REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

PROJECT TYPE: MEDIUM SIZED PROJECT
THE GEF TRUST FUND

Submission Date: April 28, 2010

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

GEFSEC PROJECT ID: 3997
GEF AGENCY PROJECT ID: 4255
COUNTRY: Albania
PROJECT TITLE: Improving coverage and management effectiveness of marine and coastal protected areas
GEF AGENCY: UNDP
OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS: Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration (MEFWA)
GEF FOCAL AREA: Biodiversity
GEF-4 STRATEGIC PROGRAM: BD-SP2 Marine PAs
NAME OF PARENT PROGRAM/ UMBRELLA PROJECT: Not Applicable

Expected Calendar	
Milestones	**Dates**
Work Program (for FSP)	NA
CEO Endorsement/ Approval	Nov 2010
GEF Agency Approval	Jan 2011
Implementation Start	Mar 2011
Mid-term Review	Sept 2013
Implementation Completion	Apr 2016

A. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: To improve coverage and management effectiveness of Albania's marine and coastal protected areas.

Project Components	Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	GEF Financing		Co-Financing		Total ($) c=a+ b
				($) a	%	($) b	%	
1. Improved bio-geographical representation of marine and coastal protected areas (MCPA)	TA	About 13,000 ha of under-represented marine and coastal ecosystems (lagoons, wetlands, capes, and canyons) added to the national protected area system resulting in: Improvement of indicator seagrass *Posidonia oceanica* along Albanian Ionian coast. (Baseline: 4-6 meadows (2,837 ha) along the Ionian coast, with patches along the whole Albanian coast; Target: 5% increase of surface on the Ionian coast) Improvement in state of medio and infralittoral communities in Karaburuni - Sazani (mainly focused on species richness and abundance of species of international concern).	1.1 <u>Strategic Plan of MCPA (SPMCPA)</u> approved, defining: the MCPA expansion scenario with a 10-year vision; monitoring and enforcement tools; by-laws and regulations to trigger implementation and enforcement; MPA revenue-generating mechanisms (fees, public-private-partnerships, engagement of local fishermen, external donor funding); prioritize the MCPAs according to their needs with respect to different levels of required management interventions. 1.2 <u>A new MCPA established at Karaburuni-Sazani area</u>: PA officially gazetted and funding secured; model legal instrument development to facilitate replication to other MPAs to be established (management and business plan; management unit capacitated and equipped; conservation facilities and infrastructure put in place; conservation and management activities supported – under Output 2.6). 1.3 <u>Buffer zones</u> for the existing coastal PAs; special protection regime for the buffer zones agreed with local fishermen and land-users; most sensitive coastal and marine areas are identified and demarcated, for which specific regulatory measures defined; two new MPAs proposed to be proclaimed: 1) Rodoni Cape – Lalzi Bay; 2) Pagane – Stillo Cape.	300,000	30	700,000	70	1,000,000

Project Components	Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	GEF Financing		Co-Financing		Total ($) c=a+ b
				($) a	%	($) b	%	
2. Improved management arrangements for MCPAs, clarifying institutional settings and capacity building	TA	Improved coordination, institutional and individual capacities for planning and effective management of MCPAs contributing to reduction of biodiversity pressures (fishing activities, pollution of all sources, unregulated tourism, extraction of sand and gravel, deforestation) as measured by METT	2.1 Cross-Sectoral Forum for marine and coastal PA management and capacity building created: ministries identified and engaged, their interactions, roles and responsibilities with respect to MCPAs clarified; participation of PA managers, fishermen's associations, other users of coastal and marine areas and NGOs insured; Secretariat set; Forum integrated in the Mediterranean PA network; SPMCPA (Component I) reviewed by the Forum; set of awareness-raising activities on MCPAs carried out by the Forum. 2.2 Mechanisms for joint surveillance and monitoring, enforcement of conservation measures, and conflict resolution established between relevant national and local institutions; system-level MCPA management effectiveness tool introduced and integrated into the monitoring system; all coastal and marine PAs included for regular measurement; measurement time-table agreed. 2.3 Technical extension services created under the umbrella of MEFWA or Forum and start to provide guidance to site managers on cost-effective management and conservation approaches. Electronic and printed guidance is developed for PA practitioners on ecological and economic effectiveness of MCPA management. Training on: (a) marine biodiversity conservation measures and monitoring of impacts on biodiversity, (b) PA management planning, (c) PA business planning, (d) setting and running participatory PA Management Boards, (e) use of the METT, and (f) approaches to conflict resolution. 2.4 Management and business planning demonstrated at Karaburuni-Sazani MPA: site Management Board established engaging local fishermen and land-user communities and entrepreneurs; management and business plan developed, revenue sources identified and launched, conservation actions, participatory monitoring and enforcement piloted.	555,000	34	1,064,500	66	1,619,500
Project management				95,000	31	213,000	69	308,000
Total project costs				950,000	32	1,977,500	68	2,927,500

B. SOURCES OF CONFIRMED CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT

Name of Cofinancier (Source)	Classification	Type	Amount ($)	%
Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration (MEFWA)	Government	Cash[1]	1,877,500	95
UNDP	International Agency	Cash	100,000	5
Total Cofinancing			**1,977,500**	

C. FINANCING PLAN SUMMARY FOR THE PROJECT ($)

	Project Preparation	Project	Total	Agency Fee	GEF and Co-financing at PIF
GEF financing	50,000	950,000	1,000,000	100,000	950,000
Co-financing	50,000	1,977,500	2,027,500		1,927,500
Total	100,000	2,927,500	3,027,500	100,000	**2,877,500**

D. GEF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY (IES), FOCAL AREA (S) AND COUNTRY (IES): Not applicable

E. CONSULTANTS WORKING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPONENTS:

Component	Estimated person weeks (only GEF)	GEF ($)	Other sources ($)	Project total ($)
Local consultants	224	136,600	39,300	175,900
International consultants	40	95,000	9,500	104,500
Total		**231,600**	**48,800**	**280,400**

Detailed information regarding the consultants is in Annex C: Consultants to be hired for the project using GEF resources.

F. PROJECT MANAGEMENT BUDGET/COST

Cost Items	Total Estimated person weeks (only GEF)	GEF ($)	Other sources ($)	Total ($)
Project Manager	90	45,000	39,000	84,000
Project Assistant	80	26,000	33,000	59,000
Equipment, Vehicles		8,000	35,000	43,000
Office facilities, communications, rent		6,000	30,000	36,000
Travel		10,000	56,000	66,000
Total		**95,000**	**193,000**	**288,000**

Detailed information regarding the consultants is in Annex C: Consultants to be hired for the project using GEF resources.

G. DOES THE PROJECT INCLUDE A "NON-GRANT" INSTRUMENT? NO.

H. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M &E PLAN:

1. The project team and the UNDP Country Office (UNDP-CO) supported by the UNDP-GEF Regional Coordination Unit in Bratislava will be responsible for project monitoring and evaluation conducted in accordance with established UNDP and GEF procedures. The Project Results Framework in Annex A provides performance and impact indicators for project implementation, along with their corresponding means of verification. The GEF Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) will also be used to monitor progress on increasing the management effectiveness of marine and coastal PAs. During project development, the METT has been completed for the MCPA where demonstration activities are to take place – Karaburuni-Sazani – and this is attached in Annex H. During project implementation, the use of the METT is to be institutionalized as a system-level tool for measuring and monitoring MCPA management effectiveness, and it will be applied to all proposed marine and coastal protected areas. The following sections outline the principle components of the M&E plan and indicative cost estimates related to M&E activities. The project's M&E plan will be presented to all stakeholders at the Project's Inception Workshop and finalized following a collective fine-tuning of indicators, means of verification, and the full definition of project staff M&E responsibilities.

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[1] Cash managed by partner.

Project start

2.   A Project Inception Workshop will be held within the first 2 months of project start-up involving those with assigned roles in the project organization structure, UNDP country office, and, where appropriate/ feasible, regional technical policy and programme advisors, as well as other stakeholders. The Inception Workshop is crucial to building ownership for the project results and to plan the first year's annual work plan. The Inception Workshop report will be a key reference document and will be prepared and shared with participants to formalize various agreements and plans decided during the meeting. The Inception Workshop will address a number of key issues including:

- Assist all partners to fully understand and take ownership of the project. Detail the roles, support services and complementary responsibilities of UNDP CO and RCU staff vis-à-vis the project team. Discuss the roles, functions, and responsibilities within the project's decision-making structures, including reporting and communication lines, and conflict resolution mechanisms. The Terms of Reference for project staff will be discussed again as needed.
- Based on the project results framework and the METT, finalize the first annual work plan. Review and agree on the indicators, targets and their means of verification, and re-check assumptions and risks.
- Provide a detailed overview of reporting, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) requirements. The Monitoring and Evaluation work plan and budget should be agreed and scheduled.
- Discuss financial reporting procedures and obligations, and arrangements for annual audit.
- Plan and schedule Project Board meetings. Roles and responsibilities of all project organization structures should be clarified and meetings planned. The first Project Board meeting should be held <u>within the first 12 months</u> following the Inception Workshop.

