	It is responsible for setting up, implementing and monitoring the National Tourism Strategy; developing the legal framework for tourism development, related planning and development process; supporting regional administrations and tourism organizations at the national, regional and local level. Cross sectorial institution - partner
Service Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture	It is responsible for all services related to infrastructure management and data collecting of fishing and aquaculture activities and ensuring compliance with legal requirements on the protection of fisheries and aquaculture in Albania. It includes the Aquaculture Sector, the Finance Sector, Services Sector, the Ports Management and Monitoring and Control Division. Cross sectorial institution - partner
National Coastal Agency	It is responsible for coastal protection, promotion and monitoring of projects for the development of the coastal zone. Cross sectorial institution - partner
National Water Council (WC)	It is a central decision-making authority that determines the national policy over water resources. The Prime Minister chairs the National Council of Water. NWC has its Technical Secretariat as its executive authority. Cross sectorial institution - partner
NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION	
Regional Administrations of Protected Areas (RAPA)	RAPA are organized under NAPA/ MoE and ensure PA management and monitoring.
Regional Environment Inspectorate	It is responsible for law enforcement, controlling illegal activities; fire protection.
Regional Environment Agency	Present in each Prefecture; implementing procedures related to environmental licenses; collecting environmental data. Member of the Management Committee and key actor on the project implementation
Fisheries Inspectorate	It is responsible for surveillance of fisheries activities. Member of the Management Committee and important project stakeholder
Border Police and Immigration	It is responsible for surveillance in the coastal and marine environment. Cross sectorial institution - partner
LOCAL GOVERNMENT	

Authority	te and Role in the project
The local authorities and administrative bodies	Local government authorities, municipalities and communes, represent an administrative and territorial unit covering the urban and rural areas respectively. The local government structures are required to fulfil joint obligations with regard to the protection of the environment and implementation of environmental law. These authorities are empowered with the designing of environmental action plans in accordance with national environmental strategies and the technical assistance provided by the Ministries. Member of the Management Committee and important project stakeholder
Prefectures	It provides and maintains municipal public services (water supply, sewerage, waste management) in protected areas. It supervises legal framework implementation and controls local government authorities. Cross sectorial institution - partners
County Councils	It develops and implements regional policies and coordinates with central and local government authorities. Cross sectorial institution - partners
Municipalities	It is responsible for local governance, management and administration of resources (including nature resources) within the Municipality. It is the main structure with a significant role in administration of the sea and coastal issues. It has decision power over local development projects (businesses). Cross sectorial institution - partners

(iii) Stakeholder Engagement

Primary stakeholders include NAPA, other government entities from the national to regional to municipal level, as well as universities, associations, NGOs and private sector entities whom have an interest in or will potentially be impacted by the MCPA network.

The project proposes to reach out to all stakeholder groups and will seek maximum engagement in its activities, mainly through the strengthening of the Management Committee of Karaburuni-Sazani MPA. This Committee will provide oversight to ensure that all stakeholder views are continuously reflected in the planned activities, training opportunities and are engaged in a participatory approach to the development of the MCPA network.

Table 4. Sample of Private and Public Non-Governance Sector Stakeholders

Entity	Interests
NGOs AND DONORS/FUNDERS	
Environmental NGOs	Selected NGOs will support the implementation of project activities in targeted protected areas, focusing its support on deriving benefits to biodiversity conservation and/or the socio-economic up-liftment of local communities.
Divers associations	Gathers the professional and amateur divers as well as promotes and develops diving education and practice in coastal area of Albania
Association for Protection of Aquatic Wildlife of Albania (APAWA)	A non-profit organization based in Tirana which develops and implements projects and activities with focus on aquatic life and conservation wildlife and biota in water ecosystems.
Organisation for Environmental Education – SEEP	Association focused mainly on public information and education in Vlora Bay.

Entity	Interests
Centre for Research, Cooperation and Development - CRCDC	Association dedicated to public awareness and education, research and capacity building on issues related to sustainable development and nature conservation in Vlora Bay.
INCA	A non-profit organization dealing with several biodiversity conservation programs, nature protection and coastal zone management activities. It is the main NGO to work on marine issues in Albania.
ECAT Tirana	A non-profit organization engaged in environment management programs. Among others, it has also implemented projects on coastal zone management and planning (PLANCOAST) as well as undertaking an IPA joint application with other Mediterranean countries on coastal zone management
Albanian Network for Study of Marine and Lagoon Ecosystems (MarLagunAlb)	A recently established forum of professionals whose main area of activities is research and monitoring of aquatic life and ecosystems
REC-Albania	Regional organization focusing public awareness, environment education and information nationwide.
LOCAL COMMUNITY	
Local communities	Local communities live coastal areas in vicinity of MCPA and their livelihoods are interwoven with the use of natural resources.
BUSINESS SECTOR	
Tour and Hotel Operators	Although recently opened to the international market the traditional “sun and sand” tourism is the main tourism product offered by the hotel and tour operator in Albania.
Dive Boat Operators	Offering diving opportunities in Vlora Bay.
Private Marinas	Private marinas, berths, fully equipped, organises regattas
USER ASSOCIATIONS	
Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Vlore	Association of private businesses throughout Albania, potential for promotion
Fisherman Associations	Potential partners for monitoring, ranger duties, technical support.
Aquaculture Operation Owners	Economic operator licensed by the MoE for the management of the fishery resources in compliance with the fishery law and other economic /fiscal regulatory provisions in Albania.
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS	
Donors and Funders	Donors/funders will be sought to collaborate with key project partners in identifying funding opportunities in the protected area system, aligning these funding opportunities with the strategic plan for NAPA and the individual park management plans, and mobilizing funding support to respond to these opportunities.
European Union	It supports biodiversity conservation in the Albania.
Italian Cooperation	Italy is today the first bilateral donor and overall the third after the European Union and the World Bank. It is committed to supporting the ongoing processes of institutional strengthening and socio-economic growth and assisting Albania in its path to European Union membership. Its interventions have paid attention to environmental protection, which is considered a priority for promoting sustainable, enduring development in Albania.
World Bank	It supports projects aimed at delivering an immediate alleviation of poverty and providing sustainable tools and long-lasting development to foster further growth. It has promoted integrated coastal zones management and sustainable economic development, particularly in the southern region of Albania.
MedPAN	The Network of MPA managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN) is supporting MPA regionally, mainly through a small grant programme. It is currently supporting the establishment of Mediterranean Trust Fund for MPAs.
Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)	Donor supporting a project on sustainable tourism management in Vlora area.

