

Action Plan for Implementing the Programme of Work on Protected Areas of the Convention on Biological Diversity



Albania

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Protected area information:

PoWPA Focal Point:

Ms. Elvana Ramaj – senior expert, Biodiversity Directorate, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration, Tirana – ALBANIA.

E-mail: Elvana.Ramaj@moe.gov.al

Lead implementing agency:

Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration, Tirana – ALBANIA

Multi-stakeholder committee:

There is no such a body established in Albania.

However, the steering committess of PAs related projects running in Albania are used as discussion forums for PAs related issues.

In such regards actually to be mentioned are:

- Integrated management of Shkodra/Skadar Lake Ecosystem –jointly implemented with Montenegro (a Word Bank project);
- Integrated management of Prespa Lakes basin – trilateral project with Greece and FYROM – (GEF-UNDP project);
- Improving coverage and MPAs in Albania –(July 2011-2015) which will prepare a strategic document of the development of MPAs in Albania as well as the management plan for the first MPA Karaburun-Sazan, designated in April 2010.

Description of protected area system

Coverage

Protected Areas in Albania actually cover 15,1 % of the countrys territory or 434,298.4 hectares.

Map of protected Areas network in Albania is attached in Annex 1. The PAs coverage in Albania has been increased considerably in the period from 2005 onwards, from 5,8 % to 15 % actually, in accordance with the national Programme of Work on Protected Areas.

Description and background

Protected Areas network in Albania from November 2009, date on which the last report on this topic was prepared, has been further expanded with the designation and/or enlargement of existing PAs as follows:

MPA Karaburun-Sazan, designated on 28.04.2010 covering an area of 12,428 hectares;

Enlargement of the existing MNR Kune-Vain to **Managed Nature Reserve of Kune-Vain-Tale** natural ecosystem , proclaimed at 28.04.2010, covering an area of 43,932 hectares;

Managed Nature Reserve Patok-Fushe Kuqe-Ishem, on the 3.11.2010, covering an area of 5000.7 ha;

Korab-Koritnik Regional Nature Park designated on the 21.12.2011 covering an area of 55,520 hectares

Priority in the last couple of years has been given to the preparation of management plans for PAs that do not have such plans yet. The table below gives the overview of the current state of PAs management plans:

Existing Management Plans that are updated enough to be still implemented (in order of their compilation in time).

1. Dajti National Park Management Plan
2. Llogara National Park and natural ecosystem Karaburun-Rreza e Kanalit-Orikum-Tragjas Management Plan

3. Vjose-Narte Protected Landscape Management Plan
4. Butrinti National Park Management Plan
5. Kune-Vain-Tale Managed Nature Reserve Management Plan

Management Plans under preparation or in the pipeline

6. Shkodra Lake MNR Management Plan (under preparation, first draft just being completed)
7. Prespa National Park Management Plan (preparation started)
8. Shebenik-Jabllanice National Park Management Plan (Project of Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs & IUCN - in early phase of elaboration);
9. Velipoje Protected Landscape Management Plan
10. Divjake-Karavasta National Park Management Plan (negotiations with Japanese JICA underway for the finalization of the agreement for the MP preparation)

Governance types

Existing structures of the administration of PA's

Administrations of Protected Areas structures are based on the Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 266, dated 24.4.2003 "On the Protected Areas administrations". Actually as stated in this decision Protected Areas of Categories II and IV of IUCN (National parks and Managed Nature Reserves) have nominated **PAs administrations** that in total count to 160 people actually.

PAs administrations are integral part of the Directorates of Forestry Services (DFS) of districts (there are 36 of them in Albania - one for each district). DFS depend from the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration of Albania.

Besides PAs administrations, **Management Committees** for Protected Areas, based on the DCM no. 86, dated 5.10.2005 "On the establishment of management Committees for Protected Areas" are established for most important categories such as National Parks, Managed Nature Reserves and Protected Landscapes (Categories II, IV and V of IUCN).

Management committees have a large base representation. They are headed by MoEFWA representative and also have representatives of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport that cover spatial planning, representative of Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection, representative of local government units (municipality(es) and/or communes depending of their placement), local communities,

local environmental NGOs. PAs administrations serve as the Secretariat of the Management committees.

Development of protected areas should be in compliance with the Management Plans, for PAs that already have a Management Plan. For other areas it should be done in compliance with urban studies of municipalities and/or communes, but always taking into account the provisions of the Law “On Protected Areas” as well as the provisions of the law “On territory planning”.

Key threats

Habitat loss and fragmentation due to several factors such as urbanization, climate change impacts etc.

Illegal logging inside and adjacent protected Areas,

Illegal hunting especially on coastal PAs that host migratory birds,

Barriers for effective implementation

Main barriers for affective implementation are:

- Constraints in financial and human resources,
- Lack of capacities amongst PAs administration staff,
- Poor law enforcement.

National Targets and Vision for Protected Areas

Country targets are in line with Aichi target 11 and also similar to the EU targets, as Albania has started the accession process to the EU.

In concrete terms Albania aims to have 17 % of the country's territory designated as PAs by 2020. The MPAs coverage will also be increased but at the moment there are no concrete figures as we are waiting for the elaboration and findings of the strategic document of MPAs development and identification of potential areas to be

MPA candidates, in order to come up with a target figure for 2020. The figure for MPAs coverage can be reported at the 5th National Report of Albania to the CBD.