Quarterly monitoring

- Progress made shall be monitored in the UNDP Enhanced Results Based Management Platform.
- Based on the initial risk analysis submitted, the risk log shall be regularly updated in ATLAS.
- Based on the information recorded in Atlas, a Project Progress Reports (PPR) can be generated in the Executive Snapshot.
- Other ATLAS logs can be used to monitor issues, lessons learned etc. The use of these functions will be a key indicator in the UNDP Executive Balanced Scorecard.

Annual monitoring

3.   Annual Project Review/ Project Implementation Reports (APR/PIR): This key report will be prepared to monitor progress made since project start and in particular for the previous reporting period (30 June to 1 July). The APR/PIR combines both UNDP and GEF reporting requirements. The APR/PIR includes, but is not limited to, reporting on the following:

- Progress made toward project objective and project outcomes - each with indicators, baseline data and end-of-project targets (cumulative)
- Project outputs delivered per project outcome (annual)
- Lessons learned/good practice.
- AWP and other expenditure reports
- Risk and adaptive management
- ATLAS QPR
- Portfolio level indicators (i.e. METT)

Periodic monitoring through site visits

4.   UNDP CO and the UNDP RCU will conduct visits to project sites based on the agreed schedule in the project's Inception Report/Annual Work Plan to assess first hand project progress. Other members of the Project Board may also join these visits. A Field Visit Report/ BTOR will be prepared by the CO and UNDP RCU and will be circulated no less than one month after the visit to the project team and Project Board members.

Mid-term of project cycle

5.   The project will undergo an independent <u>Mid-Term Evaluation</u> at the mid-point of project implementation. The Mid-Term Evaluation will determine progress being made toward the achievement of outcomes and will identify course

correction if needed. It will focus on the effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of project implementation; highlight issues requiring decisions and actions; and present initial lessons learned about project design, implementation and management. Findings of this review will be incorporated as recommendations for enhanced implementation during the final half of the project's term. The organization, terms of reference and timing of the mid-term evaluation will be decided after consultation between the parties to the project document. The Terms of Reference for this Mid-term evaluation will be prepared by the UNDP CO based on guidance from the Regional Coordinating Unit and UNDP-GEF. The management response and the evaluation will be uploaded to UNDP corporate systems, in particular the UNDP Evaluation Office Evaluation Resource Center (ERC). The METT will also be completed during the mid-term evaluation cycle.

End of project

6.   An independent Final Evaluation will take place three months prior to the final Project Board meeting and will be undertaken in accordance with UNDP and GEF guidance. The final evaluation will focus on the delivery of the project's results as initially planned (and as corrected after the mid-term evaluation, if any such correction took place). The final evaluation will look at impact and sustainability of results, including the contribution to capacity development and the achievement of global environmental benefits/ goals. The Terms of Reference for this evaluation will be prepared by the UNDP CO based on guidance from the Regional Coordinating Unit and UNDP-GEF. The Terminal Evaluation should also provide recommendations for follow-up activities and requires a management response which should be uploaded to UNDP-GEF's Project Information Management System (PIMS) and to the UNDP Evaluation Office Evaluation Resource Center (ERC). The METT will also be completed during the final evaluation.

7.   During the last three months, the project team will prepare the Project Terminal Report. This comprehensive report will summarize the results achieved (objectives, outcomes, outputs), lessons learned, problems met and areas where results may not have been achieved. It will also lay out recommendations for any further steps that may need to be taken to ensure sustainability and replicability of the project's results.

Learning and knowledge sharing

8.   Results from the project will be disseminated within and beyond the project intervention zone through existing information sharing networks and forums. The project will identify and participate, as relevant and appropriate, in scientific, policy-based and/ or any other networks, which may be of benefit to project implementation though lessons learned. The project will identify, analyze, and share lessons learned that might be beneficial in the design and implementation of similar future projects. Finally, there will be a two-way flow of information between this project and other projects of a similar focus.

Table 1. Project Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and Budget

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget (US$)	Time frame
Inception Workshop (IW)	Project Manager Ministry of Environment, UNDP, UNDP-GEF	5,000	Within first two months of project start up
Inception Report	Project Team PSC, UNDP CO	None	Immediately following IW
Measurement of Means of Verification for Project Purpose Indicators	Project Manager will oversee the hiring of specific studies and institutions, and delegate responsibilities to relevant team members	To be finalized in Inception Phase and Workshop. Cost to be covered by targeted survey funds.	Start, mid and end of project
Annual Measurement of Means of Verification for Project Progress and Performance	Oversight by Project GEF Technical Advisor and Project Manager Measurements by regional field officers and local IAs	TBD as part of the Annual Work Plan's preparation. Cost to be covered by field survey budget.	Annually prior to APR/PIR and to the definition of annual work plans
PIR	Project Team PSC UNDP-GEF	None	Annually
Steering Committee meetings	Project Manager	None	Following IW and annually thereafter.
Technical and periodic status reports	Project team Hired consultants as needed	None	TBD by Project team and UNDP-CO
Mid-term External Evaluation	Project team PSC	25,000	At the mid-point of project implementation.

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget (US$)	Time frame
	UNDP-GEF RCU External Consultants (evaluation team)		
Final External Evaluation	Project team, PSC, UNDP-GEF RCU External Consultants (evaluation team)	32,000	At the end of project implementation
Terminal Report	Project team PSC External Consultant	None	At least one month before the end of the project
Audit	UNDP-CO Project team	5,000	Yearly
Visits to field sites (UNDP staff travel costs to be charged to IA fees)	UNDP-CO, UNDP-GEF RCU Government representatives	None	Yearly average one visit per year
TOTAL (indicative) COST (Excluding project and UNDP staff time costs)		67,000	

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:

A. STATE THE ISSUE, HOW THE PROJECT SEEKS TO ADDRESS IT, AND THE EXPECTED GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS TO BE DELIVERED:

A.1. Geographic and biodiversity context

9.   Albania is located in Southeastern Europe, bordering Serbia and Montenegro in the north, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the east, and Greece in the south. To its west lie the Adriatic Sea (sandy shore) and Ionian seas (rocky shore) with a coastline of 476 kilometers. Albania is a small country (land area: 28,748 km²) with a mostly mountainous terrain (highest point is Maja e Korabit at 2,753 m), and small plains along the coast. The country has a strategic location along the Strait of Otranto, which links the Adriatic Sea to Ionian Sea and Mediterranean Sea. These two seas have traditionally played an important role in the country's history, culture and economic development. More than half of the Albanian population lives in the coastal zone, where the most urbanized and industrialized areas are situated (except Tirana, the capital, which is more inland).

10.   Albania is distinguished for its rich biological and landscape diversity. This diversity is attributable to the country's geographic position as well as geological, hydrological, climatic, soil and relief characteristics. The mountainous terrain combined with steep cliffs creates ideal conditions for maintaining and protecting a large number of ancient species, some of which are endemic or sub-endemic. The high diversity of ecosystems and habitats (marine and coastal ecosystems, wetlands, river deltas, sand dunes, lakes, rivers, Mediterranean shrubs, broadleaf, coniferous and mixed forests, alpine and subalpine pastures and meadows, and high mountain ecosystems) offers rich habitats for a variety of plants and animals. There are around 3,200 species of vascular plants and 756 vertebrate species. There are 27 endemic and 160 sub-endemic species of vascular plants.

11.   Situated between the Adriatic and the Ionian seas, Albanian marine and coastal waters hold an important position from a bio-geographic viewpoint, especially for its position at the Otranto channel. This channel has been considered as "the door" of the Adriatic Sea. The regime of the Adriatic is highly dependent on the water mass dynamics in this channel, affecting the hydrological and physio-chemical characteristics of the whole basin. This channel is the only corridor for migratory species of the Adriatic. Thus, this area has a special importance for biodiversity, not only from a regional perspective, but also from a larger perspective, when considering migratory species of global concern, such as cetaceans and sea turtles.

12.   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 resulted in a high marine biodiversity. Albanian marine waters host about 64 species of international concern. Among them are many globally threatened fish species, such as sturgeons (*Acipenser sturio, Acipenser nacarii, Huso huso*), sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*), great white shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*), blue shark (*Prionace glauca*), sharpnose sevengill shark (*Heptranchias perlo*), porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*), basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*), thornback skate (*Raja clavata*), and giant devilray (*Mobula mobular*). Three globally endangered reptile species: loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) can be found in Albania, with the last two being very rare species, while *Caretta caretta* is more common. The Mediterranean seal (*Monachus monachus*), a critically endangered species, is also a very rare occasional visitor to the Albanian coastal waters.