Entity	Interests
Waitt Foundation	Donor funding baseline marine and coastal features assessments/surveys to advancing the creation of MPA in Albania.
Conservatoire du Littoral	It supports the MoE in the designation of small islands as PAs and promoting their sustainable management and development.

(iv) Risks and Mitigation

As with any project of this scope and complexity, there is no complete assurance against the potential external risks that could impact the project outcome. To the extent possible, the project has tried to anticipate these risks and be prepared to take measures to mitigate the impacts on the project.

Table 5. Risks and Mitigation Strategies

RISKS	MITIGATION
1. Continued institutional reform (and elections) in Albania may necessitate revision of project approaches to policy- and decision-making on MCPAs	1. The project will put in place a Collaborative Management Body as a lasting sustainable institutional network of stakeholders engaged in MCPA decision-making. Representation on the Forum will be “function-based” (vs. “person-based”), thus it will ensure that whatever institution obtains responsibilities for MCPA decision making, it is included in the Forum. This will prevent any disruption of national-level policy-making and decision-making on MCPAs.
2. Political will of the relevant Albanian authorities to support and implement the MCPA network is sustained	2. Establishing MCPAs has been identified as a national priority as articulated in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2012 – 2020). The UNDP/GEF MCPA project has already created a good baseline level of awareness and interest in national and local institutions on coastal and marine PAs. The project will build on the consultative approach developed under the MCPA project and maintain the good working relationships established. The Karaburuni-Sazani MPA will serve as a model to stress win-win opportunities and demonstrate possibilities for meeting ecological objectives, while also generating socio-economic benefits for local populations.
3. Insufficient financial resources raised to implement the network of MCPAs	3. The “Law on Protected Areas” did not provide for rules regarding funding for implementation or management and conservation measures for PAs. And in the same way that significant parts of environmental investment in the country have been supported by strong donor assistance, PAs are funded through international projects. The revised “Law on Protected Areas”, which should be approved with 2017, provides for a proper basis for diversification of funding sources for PAs and for the ability of PAs to retain their own revenues. The project, therefore will put special emphasis on allowing PAs to earn and retain own income. The project will showcase business planning in the Karaburuni-Sazani MPA (through its Information Centre).
4. Marine and coastal ecosystems are susceptible to climate change impacts	4. Project activities aimed at establishing the MCPA network will take full account of climate change risks. Proposed new MCPAs and extension of coastal PAs will factor in climate change risk data and conservation recommendations for each site will include measures to account for climate change risks and increase ecosystem resilience.
5. High turnover rates within public administrations responsible for MPA management.	5. One of the major barriers to effective conservation work in Albania is the high turnover rate in public administrations, particularly following political elections. For a capacity development program to have an impact on MCPA management effectiveness, it is important that the trained staff remains within the administrations responsible for MCPAs and that the conditions are there for them to apply what they learned. To minimize this risk, the capacity development program will target not only the staff of relevant administrations, but also representatives of NGOs, associations and of relevant economic sectors. They will be given the opportunity to actively learn and collaborate with each other and create a functional social and communication network of MCPA practitioners that will further enhance MCPA management effectiveness in Albania. The

RISKS	MITIGATION
	capacity of NAPA to supplement its budget through donations, projects and public-private partnerships might further the possibility to retain its MCPA management staff.
6. Insufficient financial resources secured to implement the MP of Karaburuni-Sazani MPA.	6. In 2015, the Financial plan of Karaburuni-Sazani MPA was completed within the UNDP/GEF MCPA project. A number of market and non-market based mechanisms were identified to fill the financial gaps of the Park. However, the implementation of these strategies requires that ongoing regulatory and policy reforms are finalized and that an enabling socio-economic context is in place. Investments in the Park's infrastructure and facilities are particularly needed to improve the tourist experience and create the enabling conditions for the market-based mechanisms to be implemented. By contributing make functional the Information Centre and by improving the organization of the recreational activities within the Park, the proposed action will contribute to its long-term financial sustainability, including certification processes

(v) Sustainability and Replicability of Program

The project will facilitate direct replication by coordinating efforts with MoE, NAPA and other authorities in scaling up of project-inspired actions, from MCPA network design to standardized management plans and management effectiveness models.

With the focus on Karaburuni-Sazani MCPA as a replicable pilot project, and a sustained effort on testing and building of the management effectiveness of that site, this MCPA will play a critical role in realizing the longer-term objective of building a well-managed and representative network of MCPAs. The project will facilitate the replication of the Karaburuni-Sazani MPA experience in future MCPAs mainly by increasing the understanding of dedicated staff on how an MCPA functions and by building their capacity and enhance their skills to effectively manage an MPA. Once they will feel confident in conducting management activities, they will easily transfer their knowledge and expertise to other MCPA teams across the country. The project will promote the networking of Public Administration managers and practitioners across the region and at international level to maximize the exchange of experiences and best practices.

The project will also address barriers at the systemic level that prevent establishment and effective management of MCPAs. It will develop a five-year strategic plan for gradual declaration of a comprehensive and complementary network of MCPAs. During the project's lifetime, a solid foundational framework, based on both science and stakeholder input, will ensure the technical and political process for creating functional MCPAs has been addressed.