Progress in and plans for achieving the goals of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas

Progress: 0 = no work, 1 = just started, 2 = partially complete, 3 = nearly complete, 4 = complete

Goals of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas	Progress 0-4
• Progress in establishing and strengthening national and regional systems of protected areas (1.1)	3
• Progress in integrating protected areas into broader land- and seascapes and sectors so as to maintain ecological structure and function (1.2)	1
• Progress in establishing and strengthening regional networks, transboundary protected areas (TBPAs) and collaboration between neighbouring protected areas across national boundaries (1.3)	2
• Progress in substantially improving site-based protected area planning and management (1.4)	2
• Progress in preventing and mitigating the negative impacts of key threats to protected areas (1.5)	2
• Progress in promoting equity and benefit-sharing (2.1) • Progress in assessing and implementing diverse protected area governance types (2.1)	1
• Progress in enhancing and securing involvement of indigenous and local communities and relevant stakeholders (2.2)	2
• Progress in providing an enabling policy, institutional and socio-economic environment for protected areas (3.1) • Progress in assessing the contribution of protected areas to local and national economies (3.1)	1
• Progress in building capacity for the planning, establishment and management of protected areas (3.2)	2
• Progress in developing, applying and transferring appropriate technologies for protected areas (3.3)	2
• Progress in ensuring financial sustainability of protected areas and national and regional systems of protected areas (3.4)	1
• Progress in strengthening communication, education and public awareness (3.5)	2
• Progress in developing and adopting minimum standards and best practices for national and regional protected area systems (4.1)	2
• Progress in evaluating and improving the effectiveness of protected areas management (4.2)	2
• Progress in assessing and monitoring protected area status and trends (4.3)	2
• Progress in ensuring that scientific knowledge contributes to the establishment and	

effectiveness of protected areas and protected area systems (4.4)	2
• Progress in marine protected areas	1
• Progress in incorporating climate change aspects into protected areas	1

Priority activities for fully implementing the Programme of Work on Protected Areas:

Activities I Designation of new Protected Areas and extension of existing ones (plan to be updated and revised accordingly)	Timeline
1. Enlargement of National Park Tomorri	End of 2012
2. Designation of Alps national Park that will be also part of the trilateral TBPA Bjeshket e Namuna-Prokletije-Alps (Albania, Montenegro and Kosovo)	End of 2013
3. Designation of MPA of Porto Palermo (with the support of RAC/SPA)	End of 2014
4. Designation of MPA Gjipe-Jale	End of 2015

Please note that for the period after 2015 the plan with concrete sites will be elaborated at a later stage after the findings of the NBSAP review and update of Albania scheduled to start very soon and to be completed by mid 2014.

Action Plans (detailed steps) for completing priority activities for fully implementing the Programme of Work on Protected Areas:

Activity 1: Elaboration of 11 management plans for Protected Areas that do not have such plans yet

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible agencies	Indicative budget
Preparation of Management Plan of Shkodra Lake Managed Nature Reserve	2012	MoEFWA	WB funded project
Preparation of Management Plan of Prespa Lake National Park	2013	MoEFWA	KfW funded project
Preparation of Management Plan of Shebenik-Jabllanice NP and Velipoja Protected Landscape	2014	MoEFWA	Cooperazione Italiana-IUCN funded project

Preparation of Management Plan for 6 PAs (sites in the process of being confirmed)	2015	MoEFWA	SELEA - IPA funded project
Preparation of Management Plan of Divjake-Karavasta National Park	2016	MoEFWA	JICA funded project

Activity 2: Implementation of PAs management plans

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible agencies	Indicative budget
Establishment of Management Committees for PAS that do not have such bodies yet	Within 2013	MoEFWA	
Enforcement of national legislation related to PAs	continously	MoEFWA/LGUs	
Implementation in practice of priorities identified in the management plan for each PA	continously	PAs administrations/DFS	
Full inventory of flora and fauna species within each PA	2015	National Environmental Agency (NEA)	
Comprehensive monitoring of PAs	2014	NEA in cooperation with scientific institutions	

Activity 3: Capacity building and strengthening of PAs administrations

Key steps	Timeline	Responsible agencies	Indicative budget
Traininng workshops	2 - 3 per year	MoEFWA/National Environment Agency	20.000 to 25.000 USD per year
Study visits in PAs in EU member countries to benefit from their experience on PAs management	1 per year	MoEFWA/donor projects	Various depending on the place of the visit

Key assessment results

Ecological gap assessment - there is no such assessment carried out for PAs in Albania yet.

Management effectiveness assessment – a WWF project implemented in 2009-2010 did a valuation of the PAME.

Sustainable finance assessment – a modest assessment was carried out in the frame of the Biodiversity enabling activity II in Albania – a GEF project, findings of which are already reported to the CBD Secretariat in late 2007 (already uploaded in the CBD website).

Capacity needs assessment

Again a simple assessment is done in the frame of 2007 project and has been included in the previous report of Albania for the PoWPA in late 2007 (already uploaded in the CBD website).

Policy environment assessment

An assessment is completed in the framework of the GEF-UNDP project "Protected Areas gap assessment and Protected Areas development in Albania" implemented in the period 2008-2010.

Protected area integration and mainstreaming assessment

There is no such assessment being done in Albania yet. The revision and update of the NBSAP scheduled to start in the second half of 2012 and to be completed by the end of 2013 will include mainstreaming of biodiversity into national policies.

Protected area valuation assessment

A KfW project is actually being implemented in Prespa National Park in Albania. The process is ongoing. As soon as it is completed the results will be forwarded to the Secretariat.