13.   Meadows of seagrass (*Posidonia oceancia*) cover almost the entire Ionian coast in Albania, sheltering a rich benthic fauna. The red coral (*Corallium rubrum*), date mussel (*Lithophaga lithophaga*) and several gorgonians, sponges, cnidarians, mollusks, crustaceans, echinoderms and other invertebrate species of regional and international concern are present in the Albanian marine waters.

14.   Out of 514 avifauna species found in Europe, 323 are recorded in Albania. Most of them are present around marine and coastal areas. Among them are globally threatened species, such as Dalmatian pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*), pigmy cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*), white stork (*Ciconia ciconia*), Eurasian spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*), several species of predatory birds (Falconiformes) belonging to genera such as Aquila, Falco, Circus, and Buteo.

15.   Five species of cetaceans have been recorded in the Albanian coast namely, common bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncates*), short-beaked common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*), striped dolphin (*Stenella coeruleoalba*), sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*) and Cuvier´s beaked whale (*Ziphius cavirostris*). All of them are globally threatened species. Three of them are identified by ACCOBAMS as the species in greatest danger of disappearing from the Mediterranean, namely short-beaked common dolphin, common bottlenose dolphin, and sperm whale.

A.2. Socioeconomic context in coastal and marine areas

16.   Albania remains one of the poorest countries in Europe. About 25% of the country's GDP is generated in agriculture. Over 32% of agricultural export is accounted by fisheries. Fishing activity takes place along the entire coastline, including its territorial waters 12 miles offshore. For the most part it is concentrated along the continental shelf zone, which coincides with areas of highest marine biodiversity. In 2006, there were 260 industrial registered vessels, with about 900 people working as fisherman, and 600 people involved in allied activities. In terms of subsistence fishing, there are 500 small scale vessels and nearly 1,000 persons involved in this activity. Other important activities taking place in the coastal zone include agriculture and industry.

17.   The coastal area of Albania has always represented an area of multiple socioeconomic activities. During antiquity it was the most populated and developed area, with many important urban centers such as Lissus (Lezha), San Giovani (Shëngjini), Durrahium (Durrësi), Apollonia (Apollonia), Buthroti (Butrinti). Economic activities included agriculture, farming, fishing, metal, stone and wood related activities, and construction. Trade relations were maintained with all Mediterranean countries. During the Middle Ages the main urban centers of the coastal area were destroyed. The population was diminished and the socioeconomic activities deteriorated as a result of enduring wars and the occupation of the Ottoman Empire. The swamping of lowlands near the deltas of the rivers Drin, Mat, Ishëm, Erzen, Shkumbin, Seman, Vjosë, and Bistricë, among others, also had a negative impact on economic activities. Up until 1950, the major part of Albania's coastal area were swamps and marshlands covered by a dense natural vegetation (high forests, Mediterranean bushes and other typical wetland vegetation), where a rich fauna was present. During winter months, these areas were exploited for farming (mainly sheep) by the population coming down from the mountainous zones. Permanent settlements near these zones (rarely within them) were created during the end of the 19th century.

18.   From 1960 to 1990 human population in coastal districts doubled[2], while the population of the lowland zone almost quadrupled. This was a result of the natural growth rhythm (2.5-3% per year) and the forced movement (by state institutions) of inhabitants from other regions of the country. Settlements increased and expanded, and along with that constructed areas also increased (e.g., dwellings, socio-cultural and economic objects, roads). Over the period 1991 to 2009, increase in urban solid wastes (for example from the use of foods and goods wrapped in synthetic material) and the lack of waste and sewage treatment plants in rural areas have had an adverse impact on biodiversity.

19.   Since the 1950s, the intensity of socioeconomic activities in the coastal zone has steadily increased. Agricultural and industrial activity led to intensification of natural resource exploitation, reduction and fragmentation of natural habitats, and increased amount of wastes and noise pollution. Many species were reduced in number or disappeared. Most of the Albanian coastal area was used for agricultural purposes. Arable areas were expanded through deforestation and reclamation of coastal marshlands. Drainage and irrigation systems were constructed over the entire arable surface, agricultural mechanization increased, and chemical use intensified (fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides, pesticides) per surface unit. Natural vegetation areas in the coastal zone were exploited as pastures for the livestock of coastal area cooperatives and farms. Vegetation areas in the mountainous zones were also exploited as pastures during wintertime. The deep excavation of the land with mechanical tools, the intensive pasturing and especially the use of chemicals had negative impacts in terms of environmental pollution (land, water and air) and ecosystem damage. Coastal forests and

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[2] Population density increased from 100 inhabitants per square kilometer in 1960 to 400 inhabitants per square kilometer in 2008.

water surfaces (lagoons, river deltas and shallow maritime waters) were used for hunting and fishing purposes. The existing Fishing Enterprises, whose activities were carried out according to rules determined by state institutions, seriously damaged aquatic fauna. Biodiversity in protected coastal areas was negatively affected by the gathering of medicinal herbs, especially when the activity was performed out of the permitted season. Important industrial facilities were built in the lowland area, representing the main sources of environmental pollution.

A.3. Key drivers of the loss of marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystem services

20.   The main pressures on the marine and coastal biodiversity of Albania are coastal degradation, over-exploitation of marine and coastal resources, and pollution of coastal and marine waters, brought on by economic activities. As highlighted in the preceding description of the socio-economic context, the coastal zone has historically been an important locus for economic activities such as agriculture and industry, and continues to attract inhabitants from other regions of the country. In addition to these pressures from economic activities, climate change is another factor that impacts the health of Albania's coastal and marine biodiversity. The main drivers that are causing changes in coastal and marine ecosystems and ecosystem services are described further below.

21.   **Degradation of coastal areas.** More than 1/3rd of the Adriatic coast of the country is being eroded. The erosion intensity is estimated at an average of 1 to 2 meters per year, with the maximum erosion rate being 20 meters per year. Apart from natural evolution of the coastal morphology, this process has been accelerated by a series of human activities, such as extraction of inert materials (gravel and sand) from sandy beaches for construction materials, irrational tourism and recreation construction along the coast, deforestation of large coastal areas (even inside protected areas), and agricultural development. During the last decades, rural migration towards coastal areas has led to creation of new urban areas and enlargement of the existing ones, which has resulted in severe damage to the coast. Huge amounts of sand were extracted from the coastal zone for construction. Consequently, large sand dune systems have been destroyed. Further, extraction of sand and gravel from river beds has enormously decreased the transport of sediments to the coastal areas, creating an imbalance between sea erosion and land formation, and this is manifest in the loss of considerable land on the coast. Reclamation, drainage and irrigation works have drastically reduced the size of the former coastal wetland area of Albania and changed the water regime in all of the remaining wetlands.

22.   **Uncontrolled harvest of coastal and marine resources.** The rapid increase of human population in the coastal area is accompanied by an increased demand and exploitation of marine and coastal resources, particularly fish resources. During the last years, 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. Foreign vessels fishing offshore Albania also deplete stocks, especially of fish, mollusks and crustaceans, which are in demand in western markets. Divers have illegally extracted the bivalve mollusc (*Lithophaga lithophaga*) in a way that damages entire coastal rocks. Bivalves (*Tapes decussatus, Venus verrucosa, Mytilus galloprovincialis, Pina nobilis*), and crustaceans of large size and high commercial value (such as *Palinurus elephas, Hommarus 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. Uncontrolled hunting is another major form of disturbance to biodiversity, especially in the winter months when migratory birds are at risk. The Sea eagle (*Haliaetus albicilla*) had previously been a permanent species with many nesting places in coastal areas such as Velipoja, Lezha, and Karavasta. Currently, it is found only in the area of Karavasta (as a wintering species), and in Butrinti (as a rare summer visitor).

23.   **Pollution of marine and coastal waters.** Increase of organic and inorganic pollutants, including several dangerous resistant compounds, has increased the concentration of nutrients and eutrophication in some coastal areas, especially lagoons. Degradation of seagrass meadows (*Posidonia oceancia*) has been recorded in the Adriatic and Ionian coasts. Pollutants typically originate in activities on the mainland and are transported to the coast by rivers. The major share of pollution comes from urban and industrial wastes, sewage, and chemicals used in agriculture. At present, industrial pollution is limited due to the limited industrial development of Albania compared to many other Mediterranean countries. However, there are several industrial "hot spots" that have remained from the past, some of which are situated in coastal areas (e.g., chemical storage in Porto Romano, Durres, PVC factory in Vlora), and others that continue to affect coastal waters through river transport (e.g., oil pollution of Patos-Marinëz-Ballsh through Semani River, metallurgic pollution of Elbasani through Shkumbini River).