Table 6. Sustainability of the Project

<p>A. Ecological sustainability: The project considers the conservation of national and global benefits in the Albanian marine ecosystem to be a long-term, multi-phase process. The project aims to increase the representation of coastal and marine ecosystems in Albania's national system of protected areas and improve the management effectiveness of these areas. By so doing, the project will put in place the enabling environment for enhanced ecological sustainability of Albania's unique coastal and marine ecosystems. By demonstrating effective management of the first MPA in Albania, the Karaburuni-Sazani MPA, the project will enhance the capacity of coastal and marine ecosystems to maintain their essential functions and processes, and retain their biodiversity in full measure over the long-term. Karaburuni-Sazani MPA will serve as the model and anchor for the MCPA network.</p>
<p>B. Institutional sustainability: The project comes on the heels of the UNDP/GEF MCPA project, which has made important strides in terms of establishing the institutional, policy, legal and governance frameworks for MCPAs in Albania. Awareness has also been created among key institutions and stakeholder groups. The project is fully anchored to the new legal and institutional setting and takes fully into consideration relevant sectors' strategies.</p>

It will further raise the awareness, maintain the support and commitment, and develop the capacity of relevant authorities and stakeholders for effectively carrying out their roles and responsibilities vis-à-vis the management of MCPAs. Moreover, project's outputs and activities are largely achievable with existing stakeholders, institutions, financial resources and personnel through strengthened capacity and partnerships among them (i.e. resource users, municipalities/ communes, Ministries of Environment, NAPA, RAPA and protected areas). By putting in place a Collaborative Management Body as a lasting sustainable institutional network of agencies engaged in MCPA decision-making the project will further the institutional sustainability of its actions. Further, the project will implement activities to develop the capacity of the Forum and site managers at MCPAs for effectively carrying out their roles and responsibilities vis-à-vis establishment and management of MCPAs. The actual EU approximation process in Albania represents a strategic opportunity to consolidate a sustainable partnership between national and local authorities in resource and ecosystem management.

C. Financial sustainability: This project will examine financing needs and available financing for the expanded network of MCPAs, and will explore the feasibility of different revenue-generating mechanisms (fees, public-private-partnerships, external donor funding) for bridging the gap. At present, the PA system in Albania is primarily funded through state budget and different donors. The Project Strengthening financial sustainability of PA will assess the potential for adding to these financial sources such as from revenues generated in the MCPAs through fees and charges for sustainable use, and private sponsorship. The project will undertake a financial gap analysis – i.e., compare funding needs against available funding and then identify alternative funding sources for meeting those needs. The previous UNDP project developed a financial sustainability plan for Karaburuni-Sazani MPA that will serve as a guidance document on improving financial sustainability of the network of MCPAs. By improving visitors' experience in Karaburuni-Sazani MPA through the establishment of a functional Information Centre, a better management of recreational activities (diving, boat trips, underwater trails, etc.), and the organization of effective communications and awareness raising events, the project will create the enabling conditions for the implementation of a suite of market-based mechanisms to raise the MPA revenues.

(vi) UNDP's Comparative Advantage

Few organizations in Albania have the experience and the presence of a full team dedicated to MCPA projects. UNDP's comparative advantage is the capacity of its national staff to co-design and co-manage program outputs with national and local partners, including civil society. This holds particularly true when it comes to the UNDP/GEF MCPA project, which paved the way to important legal institutional and policy reforms for the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity in Albania. It addressed the priorities of country strategic plans, as the improvement of the bio-geographical representation of MCPAs and their management arrangements. It is worth also recalling that the UNDP-GEF project proved also particularly flexible in adapting to changing situations compared to other donor-funded actions (e.g. EU-funded projects). This flexibility allowed for adjustments in collaboration and partnership strategies, estimated inputs and individual activities to achieve the objective and outcomes for which the project was designed.

IV. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

This is a project with 3 years duration. As such, efforts are being coordinated among partners to ensure the utmost efficiency of resource management and delivery of results in an effective way.

Therefore, UNDP will be performing the management and administrative/finance function of the project, in close coordination with the support of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation and NAPA.

The proposed project organization structure consists of:

Project Board: includes representatives of NAPA, UNDP and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation.

The *Project Board* will:

- provide overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains within any specified constraints; addresses project issues as raised by the NPM;
- provide guidance on new project risks and agrees on possible countermeasures and management actions to address specific risks;
- review the project progress and provide direction and recommendations to ensure that the agreed deliverables are produced satisfactorily according to plans;
- review combined delivery reports prior to certification by the implementing partner;
- appraise the project's annual review report, make recommendations for the next annual work plan, and inform the outcome group about the results of the review;
- provide ad-hoc direction and advice for exception situations when project manager's tolerances are exceeded;
- assess and decide to proceed on project changes through appropriate revisions.

Project Coordination Unit (PCU): includes a full time National Project Manager (NPM), a full time National Technical Expert and a full time Administrative/Financial Assistant, all based in Tirana.

The Project Coordination Unit (PCU): under the overall coordination of the *National Project Manager* reports to the Project Board and is responsible for:

- planning the activities of the project and monitoring progress against the approved work-plan;
- endorsing the annual operational plan for the implementation of project activities
- mobilizing personnel, goods and services, training and micro-capital grants to initiative activities, including drafting terms of reference and work specifications and overseeing all contractors' work;
- monitoring events as determined in the project monitoring schedule plan, and update the plan as required;
- managing requests for the provision of financial resources by UNDP, through advance of funds, direct payments, or reimbursement using the FACE (Fund Authorization and Certificate of Expenditures);
- monitoring financial resources and accounting to ensure accuracy and reliability of financial reports;
- preparing and submitting financial reports to UNDP on a quarterly basis;
- managing and monitoring the project risks initially identified and submit new risks to the project board for consideration and decision on possible actions if required;

- updating the status of these risks by maintaining the project risk log;
- capturing lessons learned during project implementation – a lessons learned log can be used in this regard (MS Word template);
- performing regular progress reporting to the project board as agreed to by the board;
- preparing the annual review report, and submitting the report to the project board and the outcome group;
- preparing the annual work plan for the following year, as well as quarterly plans if required;
- updating the Atlas Project Management module if external access is made available.