24.   **Climate change.** The impacts of climate change in Albania are not easy to measure, mainly due to the lack of historical data and inappropriate evidence for enabling accurate statistic elaborations. Despite these limitations, some of the evident impacts of climate change in coastal areas in Albania include: sea level rise, lagoon regime changes, highly

increased frequency and intensity of floods, introduction of alien and invasive species from warmer regions, and decrease of some marine and coastal populations of fish and invertebrates (particularly stenotherm organisms).

25.   **Potential threats** could arise in the future from activities such as extraction of sand from the bottom of the sea at a depth of between 20 to 30 meters in the southern Ionian coast of Albania, plans for on-shore drilling and possible oil exploitation along the coast and invasive species such as *Caulerpa taxifolia* that is widely dispersed in the Mediterranean basin, including the Adriatic Sea, on the Dalmatian coast of Croatia.

A.4. Baseline framework for the conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity

26.   The Albanian government has initiated several steps to conserve and sustainably manage its biodiversity. It has developed a Coastal Zone Management Plan (prepared in 1996 and approved in 2002), a Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (prepared in 1999 and approved in 2002), and a National Environmental Action Plan (updated in 2002). It has in place several laws that support the conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity. Responsibilities for implementing these laws have been allocated to various institutions. It has also established a number of protected areas. However, there remain several issues related to protected area management that have not been fully addressed due to incomplete regulatory and policy frameworks and lack of capacities. These different components of the baseline situation for conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity are described below.

Legal framework

27.   Under the PPG phase a comprehensive assessment was undertaken of the legal framework for conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity through the establishment of PAs[3]. As outlined in this study, the main laws that are relevant for coastal and marine biodiversity conservation include the following:

- Law No.8906 dated 6.6.2002 "On protected areas"; amendment dated 4.2.2008 in Law No. 9868 "On some supplements and changes in Law No. 8906, dated 6.6.2002 "On protected areas""
- Law No. 7908, dated on 05.04.1995 "On fishery and aquaculture"; amendment dated 21.03.2002 in Law No. 8870 "On amendments to law No. 7908 dated 05.04.1995 for fishery and aquaculture"
- Law No. 9587 dated 20.07.2006 "On biodiversity protection"
- Law No. xx4 dated 23.12.2009 "On Hunting"
- Law No. 10 006 dated 23.10.2008 "On wild fauna protection"
- The respective bylaws

28.   The administration and management of protected areas is based on Law No. 8906 dated 6 June 2002 "On Protected Areas" (henceforth referred to as PA Law). The PA law, which was amended in 2008, aims at the declaration, preservation, management and usage of protected areas and their natural and biological resources. The regulation of protected areas is based on six IUCN categories.[5] The law also includes coastal areas (mainly lagoons and estuaries) together with the adjacent marine area. However, the existing legislation does not explicitly cover marine protected areas or off-shore marine areas. While the current definition of 'protected area' in the Albanian legislation suggests that protected areas can be declared in marine areas[6] there are some ambiguities in the definition and in the definition of the level of protection afforded by the different categories of PAs vis-à-vis MPAs.

29.   The management of coastal and marine protected areas can be complemented by existing legislation regulating fisheries activities (Law No. 7908, dated 5.4.1995 "For Fishery and Aquaculture", amendments to this law made in 2002, and some specific relevant regulations such as Regulation Number 1, dated 29.3.2005 "For the implementation of the legislation on Fishery and Aquaculture"). Of direct relevance for the protection of the marine environment is the description of the tasks of the Directorate of fisheries policies as 'to determine periods of biological cessation, to determine the forbidden fishing zones, the technical restrictions for ships and fishing tools in order to establish a legal fishing and to protect the environment'.

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[3] Improving coverage and management effectiveness of marine and coastal protected areas, Final Report, January 2010, Ermira Koçu (Deçka), Environmental Legal Expert (study available upon request from UNDP-Albania)

[4] Law is still to be transcribed by the Assembly.

[5] These are IUCN Categories IB, II, III, IV, V, and VI.

6 Article 3(1) of Law No. 8906, dated 6.6.2002 on protected areas: Protected areas are declared land, aquatic, marine and coastal territories determined for the protection of biological diversity, natural and cultural resources, associative, which are managed legally and by contemporary scientific methods.

30.   Law No. 9587, dated 20.7.2006 "On biodiversity protection" is relevant for the establishment of marine protected areas. The overall objective of the law is "to ensure the protection and the preservation of biological diversity" and to "regulate the sustainable use of the biological diversity components, through the integration of the key elements of biodiversity in strategies, plans, programs and in decision making at all levels". The scope of the law includes aquatic and marine areas.

31.   While this provides a good foundation for establishing and managing coastal and marine protected areas, there are certain areas where the laws can be strengthened to facilitate their implementation in support of coastal and marine biodiversity conservation. Some examples of this include, the use of the term 'territories' in the PA law could be made clearer so that it applies to "marine territories', the description of the PA categories (territories) and the activities that are prohibited could be described in more general terms that applies to marine areas too (e.g., "extraction of natural resources" versus "hunting or fishing"), stakeholder involvement in the process of both establishment and management of PAs could be made more specific, obligations for monitoring could include more information about the process of monitoring (such as indicators, tasks and responsibilities), and the issue of enforcement could be included more explicitly.

Institutional framework

32.   The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration (MEFWA) is the main institution responsible for the protection of environmental values in Albania. There are relatively high research capacities within a number of research institutions and universities on issues of ecology and protected areas. An important recent step has been the creation of the so-called management boards at PAs, which are participatory structures that engage local communities and entrepreneurs in site planning and management. This has recently been introduced in law, but its practical application remains extremely limited.

33.   Implementation of marine/coastal programs, projects and plans occurs at two main governance levels, namely: central administration and local. Each authority in these levels has different mandate/roles with respect to the implementation of marine/coastal programs and related activities in the country.

34.   The roles of central government, sectoral ministries and corresponding institutions include: development of plans and budgets; formulation of policies; development of legislation and its enforcement; collection of revenue; human resource development; research and research coordination; and training and extension services. All these roles are very relevant to the development and implementation of integrated management of coastal and marine resources in the country.

35.   Local government authorities have roles to play in management of resources. In line with the decentralization processes currently being pursued, regulatory and local development authority is being devolved to local government units, leaving central government agencies to focus on policy formulation, planning, standard setting and coordination. In addition, local authorities have other roles such as: issuing of licenses, e.g. construction, law enforcement and by-laws, and revenue collection.

36.   Non-governmental and community-based organizations are regarded as important actors, pressure groups, and partners in the management of marine/coastal resources. This is attributed to their design, which makes them more accessible, and closer to the local communities they serve. There are experiences on ground of funding agencies working with NGOs and CBOs in activities related to the management of marine/coastal environment. Different NGOs are involved in a number of activities related to management of the marine/coastal environment. These include: awareness-raising and extension services, promotion of gender roles (particularly women empowerment), capacity building and technical assistance. However, many NGOs and CBOs in the region are facing significant constraints that affect their performance. These constraints include limitations in organizational capacity, technical expertise, financial resources and accessibility to the decision-making process.

Network of coastal and marine protected areas

37.   There are currently about 797 protected areas in Albania (see Annex F for the list of protected areas of Albania with the respective IUCN categories, surface, year of proclamation and administrative districts). All together, the PAs cover 12.57 % of the total land surface of the country. A large number of these (750) are Natural Monuments, which includes bio-monuments, geo-monuments and nature monuments. The remaining 47 PAs are categorized as Strict Nature Reserves (2), National Parks (14), Managed Nature Reserves (22), Protected Landscape Areas (5), and Protected Areas of Managed Resources (4). Of these 47 PAs, 10 PAs can be considered coastal PAs. As of February 2010, there are no marine protected areas in Albania. Recently, the "Karaburuni peninsula–Sazani island–Vlora Bay" area has been

recommended for declaration as Albania's first marine protected area (see Annex G for a description of this area and a list of other sensitive marine areas that have been identified for protection). The draft-decision for its proclamation has been prepared in collaboration with the MEFWA and the consultation process with the interested actors and stakeholders has been carried out. The procedure for the proclamation of the MPA is under final preparation.

Ongoing baseline initiatives

38. Currently, the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration (MEFWA) through UNDP is implementing a project[7] "PA Gap assessment and MPA development in Albania" that aims to implement some of the key recommendations related to the country's participation in the Program of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA), including accomplishment of a comprehensive ecological gap assessment for the protected area system and starting a process of establishment of a policy environment and knowledge base on marine protected areas. The PoWPA project will develop recommendations for modifications to the 2002 Law on Protected Areas and a Decree on the Administration of Protected Areas. (For further details on baseline activities see Section F on incremental reasoning of the project).