The Project Coordination Unit (PCU): will be assisted and will liaise on a regular basis with a *Chief Technical Adviser* from the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation.

The project coordination unit is responsible for developing an annual operational work plan to be submitted to the project board.

NAPA will be directly responsible for creating the enabling conditions for implementation of all project activities. NAPA will designate a senior official to act as the Project Director (PD). The PD will provide the strategic oversight and guidance to project implementation and is responsible for:

- (i) Assist the PCU on preparation of the project work plans, budget revisions and if necessary project revisions;
- (ii) Ensure the fully functional participation of RAPA officers in all Project activities;
- (iii) Ensure that rules and procedures are fully met in the course of the project implementation;
- (iv) Assist the PCU on preparation of terms of references;
- (v) Endorse the reports produced by the project manager and the key experts/contractors;
- (vi) Facilitate liaison and cooperation with the Government authorities in the course of the project implementation;
- (vii) Certify financial reports; audit reports and evaluation reports

The Chief Technical Adviser, in particular will:

- (i) Provide direction for strategic planning and budgeting, programming, evaluation and administration as well as leading and overseeing the work by ensuring strategic guidance for the implementation of all the components of the program;
- (ii) Support the analysis of the political, social and economic situation and provide expert assistance/advice to pro-actively respond timely and effectively to the situations encountered;
- (iii) Support in managing/supervising/coaching team's performance in the obtainment of the objectives set by the program;

- (iv) Work in close collaboration with the relevant stakeholders involved in the project and develop in consultation with them sound approaches to support the effective and efficient delivery of the outcomes of the project;
- (v) Supervise and follow up the overall implementation of the technical related activities of the program;
- (vi) Liaise, co-ordinate and establish working relationship with all relevant stakeholders promoting awareness and fostering dialogue;
- (vii) Ensure continuous coordination with national and international actors involved
- (viii) Enhance trans-border/cross border cooperation with the aim to enlarge the geographic scope of benefits and beneficiaries from the developed knowledge;
- (ix) Participate in various monitoring meetings, as well as monitor the activities/results of the project by developing and applying result-based management approaches;
- (x) Take responsibility for the external relations with all the Italian actors that will be potentially involved in the project activities;
- (xi) Ensure coherence between the program activities and other projects/programs funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation in Albania and in the region.

Project Field staff: it includes a full-time Field Coordinator and a Communications Expert, who will support the PCU in day-to-day liaison with MCPA Administrations and local stakeholders in each of three coastal regions of Albania. The presence of field personnel will greatly contribute to enhancing collaboration with local stakeholders and beneficiaries and raising awareness on project activities and MPAs more in general.

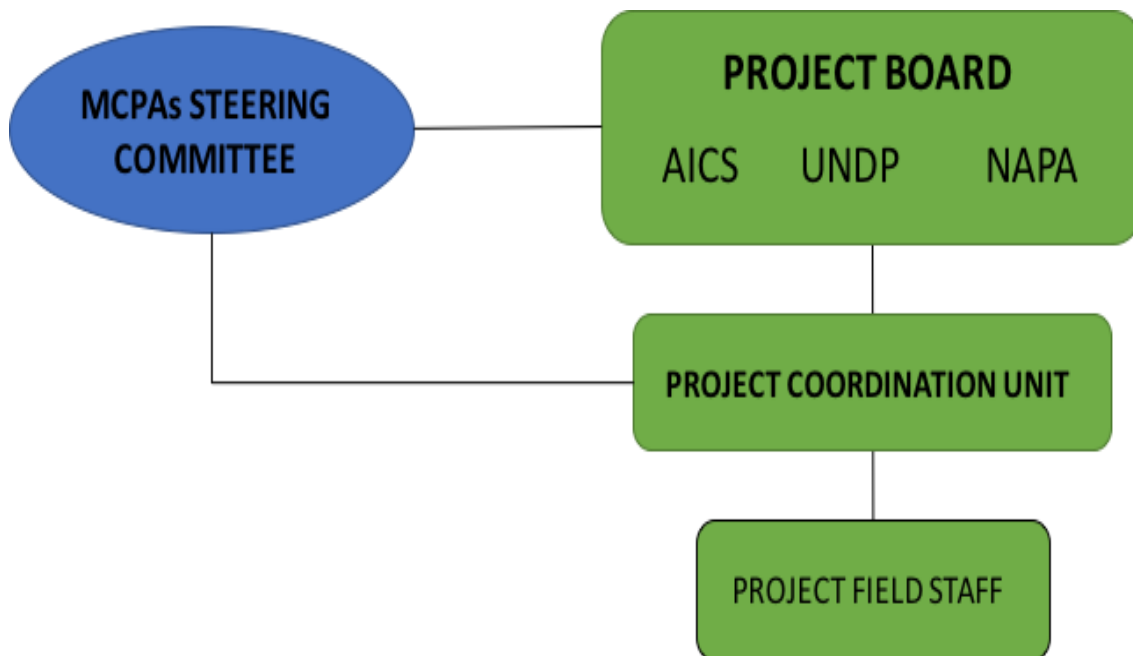


Figure 1 Project Organization Structure

III. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The project will be implemented in accordance with UNDP’s National Implementation Modality (NIM) http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/Programme%20and%20Operations%20Policies%20and%20Procedures/NIM_for_Government_english.pdf whereby the National Agency of Protected Areas (NAPA) is the designated National Implementing Partner, on behalf of the Government of Albania. Services will be provided according to UNDP rules and procedures based on a standard letter of agreement with NAPA for the provision on support services.

IV. LEGAL CONTEXT AND RISK MANAGEMENT

This document together with the UN Program of Cooperation, which is incorporated herein by reference, constitute together a Project Document as referred to in the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA); as such all provisions of SBAA apply.

Consistent with the Article III of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA), the responsibility for the safety and security of the Implementing Partner and its personnel and property, and of UNDP’s property in the Implementing Partner’s custody, rests with the Implementing Partner. To this end, the Implementing Partner shall:

- a) put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan, taking into account the security situation in the country where the project is being carried;
- b) assume all risks and liabilities related to the implementing partner’s security, and the full implementation of the security plan.

UNDP reserves the right to verify whether such a plan is in place, and to suggest modifications to the plan when necessary. Failure to maintain and implement an appropriate security plan as required hereunder shall be deemed a breach of the Implementing Partner's obligations under this Project Document.

The Implementing Partner agrees to undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that none of the UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism and that the recipients of any amounts provided by UNDP hereunder do not appear on the list¹⁴ maintained by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). This provision must be included in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered under/further to this Project Document.

V. RISK MANAGEMENT

Consistent with the Article III of the SBAA [or the Supplemental Provisions], the responsibility for the safety and security of the Implementing Partner and its personnel and property, and of UNDP's property in the Implementing Partner's custody, rests with the Implementing Partner. To this end, the Implementing Partner shall:

1. put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan, considering the security situation in the country where the project is being carried;
2. assume all risks and liabilities related to the Implementing Partner's security, and the full implementation of the security plan.

UNDP reserves the right to verify whether such a plan is in place, and to suggest modifications to the plan when necessary. Failure to maintain and implement an appropriate security plan as required hereunder shall be deemed a breach of the Implementing Partner's obligations under this Project Document [and the Project Cooperation Agreement between UNDP and the Implementing Partner].

Consistent with UNDP's Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures, social and environmental sustainability will be enhanced through application of the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (<http://www.undp.org/ses>) and related Accountability Mechanism (<http://www.undp.org/secu-srm>).

The Implementing Partner shall: (a) conduct project and programme-related activities in a manner consistent with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards, (b) implement any management or mitigation plan prepared for the project or programme to comply with such standards, and (c) engage in a constructive and timely manner to address any concerns and complaints raised through the Accountability Mechanism. UNDP will seek to ensure that communities and other project stakeholders are informed of and have access to the Accountability Mechanism.

All signatories to the Project Document shall cooperate in good faith with any exercise to evaluate any programme or project-related commitments or compliance with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards. This includes providing access to project sites, relevant personnel, information, and documentation.

¹⁴ The list can be accessed via http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1267/aq_sanctions_list.shtml.

VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In accordance with UNDP's programming policies and procedures, the project will be monitored through the following monitoring and evaluation plans:

Within the annual cycle

- On a quarterly basis, a quality assessment shall record progress towards the completion of key results, based on quality criteria and methods captured in the Quality Management.
- An Issue Log shall be activated in Atlas and updated by the National Project Manager to facilitate tracking and resolution of potential problems or requests for change.
- Based on the initial risk analysis, a risk log shall be activated in Atlas and regularly updated by reviewing the external environment that may affect the project implementation.
- Based on the above information recorded in Atlas, a Project Progress Reports (PPR) shall be submitted by the Project Coordinator to the Project Steering Committee through Project Assurance, using the standard report format.
- A project Lesson-learned log shall be activated and regularly updated to ensure on-going learning and adaptation within the organization, and to facilitate the preparation of the Lessons-learned Report at the end of the project
- A Monitoring Schedule Plan shall be activated in Atlas and updated to track key management actions/events

In addition to the above standard monitoring framework, a close communication will be established between UNDP, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation and NAPA with respect to the day-to-day implementation of activities and information on the project progresses will regularly be shared when needed with the project stakeholders and partners.

Annually

An Annual Review Report shall be prepared by the National Project Manager and shared with the Project Board. As a minimum requirement, the Annual Review Report shall consist of the Atlas standard format covering the whole year with updated information for each above element as well as a summary of results achieved against pre-defined annual targets at the output level.

In accordance with standard UNDP procedures, a recognized auditing firm will carry out the final auditing of the project. The purpose of the audit is to certify that disbursements were made in accordance with the activities specified in the project document; disbursements are supported by adequate documentation; financial reports are fairly and accurately presented; appropriate management structure, internal controls, and record keeping is maintained. At the end of the project, an evaluation may be conducted to assess the impact of the project.

An external final evaluation will be conducted, using established results-based M&E methodologies. The external evaluation will examine the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of the project, also by looking at cross-cutting issues, such as human rights and gender. The final evaluation will be duly shared and discussed with all relevant, governmental and non-governmental stakeholders.

VII. COMUNICACION AND VISIBILITY

The project will develop and follow a structured Communication and Visibility Plan. The Plan will be guided by and respond to project partners' branding policies and requirements, in full recognition of their support and contribution.

Through the Communication and Visibility Plan, the project intends to raise awareness on project activities, encourage further interaction with local stakeholders and civil society organizations, and disseminate knowledge and information and pressure for more public accountability.

Key visibility outputs are linked to "routine" project activities along the implementation, including:

- (i) National or local level events to launch the project and/or its thematic components;
- (ii) Capacity building workshops across the MPAs and MCPAs;
- (iii) Public events in the project areas involving beneficiaries and main stakeholders;
- (iv) Dissemination of results of various assessments undertaken or interim results achieved in the framework of the implementation;
- (v) Utilization of social media to disseminate information on project results;
- (vi) Joint field missions to project areas with the Italian Development Cooperation Agency in Albania;
- (vii) Establishing relations with media to follow and report on project results.

Different type of information will be generated throughout the project duration. Such information includes general information on the project to the project partners and beneficiaries, information to the general public through the activities in the field as well as specific information on specific activities.