A.5. Desired long-term solution and barriers to achieving it

39. The PoWPA project, however, is limited in time, funding and scope. It is only a first step in achieving a long-term solution, which is to ensure maximum ecological coverage of marine and coastal PAs, as well as high management effectiveness of the marine and coastal protected area system in Albania. The attainment of this solution is hampered by two main barriers described below.

40. **Poor bio-geographical representation of marine biodiversity**: The preliminary findings of the PoWPA project are that there are major areas of high marine biodiversity value in Albania that require protection. These are: Cape of Lagji / Turra Castle (600 ha); Cape of Rodoni- Lalzi Bay-Ishmi Forest (2,500 ha); Llogora-Vlora Bay-Orikum, Karaburun-Sazan-Radhimë-Tragjas-Dukat (35,000 ha); Canyon of Gjipe (1,200 ha); Porto Palermo (600 ha); Kakome Bay and Cap Qefali (2,200 ha); Çuka Channel-Ksamili Bay and Islands (1,000 ha); Pagane-Cape Stillo and Island (500 ha). The lagoons and coastal wetlands of Albania, of which nine areas are Coastal Protected Areas currently, are of special concern, particularly for the avifauna they host. Covering just 3% of the territory, they host over 70% of the country's biodiversity. Important wetlands such as Karavasta, Narta and Kune-Vaini provide wintering habitat for birds along Albania's coast[8]. At present, in terms of providing protection to marine and coastal biodiversity, the country has nine coastal PAs, and no marine PAs[9]. Further, there is little knowledge of what a marine park should be like, what the protection regimes should be for its core areas, and how buffer areas should be managed. The PoWPA project will produce knowledge of ecological gaps and develop recommendations for amendment of legislation. However, there is still a need to finalize the legislative improvement process and translate ecological gap analysis into a system plan for marine and coastal PA expansion. At the current stage of PoWPA project some of these gaps have been addressed and several relevant activities have been carried out.

41. **Weak institutional framework for marine and coastal PA governance and poor capacities at institutional and individual levels**: The first issue under this barrier is cross-sectoral coordination. Historically, the mandate for protected area management has been with the General Directorate for Forestry and Pastures (GDFP), but the governance reform of 2005 reallocated several responsibilities of the former GDFP to MEFWA. In addition, ecological monitoring is done by a number of state research institutions/ agencies, as well as the National Environmental and Forestry Agency. At this stage, PA responsibilities and reporting lines between all these PA institutions remain ambiguous. The current staffing profile of the MEFWA makes it difficult to ensure good communication horizontally (with sister ministries) as well as vertically (between MEFWA, as a central institution, regional branches and site administrations). Site managers do not have channels for receiving timely guidance on site management and conservation approaches. This absence of cooperation is critical when it comes to organizing effective monitoring and enforcement work as well as proactive, prevention-oriented efforts. The absence of effective horizontal and vertical coordination affects the quality of monitoring of natural resource use and enforcement of the fishing and hunting laws. In the absence of such a cooperative framework, their ability to mitigate primary threats to globally significant marine biological diversity is

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[7] Under GEF Program "Supporting Country Action on the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas" financed by GEF with USD 150,000 and cash/kind of UNDP, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration, WWF and local NGO INCA
[8] These three wetlands alone serve as a shelter for more than 6% of the wintering individuals of the European population of the *Pelecanus crispus*.
[9] As indicated earlier, since the submission and approval of the PIF for this project, a draft decision for the proclamation of the Karaburuni Marine Protected Area has been submitted to the MEFWA and is expected to be approved by the Council of Ministers.

compromised significantly. One important element of the baseline – the idea of participatory management boards at each PA, although put in law, has not been tested in coastal areas. Local fishermen communities, driven by subsistence needs, industrial fishing companies and land-users have not been engaged in biodiversity conservation discussions, not to mention PA planning and management. The conservation and economic efficacy of many theoretically sound win-win opportunities for non-destructive economic practices at sensitive coastal and marine areas have not been tested. Instead, conflicts between conservationists and local people remain frequent.

42.   The second issue in this barrier deals with capacities at the institutional and individual levels. MEFWA, in spite of being the main environmental authority, lacks capacities to plan for the expansion of MCPAs, enforce legislation, increase ecological representation and conservation effectiveness of the network of PAs, and monitor site performance. In anticipation of MCPA expansion, capacity shortfalls present an ever growing challenge, as it will be increasingly difficult to locate adequately qualified personnel to run the expanded PA network. At the site and regional levels, knowledge and capabilities to develop and implement site management plans and business plans are very limited. Diversification of revenues for PAs has not been used as a criterion for assessing performance of protected areas. Overall, government decisions regarding PAs are ad-hoc, as the country lacks a metric to evaluate PA management effectiveness. Limited capacities are currently preventing effective enforcement, or even clear understanding, of existing legislation and associated regulations. This is a significant barrier to strengthening management effectiveness. During the PPG phase the METT was applied to the soon-to-be declared MPA and Karaburuni-Sazani and, not surprisingly, the scores were very low (see table below for a summary and Annex H for the full METT). The MPA scored well on the Context question manly because the process for declaration is close to completion. Scores on questions related to Outcomes were reasonable because the area already generates economic benefits for local communities that can be enhanced through better management effectiveness of the MPA. Scores on aspects related to planning, inputs, outputs and processes for effective MPA management are low because of the weak institutional framework for marine and coastal PA governance and poor capacities at institutional and individual levels.

Table 2. Analysis of METT Scores for Karaburuni-Sazani MPA

	Marine and Coastal Protected Areas	METT Score by Category (as % of total possible score for the category)						Total METT Score	Rating*	Target Rating
		Context	Planning	Inputs	Outputs	Processes	Outcomes			
MARINE PROTECTED AREAS (with or without coastal components)										
1	Karaburuni-Sazani	67%	17%	11%	0%	11%	44%	17%	Poor	45-55%
2	Cape Rodoni-Lazli Bay	(to be completed in early stages of project implementation)								
3	Pagane-Stillo Cape	(to be completed in early stages of project implementation)								
	Average Sub-total									
COASTAL PROTECTED AREAS										
1	Butrinti	(to be completed in early stages of project implementation)								
2	Divjakë-Karavasta	(to be completed in early stages of project implementation)								
3	Kune	(to be completed in early stages of project implementation)								
4	Vain	(to be completed in early stages of project implementation)								
5	Pishë Poro	(to be completed in early stages of project implementation)								
6	Patok-Fushë Kuqe	(to be completed in early stages of project implementation)								
7	Rrushkull	(to be completed in early stages of project implementation)								
8	Vjosë-Nartë	(to be completed in early stages of project implementation)								
9	Lumi Buna-Velipojë	(to be completed in early stages of project implementation)								
	Average Sub-total									

Notes to table:

*Ratings: < 25% (0–26 points) Poor; 26–50% (27–51 pts) Fair; 51–75% (52-77 pts) Good; 76–100% (78-102 pts) Excellent

A.6. Project Strategy

43.   Albania is committed to the CBD's Programme of Work on Protected Areas, which has the objective of supporting the establishment and maintenance of comprehensive, effectively managed, and ecologically representative national and regional marine protected areas by 2012. To realize this target, it is critical that the above identified barriers to establishing a representative and effectively managed network of marine and coastal PAs are removed. The Government of Albania is requesting GEF support to remove these barriers and put in place a long-term, strategic plan

for marine and coastal PA expansion, accompanied with the necessary policy reform and institutional strengthening activities necessary to ensure management effectiveness. Based on assessments conducted through PPG resources and consultations with stakeholders, the project strategy will pursue actions at the systemic level and in a pilot MCPA site. Activities at the systemic level will help ensure that the enabling environment is in place for progressive expansion of the country's marine and coastal PA network even after project-end. Actions at the pilot site level will enable stakeholders to "ground truth" the new legal and policy frameworks, and test and develop new tools for enhancing PA management effectiveness.

44.   The long term goal to which the project will contribute is securing the protection of Albania's unique coastal and marine biodiversity for current and future generations. The immediate objective is to improve the coverage and management effectiveness of Albania's network of marine and coastal protected areas as an essential complement to its network of terrestrial PAs. This objective will be realized through the following outcomes, outputs and activities.

Outcome 1:   Improved bio-geographical representation of marine and coastal protected areas (MCPAs)

Output 1.1   Strategic Plan for Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (SPMCPA)

45.   Building on legislative improvements (since NBSAP approval in 1999) and the achievements of the POWPA project, this output will develop a Strategic Plan for Albania's Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs) that will outline a ten-year strategy for enhancing coverage and management effectiveness of this sub-set of the national protected areas system. The principal aspects to be covered include the following: development and approval of by-laws and regulations to better support conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity through a protected areas approach; an expansion plan for progressive inclusion of additional MCPAs; a monitoring system; and a financial sustainability plan. Each of these elements of the SPMCPA is described below.

46.   <u>Legislative and regulatory framework</u>: As part of the Strategic Plan, changes will be identified to existing laws and by-laws so that they are more explicit in supporting establishment and effective management of MCPAs. Building on the initial legal gap analysis undertaken during the PPG[10], an analytical review will be undertaken of the laws and by-laws relating to protected areas, fisheries and aquaculture, biodiversity protection, hunting, wild fauna protection, territorial planning, tourism, and marine water protection from pollution and discharge. Specific amendments will be drafted that remove legal barriers to effectively managed MCPAs. This will include stipulations on funding sources with the three main ones being: (a) budget allocations, (b) revenue raised by PAs themselves, and (c) donor funding, and establishing the legal basis for PAs to earn and retain self-generated income. The analytical review will be carried out by a team of legal consultants who will also be tasked with reviewing best practices on legal frameworks for coastal and marine protected areas from the region and around the world. In addition, once activities are well underway in the project's pilot area, experiences from the pilot will be used to inform the amendments to the legal framework. The analytical review will be followed by a consultative dialogue involving inputs from government, non-government, and research institutions in order to facilitate legal reform. Finally, resources will be dedicated to the promotion and dissemination of information related to the new legal framework to a wide audience, in order to facilitate the process of approval of the legal amendments by the National Assembly.

47.   <u>Expansion plan</u>: A ten-year strategy will be developed for gradually expanding the representation of coastal and marine ecosystems in Albania's national system of protected areas. The plan will be based on the existing studies on potential sites to be considered for declaration as marine and/ or coastal protected areas. The initial study completed by the POWPA project, which has identified 8 areas as potential MPAs, will be updated, and a plan on steps to be taken for proclamation of these areas will be developed. MCPAs will be prioritized according to the degree of conservation interventions required (i.e. areas needing immediate threat mitigation versus longer-term preventative actions). The main lines of action needed to achieve the relevant conservation interventions will be designed. Implementation details and timetable will be defined for each action. Existing good practices on administration and management from other countries will be incorporated in the SPMCPA.

48.   <u>Monitoring system</u>: The SPMCPA will define a suitable monitoring system for the MCPAs to be applied at the local level to monitor effective management of MCPAs and impacts on coastal and marine biodiversity (implementation of the system is to take place under Output 2.2). The definition of the system will include agreement on monitoring tools to be used (based on the METT); agreement on ecological indicators to assess biodiversity impacts; agreement on

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[10] Improving coverage and management effectiveness of marine and coastal protected areas, Final Report, January 2010, Ermira Koçu (Deçka), Environmental Legal Expert (study available upon request from UNDP-Albania)

financial indicators to track revenues generated and expenditures; identification of equipment required for the park administration to undertake monitoring; design of the system in terms of data entry and report generation; estimation of financial needs for setting-up this system; as well as elaboration of an inter-institutional collaboration plan (between research and administrative/ management institutions) in order to ensure the highest degree of professional standards.

49.   Financial sustainability plan: The SPMCPA 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[11], external donor funding) for bridging the gap. At present, the PA system in Albania is primarily funded through state budget and different donors. There is a need to 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 project will develop a financial sustainability plan that will serve as a guidance document on improving financial sustainability of the network of MCPAs. Financial mechanisms recommended under this plan will be tested in the project's pilot area namely, the Karaburuni-Sazani MPA.

Output 1.2   Legal instrument establishing an MPA in the Karaburuni-Sazani area

50.   MEFWA experts have begun the legal procedures for establishment of Albania's first marine protected area in the Karaburuni-Sazani locality through a decision of the Council of Ministers. However, the proposed MPA covers a smaller area than that being recommended for inclusion in the MPA by the POWPA project. The project will support MEFWA in this process. Under this output, the project will prepare the technical basis (taking into consideration all the studies and findings of the POWPA project), and complete the process for enlarging the area covered by the proposed MPA. This will include completion of ecological studies, setting boundaries, and drafting legal instruments.

51.   The site will be officially declared/ gazetted. In drafting the legal instrument that establishes the MPA, special attention will be given to legal issues that have been identified as important for establishing MPAs in Albania by a study undertaken during the PPG[12]. These include:

- The use of terminology should be clear, easily understood by all stakeholders, and reflecting the objectives of MPAs
- The legal instrument should provide for the drafting of the management plan and the business plan of the MPA and for its inclusion in the national development strategy
- Public participation should have an important part in the legal instrument
- Compensation requirements and process should be estimated and provided before the adoption of the legal instrument, if the need for such compensation arises
- Clear competencies among the involved institutions should be provided
- Coordination issues should be clear and well defined
- Supremacy of different pieces of legislation should be provided in the legal instrument establishing the MPA
- International principles, commitments and obligations should be taken into consideration
- Penalties and enforcement provisions should have an important place in the legal instrument, and, in addition should be clear and effective
- Financial resources need to be clearly defined and included in the legal instrument before its adoption

Output 1.3   Buffer zones for the existing coastal PAs identified and demarcated, and additional most sensitive coastal and marine areas are identified.

52.   Albania's existing network of nine coastal PAs (CPAs) is currently under-capacitated. One aspect compromising the network's ability to effectively conserve coastal biodiversity is the lack of clarity on buffer zones. While there is a legal instrument pertaining to buffer zones (Decision No. 267 concerning procedures regulating proposal and declaration of protected and buffer zones dated 24 April 2003), the buffer zones for the coastal PAs are not clear. Further, permissible activities in the buffer zones are also not clear. Therefore, under this output, the project will define buffer zones for the existing coastal PAs by (a) assessing the ecological and conservation status of existing CPAs, (b) updating the zoning scheme with a clearly demarcated buffer zone, and (c) developing revised maps for each CPA. Further, for each of the nine CPAs, a special protection/ resource use regime will be proposed for the buffer zone. The

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[11] i.e., partnerships involving all economic operators that share common interest in MCPA management, subject to mutual/ conditional agreements.
[12] Improving coverage and management effectiveness of marine and coastal protected areas, Final Report, January 2010, Ermira Koçu (Deçka), Environmental Legal Expert (study available upon request from UNDP-Albania)

proposed regime will be developed in close cooperation with the user groups in the area. An agreement with local land-users will be established. Climate change risk data will also be included in this analysis to ensure that the definition of buffer zones and permissible activities increase resilience to climate risks.

53.   Following findings from POWPA, the project will undertake a more in-depth assessment for two sensitive marine and coastal areas. These are the marine area Rodoni Cape – Lalzi Bay (2500 ha) in the Adriatic Sea, and marine area Pagane – Kepi i Stillos (1000 ha, starting from south of Ksamili) in the Ionian Sea[13]. The assessment will involve various steps, including desk studies of the existing data, data gathering on marine ecology, climate change risk data, zoning and demarcation of sensitive areas, and development of regulatory, management and monitoring strategies and plans. Both these areas have coastal PAs nearby, and the in-depth studies will provide the criteria and justification for commencing the process of declaring these two areas as protected. Both these areas have coastal PAs nearby, and the studies will help assess the feasibility of establishing these 2 areas as separate MPAs or as add-ons to the existing coastal PAs. Further, the second area (Pagane – Kepi i Stillos), is situated in the south-western corner of Albania, on border with Greece, and it could be a spur for a transboundary MPA, depending on future developments in the respective marine areas of both countries.

Outcome 2: Improved management arrangements for MCPAs based on clear institutional responsibilities and development of capacities.

Output 2.1   Cross-Sectoral Forum for marine and coastal protected area management is created

54.   The project will strengthen the capacity of a Cross-Sectoral Forum for governance of marine and coastal protected areas, which will bring together relevant sectors and institutions (e.g., fisheries, agriculture, tourism, physical planning), protected area site managers, NGOs, and representatives of the main user groups in and around Albania's coastal and marine protected areas. Currently, under the UN program, the Albanian Government is being assisted to establish an Inter-ministerial Council which will be led by the Prime Minister or Deputy Prime Minister. Associated with this process, the project will establish the above mentioned Cross-Sectoral Forum for MCPAs.

55.   The Forum will help interactions among the different production sectors, PA site managers, NGOs and main user groups that need to be involved in effective management of coastal and marine resources. Scientific/ technical support and advisory services will be provided to the Forum, as needed, by national and international experts on the ecological and socio-economic aspects of marine biodiversity conservation.

56.   The work of the Forum will be orientated at national and site levels. At the national level, the Forum will share and exchange knowledge and information feeding in to the Inter-Ministerial Council. At the site level, the Forum will provide advice on the establishment of site-level management boards[14] for marine and coastal PAs. On the marine threats, the Forum will demonstrate inter-institutional approaches to regulating fishing, shipping, swimming and diving. On the terrestrial threats, the Forum will develop inter-institutional approaches to controlling multiple land-based activities related to agriculture, industrial activity, urban development, and tourism development. Detailed terms of reference for the Forum will be elaborated in the early stages of project implementation.