All information generated during the program will include details of the project and donor, including donor logo and funding statement. This will apply to printed, electronic or audiovisual types of information.

Stickers with the logo of the donor, project title and funding statement will be produced and affixed on all equipment that will be purchased by the program.

UNDP has a regular practice of developing publications (currently over 50 different topics including best practices, guidelines and reports) widely accessible for distribution on the best practices in environment to promote learning among projects on protected areas and coastal protection and broaden the scope of impact of individual projects. Communications experts on regional level prepare provide assistance and assist in showcasing national-level stories through regional and global-level media to further disseminate information on individual project success. This aspect of UNDP's work ensures project visibility, but also will be an important step in promoting the replication of the project successes beyond the scope of Albania.

VIII. PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Outcome	Indicators	Data Source	Baseline		Targets (by frequency of data collection)				Data Collection Methods and Risks
			Value	Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Final	
Outcome 1: Strengthen and Complete the Model of Practice for MCPAs in Albania	<i>1.1 BMPs have been developed, are promoted and operative for on-the-water tourism providers</i>	Dive Operators and Tourist Boats	Number of boats promoting BMPs NA at this time BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES Number of tourist, number of boats deployed for tours	2016	30% of boats	60% of boats	80% of boats	80% of boats	Survey conducted by K-S MPA of on-the-water tourism providers.
Outcome 2: Strengthen Governance-based Institutional Capacity and Support to the MCPA Network	<i>2.1 List of established and functional agencies and economic actors participating in the Management Committee and trained</i>	NAPA	Number of cooperating agencies/private sectors: NA at this time	2016	-	80% relevant agencies	90% relevant agencies	90% relevant agencies	Annual reporting by NAPA on agendas, attendees and collaborative decisions made by the <i>Management Committee</i> .
Outcome 3: Design the MCPA Network by Replicating the Karaburuni-Sazani MPA Model	<i>3.1 Sites have been selected for the MCPA network through a multi-step</i>	NAPA	Number and % of coverage of MCPAs: 1 existing	2016	-	-	-	MCPA network with increased coverage	UNDP terminal report on progress made on MCPA network design

	<i>stakeholder process that includes increase the coverage</i>		MPA, (2 others in process)					identified	
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IX. MULTI-YEAR WORKPLAN AND BUDGET

OUTCOME	N.	Planned Outputs/Activities	Planned Budget by Years			Responsible Party	Funding Source	Planned Budget by YEAR			TOTAL (Euro)
			Y1	Y2	Y3			YEAR 1 (Euro)	YEAR 2 (Euro)	YEAR 3 (Euro)	
		1. Outputs									
OUTCOME 1: Strengthen and Complete the Model of Practice for MCPAs in Albania	1.1	Strengthen the capacities of the RAPA Vlore for better controlling and managing the MCPA and support local tourism related activities	x	x	x	UNDP, NAPA, AICS	AICS	30.000	30.000	40.000	100.000
	1.2a	Strategic Plan, including an Education & Awareness Plan and a Financial Plan for the Information Centre of Karaburuni-Sazani MPA	x	x	x	UNDP, NAPA, AICS	AICS	52.700	9.000	8.200	69.900
	1.3a	Develop BMPs for on-the-water tours	x	x		UNDP, NAPA, AICS	AICS	14.000	34.700	0	48.700
	1.3b	Develop Tourism Certification	x	x		UNDP, NAPA, AICS	AICS	12.700	21.000	0	33.700
	1.4	Assessment of the status of fisheries organizations	x	x		UNDP, NAPA, AICS	AICS	24.700	26.700	0	51.400
		Technical expertise, policy advisory and operational costs	x	x	x	UNDP	AICS	24.480	25.200	25.942	75.622
						TOTAL OUTCOME 1		128.580	116.600	34.142	379.322
OUTCOME 2: Strengthen Governance-based Institutional Capacity and	2.1a	Support Steering Committee meeting	x	x	x	UNDP, NAPA, AICS	AICS	3.000	3.000	3.000	9.000
	2.1b	Develop a collaborative management model for the MCPA network		x	x	UNDP, NAPA, AICS	AICS	0	8.700	15.000	23.700

Support to the MCPA Network	2.2	Build capacity	x	x	x	UNDP, NAPA, AICS	AICS	24.700	10.000	10.000	44.700
						TOTAL OUTCOME 2		27.700	21.700	28.000	77.400
OUTCOME 3: Design the MCPA Network by Replicating the Karaburuni-Sazani MPA Model	3.1a	Gap analysis and consecutive data collection (habitat and species)	x			UNDP, NAPA, AICS, Universities	AICS	31.300	0	0	31.300
	3.1b	Gap analysis and consecutive data collection (socioeconomic)	x			UNDP, NAPA, AICS, Universities	AICS	24.300	0	0	24.300
	3.2a	Defining the Vision of MCPA Network (Workshop 1)		x	x	UNDP, NAPA, AICS	AICS	0	13.700	8.700	22.400
	3.2b	Define MCPA network objectives and Communications activities (Network Objectives Workshop 2)		x		UNDP, NAPA, AICS	AICS	0	15.000	0	15.000
	3.3	Develop a GIS decision making tool		x	x	UNDP, NAPA, AICS	AICS	0	26.700	11.700	38.400
	3.2c	Technical recommendations in designing the MCPA network (Workshop 3)		x		UNDP, NAPA, AICS	AICS	0	15.000	0	15.000
	3.4	Establish MCPA network process (Experts Workshop)			x	UNDP, NAPA, AICS	AICS	0	0	15.000	15.000
	3.5a	Identify Stakeholders		x		UNDP, NAPA, AICS	AICS	0	0	0	0
	3.5b	Identify the community expectations from their MCPA			x	UNDP, NAPA, AICS	AICS	0	0	15.000	15.000