57.   The project will support the work of the Forum in completing its tasks during the project life, and will ensure that the capacities are well-developed to sustain the work of the Forum post-project. One of the first key tasks of the Forum will be facilitation of the development, review, and consultations on the SPMCPA (to be developed under Output 1.1). The project will also support the Forum on raising awareness on marine and coastal PAs in Albania, for example through active participation in the Mediterranean PA network[15].

Output 2.2:   System for joint surveillance and monitoring of the network of MCPAs to track biodiversity impacts and management effectiveness

58.   Under this output, a monitoring system will be set-up that will help MEFWA track (a) impacts on biodiversity, (b) management effectiveness in the different MCPAs, and (c) revenues generated and expenditures in the different

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[13] The biodiversity and ecological features of these 2 areas render them suitable for declaration as MPAs. Additionally, biological and ecological data have been collected for these areas, as opposed to the other areas identified as potential MPAs – see list in Annex G – for which there is very limited data and a large baseline study would be needed.

[14] Based on the PA law, MEFWA must establish Management Boards for each PA, and the process has begun.

[15] MedPan – the network of managers of marine protected areas in the Mediterranean (www.medpan.org)

MCPAs. This, in turn, will serve as a decision-making tool as it will provide a better overview of conservation impacts and associated costs of the different constituent MCPAs and thereby guide future allocation of resources.

59.   The implementation of the system will require monitoring activities in and around the MCPAs, enforcing PA regulations, collecting data on ecological and financial indicators, and collecting data to update the METT. These activities will have to be carried out by a number of relevant national and local institutions (e.g., PA administrative unit, Regional Environmental Agency, Coast Guard, Construction Police, Fishery Inspectorate, and other state institutes that are responsible for monitoring based on the respective regulatory acts). The roles and responsibilities of the different actors for joint monitoring and enforcement will be clarified in the SPMCPA.

60.   The system will be used initially as a tool for monitoring and evaluating project results and impacts. Indicators and the associated baseline and target values from the project's logframe will be tracked. All baseline and target information collected for the MCPAs through application of the METT will also be included. Annual reports, monitoring reports, and results of field visits will be documented, as will the findings of independent mid-term and final evaluations. Ultimately, the system will encompass monitoring of biodiversity impacts, assessing management effectiveness through application of the adapted METT, and tracking financial performance for all of Albania's MCPAs.

61.   Based on the experience with applying the METT to the Karaburuni-Sazani MPA and the existing nine coastal PAs, the project will support MEFWA to assess, analyze and adopt a system-level method for evaluating MCPA management effectiveness. This system will include measures and descriptions of a wide range of management elements and will provide a good basis for understanding and improving management across the network of MCPA, as well as reporting on progress and promoting good practice. A workshop will be organized to present the situation of the management in the MCPAs. International experts may be invited for sharing best practices from the region and beyond.

Output 2.3   Technical extension services for site managers on cost-effective management and conservation approaches.

62.   Under the PPG, an initial training needs assessment was conducted[16]. Building on these findings, a national program for providing technical extension services on management of MCPAs will be developed by the project. The extension services will come under the umbrella of the MEFWA or the Cross-sectoral Forum.

63.   Good practice modules will be developed for MCPA managers. The modules will be designed to develop the knowledge and skills of MCPA managers for effective MCPA management. Topics to be considered include: (a) marine biodiversity conservation measures and monitoring of impacts on biodiversity, (b) PA management planning, (c) 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), (d) setting and running participatory PA Management Boards, (e) use of the METT, and (f) approaches to conflict resolution.

64.   The modules will be delivered through seminars and workshops. The initial target audience will be at least 20 central level staff of the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration and 15 site managers of all MCPAs and representative of the Regional Environmental Agencies. Other interested stakeholders will also be included. A manual with the training modules will be produced to serve as a resource for site managers for imparting further training to untrained personnel and new staff. Other publications and relevant materials (brochures, leaflets, posters, and reports) will also be prepared and distributed using electronic and printed media.

Output 2.4   Management and business planning demonstrated at the Karaburuni-Sazani MPA.

65.   This output will demonstrate the development and implementation of a management plan and a business plan in the Karaburuni-Sazani MPA (established under Output 1.2). (Further information on the Karaburuni area is provided in Annex G.)The management plan will be prepared by a team comprised of a national expert and assisted by an international expert. The experts will work closely with staff from the MPA and local stakeholders, following standard consultative methodologies, to finalize the management plan. Climate change risk data will be included in the development of the Management Plan and conservation recommendations will include measures to account for climate change risks and increase ecosystem resilience.

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[16] Marine and Coastal Management in Albania: Capacity Building Needs Assessment, Andrian Vaso PhD, February 2010 (available upon request from UNDP-Albania)

66.   The management plan will provide the essential policy framework for the development of a Business Plan for the Karaburuni-Sazani pilot MPA. The Business Plan[17] will clarify how costs of implementing the Management Plan are to be covered. It will focus on both means for cost-containment and new income-generating measures that have proven to be successful in other countries and that can be adapted to the situation in Albania. The Business Plan will be prepared by a team consisting of a national expert and an international expert, in close cooperation with MPA staff and local stakeholders. The objective will be to not only develop these products but also train current staff during the process of preparation.

67.   A guidance document on how to elaborate a management and business plan for a MCPA will be produced and lessons emerging from the development of the Management and Business Plan for Karaburuni-Sazani will be integrated into the extension services program under Output 2.4. Implementation of the management and business plans will be led by the Management Board of the Karaburuni-Sazani MPA. The Park Administration will be in charge of daily implementation. Concrete revenue-generation mechanisms recommended under the Business Plan will be piloted.

68.   Finally, under this output, a Management Board will be established for the Karaburuni-Sazani MPA, involving local communities and entrepreneurs. The Management Board will review and endorse the Management and Business Plan.

Global benefits

69.   The project's global environmental benefits lie in expanding the protection coverage (by at least 13,000 ha) onto unique marine, lagoon, wetland, and cape habitats hosting critically endangered, threatened and near-threatened species such as Loggerhead and Leatherback turtles, Mediterranean seal, Dalmatian pelican, threatened birds-of-prey and fish species, corals, sponges, seagrasses and other important habitats and species. Further, the project will raise the management effectiveness of the marine and coastal protected areas providing effective protection to the hugely diverse ecological mosaic of habitats and biotopes that comprise Albania's coastal and marine zones. Increased effectiveness of institutions and sites will result in removing pressures from unsustainable sand and gravel extraction, unregulated tourism and logging. Component II of the project puts substantial emphasis on building cross-sectoral coordination and capacity building, which will ensure lasting impacts of biodiversity improvements achieved through the project.

Sustainability

70.   Achieving sustainability at the ecological, institutional, economic/ financial and social levels will be a long-term process in the network of MCPAs. Sustainability is difficult to measure, and further ecosystems in MCPAs are dynamic and ever changing. Given this, the project's approach to sustainability is that it will be realized when stakeholders are able to apply practical management approaches to anticipate changes, and adapt them in the most optimal way.

71.   <u>Ecological sustainability</u>: 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 undertaking legal and regulatory reform, institutional strengthening, and demonstrating effective management of an MPA at Karaburuni-Sazani, 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.

72.   <u>Institutional sustainability</u>: The project comes on the heels of the POWPA project which has made important strides in terms of building foundational capacities for ecological gap assessment for the PA system, building a knowledge base on MCPAs, and starting a policy dialogue on the enabling environment for MCPAs. Thus, some awareness has been created among key institutions and other stakeholders. The 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 and Agriculture, and protected areas). The project will build on this by putting in place a Cross-sectoral Forum as a lasting sustainable institutional network of agencies engaged in MPA decision-making. Further, the project will implement

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[17] The term Business Plan is being used as defined in IUCN's Guidelines for Management Planning of Protected Areas (2003) as follows: **Business plans** are plans to help the protected area be more financially self-sufficient. These examine the "customer base", goods and services, marketing and implementation strategy for the protected area.

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.

73.   Economic/ financial sustainability: The project will place emphasis not only on ecological representation issues, but also on the financial issues that underpin effective management of MCPAs. The SPMCPA will specifically address the issue of financial sustainability of the proposed network of MCPAs by undertaking an analysis of the financial gap and exploring the feasibility of different revenue-generating mechanisms (fees, public-private-partnerships, external donor funding) for bridging the gap. Furthermore, the project will support the development and implementation of business planning at the Karaburuni MPA as a model for replication in other MCPAs.