	3.5c	Use the GIS decision-making tool (DSS) to assist in developing different scenarios			x	UNDP, NAPA, AICS	AICS	0	0	9.000	9.000
		Technical expertise, policy advisory and operational costs	x	x	x	UNDP	AICS	20.880	34.693	32.628	88.201
						TOTAL OUTCOME 3		76.480	105.093	92.028	273.601
PROJECT MANAGEMENT		2. Human resources									
		National Project Manager (100%)	x	x	x	UNDP	AICS	30.000	30.900	31.827	92.727
		Administrative Assistant (100%)	x	x	x	UNDP	AICS	20.400	21.012	21.642	63.054
		Driver/ logistic (100%)	x	x	x	UNDP	AICS	10.800	11.124	11.458	33.382
		3. Travel									
		Local transportation (Tirana-Project sites)	x	x	x	UNDP	AICS	480	480	480	1.440
		4. Audit and Evaluation									
					x	AICS	AICS	0	0	5.000	5.000
						TOTAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT		61.680	63.516	70.407	195.603
						TOTAL DIRECT COSTS		294.440	306.909	224.577	925.926
		5. General Management Support (GMS)						23.555	24.553	17.966	74.074
TOTAL PROJECT								317.995	331.462	242.543	1.000.000

X. PROJECT OUTPUTS/ ACTIVITES

OUTCOME	N.	Outputs/ Activities	Description	Planned Budget by Years		
				Y1	Y2	Y3
OUTCOME 1: Strengthen and Complete the Model of Practice for MCPAs in Albania	1.1	Strengthen the capacities of the RAPA Vlore for better controlling and managing the MCPA and support local tourism related activities.	This activity will provide infrastructure and equipment to strengthen the capacities of RAPA. During the phase I, UNDP has provided RAPA with a rubber boat for patrolling the area. Although a very important and useful investment the experience so far has indicated the need for an additional boat, a series of floating docks, mooring buoys, etc.	x	x	

OUTCOME	N.	Outputs/ Activities	Description	Planned Budget by Years		
				Y1	Y2	Y3
	1.2	Strategic Plan, including an Education & Awareness Plan and a Financial Plan for the Information Centre of Karaburuni-Sazani MPA	This Activity will need the support of local and International expertise. It entails the organization of at least 2 structured workshops. A field visit to an MPA in the Mediterranean with a well-conceived and functioning Visitor Centre will help raise awareness of interested parties and improve the design and operations of the Information Centre of Karaburuni-Sazani MPA. Grants will be made available in YEAR 2 and 3 to implement priority activities included in the Strategic Plan of the Information Centre.	x	x	x
	1.3a	Develop BMPs for on-the-water tours	This Activity will need the support of local and International expertise. It entails the organization of a series of informal meetings with interested parties and 2 structured workshops. A field visit to a MPA in the Mediterranean with successful examples of partnerships with nature-based tourism service providers will help raise awareness of interested parties, enhance peer-to-peer exchange and partnership creation. Grants will be allocated to develop and implement visibility actions/tools for the promotion of nature-based tourism services within the MPA.	x	x	
	1.3b	Develop Tourism Certification	This Activity will need the support local and International expertise, and the organization of at least 2 structured workshops to build the capacities and enhance the skills of target businesses and prepare them to the certification process. Grants will be made available to support the interested hotel owners in accessing the certification process.	x	x	

OUTCOME	N.	Outputs/ Activities	Description	Planned Budget by Years		
				Y1	Y2	Y3
	1.4	Assessment of the status of fisheries organizations to support transition to sustainable fisheries in line with Maritime and Fisheries Policies 2014-2020	This Activity will need the support of a local and international expertize. It entails the assessment of the fisheries organizations status and support transition to sustainable fisheries in line with Maritime and Fisheries Policies 2014-2020, as well as organization of at least 2 structured workshops to guide NAPA/RAPA and the local fishermen and associations in planning for sustainable fisheries management in Karaburuni-Sazani MPA. A field visit will be organized to a successful example of co-management of common resources in a MPA the Mediterranean to raise awareness, showcase best practices and enhance partnership creation.	x	x	
OUTCOME 2: Strengthen Governance-based Institutional Capacity and Support to the MCPA Network	2.1a	Support Management Committee meeting	The PCU will facilitate and support logistically the organization of the Management Committee Meetings, and together with NAPA and AICS will encourage the participation and engagement of all relevant agencies, stakeholder groups and economic sectors with authorities or vested in interests in the coastal and marine areas and resources in Albania.	x	x	x
	2.1b	Develop a collaborative management model for the MCPA network	This Activity entails the organization of at least 2 workshops and the facilitation of an International Expert.		x	x
	2.2	Build capacity	This Activity will need the support of an international expert to help NAPA, the Project team and a local expert (or local NGO) design the capacity development program. At least 2 workshops will be organized in YEAR 1 and 3 workshops in YEAR 2 and in YEAR 3. The last workshop is dedicated in replicating the experience from Karaburun – Sazani MPA.	x	x	x
OUTCOME 3: Design the MCPA Network by Replicating the Karaburuni-Sazani MPA Model	3.1a	Gap analysis and consecutive data collection (habitat and species)	This Activity will need the support of a team of local and international expertize to make a gap analysis, collect and normalize the data (scaling) and develop the GIS layers for the decision-making tool.	x		
	3.1b	Gap analysis and consecutive data collection (socioeconomic)	This Activity will need the support of team of local and international expertize normalize the data (scaling) and develop the GIS layers for the decision-making tool.	x		
	3.2a	Defining the Vision of MCPA Network (Workshop 1)	An international expert will help structure and will guide the MCPA network planning process throughout project implementation. A 1-day workshop will be organized to the vision of the MCPA network which will be supported by the International Expert.		x	x

OUTCOME	N.	Outputs/ Activities	Description	Planned Budget by Years		
				Y1	Y2	Y3
	3.2b	Define MCPA network objectives (Workshop 2)	A workshop will be organized to define the MCPA network objectives and the communications activities that will support the planning process.		x	x
	3.2c	Technical recommendations in designing the MCPA network (Workshop 3)	Based on the workshop 1 and 2, an international expert will help to provide technical recommendation in designing the MCPA network. A 1-day workshop will be organized which will be supported by the International Expert.			x
	3.3	Develop a GIS decision making tool DSS	An International expert will assist the Local experts (including the scientific community) in setting up the GIS decision-making tool (by building on the existing tools) and will organize a 3-day training workshops addressed to RAPA of Vlore in YEAR 2 on the DSS structure, updates and application.		x	x
	3.4a	Establish MCPA network process (Experts Workshop 3)	A 3-day workshop will be organized with technical experts to scope the design of the MCPA network including location, size and distribution of sites based on species life history factors and habitat types (this will be further ground-truthed and verified by local knowledge of stakeholders).		x	
	3.5a	Identify Stakeholders	The Team will identify, characterize and begin the socialization process with stakeholders throughout the coastal range of Albania to provide them with the opportunity to recognize the need and value of MCPAs.		x	
	3.5b	Identify the community expectations from their MCPA	A 3-day workshop will be organized with stakeholders to define the Community expectations from their MCPA and the Characterization and Mapping of Natural Resource and Social Targets specific to their management area.			x
	3.5c	Use the GIS decision-making tool (DSS) to assist in developing different scenarios	Through a series of workshops, start the process for working with representative stakeholders across all potential sites on locating priority areas for protection based on management objectives and communities' input on natural resource and social targets. Use the GIS decision-making tool (DSS) to assist in developing different scenarios and understand to what extent each scenario meets the objectives for the MCPA network.			x

XI. RISK LOG

#	Description	When Identified	Type	Impact & Probability (1 low – to 5 high)	Risk mitigation strategy	Owner
1	Continued institutional reform (and elections) in Albania may necessitate revision of project approaches to policy- and decision-making on MCPAs	Project design stage	Strategic	Impact: 4 Probability: 3	1. The project will put in place a Collaborative Management Body as a lasting sustainable institutional network of stakeholders engaged in MCPA decision-making. Representation on the Forum will be “function-based” (vs. “person-based”), thus it will ensure that whatever institution obtains responsibilities for MCPA decision making. This will prevent any disruption of national-level policy-making and decision-making on MCPAs.	NAPA MoE
2	Political will of the relevant Albanian authorities to support and implement the MCPA network is sustained	Project design stage	Strategic	Impact: 4 Probability: 3	2. Establishing MCPAs has been identified as a national priority as articulated in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2012 – 2020). The UNDP/GEF MCPA project has already created a good baseline level of awareness and interest in national and local institutions on coastal and marine PAs. The project will build on the consultative approach developed under the MCPA project and maintain the good working relationships established. The Karaburuni-Sazani MPA will serve as a model to stress win-win opportunities and demonstrate possibilities for meeting ecological objectives, while also generating socio-economic benefits for local populations.	NAPA MoE
3	Insufficient financial resources raised to implement the network of MCPAs	Project design stage	Financial Operational Strategic	Impact: 5 Probability: 3	3. The “Law on Protected Areas” did not provide for rules regarding funding for implementation or management and conservation measures for PAs. And in the same way that significant parts of environmental investment in the country have been supported by strong donor assistance, PAs are funded through international projects. The revised “Law on Protected Areas”, which should be approved within 2017, provides for a proper basis for diversification of funding sources for PAs and for the ability of PAs to retain their own revenues.	NAPA MoE UNDP

#	Description	When Identified	Type	Impact & Probability (1 low – to 5 high)	Risk mitigation strategy	Owner
					The project will continue the actions of the Phase I in line with the Management Plan and Business Plan of the Karaburuni-Sazani MPA (through its Information Centre).	
4	Marine and coastal ecosystems are susceptible to climate change impacts	Project design stage	Environmental	Impact: 3 Probability: 2	4. Project activities aimed at establishing the MCPA network will take full account of climate change risks based on the Third National Communication to the UNFCCC Convention. Proposed new MCPAs and extension of coastal PAs will factor in climate change risk data and conservation recommendations for each site will include measures to account for climate change risks and increase ecosystem resilience	NAPA UNDP AICS
5	High turnover rates within public administrations responsible for MPA management.	Project design stage	Operational Organizational	Impact: 4 Probability: 3	5. One of the major barriers to effective conservation work in Albania is the high turnover rate in public administrations, particularly following political elections. For a capacity development program to have an impact on MCPA management effectiveness, it is important that the trained staff remains within the administrations responsible for MCPAs and that the conditions are there for them to apply what they learned. To minimize this risk, the capacity development program will target not only the staff of relevant administrations, but also representatives of NGOs, associations and of relevant economic sectors. They will be given the opportunity to actively learn and collaborate with each other and create a functional social and communication network of MCPA practitioners that will further enhance MCPA management effectiveness in Albania. The capacity of NAPA to supplement its budget through donations, projects and public-private partnerships might further the possibility to retain its MCPA management staff.	NAPA MoE UNDP AICS
6	Insufficient financial resources secured to implement the MP of Karaburuni-Sazani MPA.	Project design stage	Financial Operational	Impact: 5 Probability: 3	6. In 2015, the Financial plan of Karaburuni-Sazani MPA was completed within the UNDP/GEF MCPA project. A number of market and non-market based mechanisms were identified to fill the financial gaps of the Park. However, the implementation of these strategies requires that ongoing regulatory and policy reforms are finalized and that an enabling socio-economic context is in place. Investments in the Park's infrastructure and facilities are particularly needed to improve the tourist experience and create the enabling conditions for the market-based mechanisms to be implemented. By contributing to the establishment of a functional Information Centre and by improving the organization of the recreational activities within the Park, the proposed action will contribute to its long-term financial sustainability.	NAPA MoE UNDP