74.   Social sustainability: The project will ensure effective participation of surrounding indigenous and local communities in all activities related to MCPAs such as, development of the Management and Business Plan at Karaburuni MPA, identification of buffer zones and permissible activities at the existing 9 coastal PAs, and identification of 2 additional MPAs. Emphasis will be placed on ensuring that local and indigenous communities benefit from the implementation of sustainable revenue-generating activities at Karaburuni.

Replicability

75.   The replication potential of the best practices generated by the project's main outcomes is significant for the following reasons: (a) the practices to be developed and demonstrated are directly relevant to existing or emerging challenges faced by project beneficiaries as part of their baseline work; and (b) project partners, with proper capacity building, will be able to access resources that are sufficient to support replication of marine ecosystem management actions.

76.   The potential for replicability has been considered throughout project design in terms of partners to work with and how specific capacity building and demonstration activities were designed. Direct replication will occur when lessons and experiences are replicated by different entities as a result of direct contact with project training, capacity building or publications. Scaling up will occur when lessons and experiences are integrated into laws, policies and programmatic priorities.

77.   The project will facilitate direct replication by coordinating efforts with MEFWA and other authorities in scaling up of project-inspired actions. In preparatory discussions these stakeholders have committed to replicating successful project best practices in marine areas. At present, Albania has 9 coastal PAs and 1 MPA that is in the process of being established. There are an additional 7 marine areas that have been identified as areas that should be protected. The project will play a critical role in realizing the longer-term goal of a well-managed and representative network of MCPAs. It will address barriers at the systemic level that prevent establishment and effective management of MCPAs. It will make amendments in the legal and regulatory framework and draw-up a ten-year strategic plan for gradual declaration of additional MCPAs. The Strategic Plan will be approved at the level of an Inter-ministerial Council of Ministers. Further, it will address experiential barriers by demonstrating effective management in Albania's first MPA, Karaburuni-Sazani that is in the process of being declared. During the project's lifetime, the technical and political process for establishing MPAs in 2 additional marine areas and replicating the project strategy will be started. The project will also dedicate resources to training and documenting experiences that can be used for developing the capacity of new staff.

B. DESCRIBE THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH NATIONAL AND/OR REGIONAL PRIORITIES/PLANS:

78.   The project addresses the provisions of the 2002 National Environmental Action Plan dealing with PA expansion. The project is also fully aligned with the priorities of the 2002 National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP), which put priority on establishing marine protected areas to conserve the unique marine biodiversity of Albania. Specifically, the 2002 BSAP determined MCPA development as one of the key priorities. It pointed to the need for a gap analysis, to be followed by actual creation of marine PAs and strengthening of coastal PAs. The Albanian Government intends to double the PA surface and expand the MPA coverage, ensuring better biogeographical representation, as well as higher management effectiveness, and diversification of revenue sources. Thus, project outcomes will feed into the MEFWA policies aimed at the expansion and improvement of the network of MPAs.

C. DESCRIBE THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH GEF STRATEGIES AND STRATEGIC PROGRAMS:

79.	The project will contribute significantly to meeting the targets of the GEF Focal Area Strategy's Strategic Objective 1 (SO-1), Catalyzing Sustainability of Protected Area Systems at national levels/ Strategic Priority 2: Increasing Representation of Effectively Managed Marine Protected Areas in Protected Area Systems. This project will contribute to initiatives and strategic plans of the Albanian Government by supporting expansion and improvements in management effectiveness of its marine and coastal protected area network. The focus of the proposed project is (a) on increasing the bio-geographic representation of marine PAs, and (b) on providing the means for improving and strengthening coordination and capacities of institutions engaged in MPA planning and management. The institutional and individual capacities built by the project will help the Government of Albania establish and manage a balanced marine PA network in the country.

D. JUSTIFY THE TYPE OF FINANCING SUPPORT PROVIDED WITH GEF RESOURCES:

80.	The nature of the project is policy development, capacity building and technology testing. The project objective will be attained through the provision of technical assistance. No loan or revolving fund mechanisms are considered appropriate, and therefore grant-type funding is considered most adequate to enable successful delivery of the project outcomes.

E. OUTLINE THE COORDINATION WITH OTHER RELATED INITIATIVES:

81.	There are several ongoing initiatives that have a bearing on the conservation of Albania's coastal and marine biodiversity (see table below). The project will maintain close contacts with these initiatives to exchange experiences and where possible garner the technical and financial support of these initiatives towards the longer-term objective of a well-managed and ecologically representative network of coastal and marine protected areas.

Table 3. Linkages with other related projects

Project title	Executors	Aims and objectives	Linkages with the UNDP-GEF MSP	Project budget
PA Gap Assessment and Marine PA Development	UNDP / MoEFWA	Address the key gaps of the protected areas system in Albania in general and marine areas more specifically; including the key priority actions for PoWPA identified by Albania.	Preliminary analyses of the relevance of legal frame, biodiversity and ecological status, institutional set up and resources available for the development and enhancement of PA conservation with special focus on MPA	$277,964 (of which 150,000 GEF; rest cofinancing)
ICZM and clean up Program	WB/ Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunications	Protection of the coastal natural resources and cultural assets, and promote sustainable development and management of the Albanian coast.	Look for synergies with this initiative in reducing threats to MCPAs that arise in the wider coastal zone outside the boundaries of PAs.	54,3 mil. USD 1st phase
Protect biodiversity - empower Albanian NGOs for promoting Natura 2000	INCA association (EU funds)	Objectives of the project is to support, the designation of sites in Albania within the ecological network Natura 2000 and support biodiversity conservation as a tool to promote economic, social, cultural and scientific development of local communities	Identification of potential MCPAs as part of the Natura 2000 network and Albania approximation process to EU, environmental sector.	TBC
Biodiversity Monitoring in coastal areas	University of Tirana/ MoEFWA	Monitoring of biodiversity and environmental state in coastal areas.	Establish links with this initiative on the monitoring system to be established under the project, especially related to monitoring of key coastal habitats and species in some selected coastal areas	Annual MoEFWA funded

F. DISCUSS THE VALUE-ADDED OF GEF INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROJECT DEMONSTRATED THROUGH INCREMENTAL REASONING:

Business-as-usual scenario

82.	Under the "business-as-usual" scenario, the overall MCPA framework in Albania would remain undeveloped, and Albania's marine biodiversity would remain under significant threat. Numerous wetlands, lagoons, beaches, canyons that are home to threatened biodiversity will remain outside the PA estate. The economic development along the coast will be dominated by urban and tourism infrastructure and unsustainable fishing. Some progress is likely in the expansion of the PA estate, however given the drastic capacity constraints, marine PAs are unlikely to be established, and coastal protected areas would remain weak in ensuring proper security for the threatened marine biodiversity. Protected area governance is likely to suffer from lack of inter-institutional coordination. Capacities of local

environmental inspectors and PA managers to control illegal resource extraction will remain basic. The table below summarizes some of the baseline programs related to marine and coastal biodiversity conservation.

Table 4. Baseline programs

Program	Time frame	Main objectives
PoWPA	2008 - 2010	1. A comprehensive ecological gap assessment developed for terrestrial, but especially for marine protected areas in Albania. 2. Foundation laid for a regulatory basis on marine protected areas. 3. Measures negotiated and agreed with stakeholders to remove threats in at least one highly sensitive marine area.
ICZM	2005 - 2010	1. To protect the coastal natural resources and cultural assets, and promote sustainable development and management of the Albanian coast. 2. To establish an institutional and policy framework for an integrated coastal zone management. 3. To strengthen a broader regulatory capacity at the central, regional, and local levels for protection of coastal and marine natural resources.
Natura 2000	2009 - 2012	1. Establish an active Natura 2000 network in Albania and strengthen its capacity. 2. Enlarging and strengthening the system of protected areas in Albania by involvement of the Natura 2000 sites.
Biodiversity Monitoring in coastal areas	2000 – to date	1. Inventory and monitoring of biodiversity and environmental state in coastal areas. 2. Propose measures for protection and conservation of threatened biodiversity and habitats in coastal areas.

83. All these programs are directly or indirectly dealing with issues of marine conservation, including habitats and species of coastal areas. However, they do not explicitly address the issue of establishing an effective and representative network of MCPAs. The issue of MPAs has only been touched upon at a conceptual level, but actual establishment and effective management has not been addressed. As a result, there remain gaps in realizing the conservation objectives of the national PA system. These projects implemented in coastal areas are not sufficient to ensure the long-term viability of marine habitats and species. Although these projects have sometimes highlighted the need for MPA proclamation in Albania, they have not made any full analysis to define necessary priorities for this process. The PoWPA project is an exception insofar as it has carried out a preliminary analysis of the 8 proposed areas as potential MPAs by the NBSAP (1999), aiming to identify the first area which fulfills most of the criteria of an MPA. This baseline needs to be followed through with a proper national system of MCPAs.

The GEF Alternative and Incremental Value

84. Under the GEF alternative scenario, Albania's marine and coastal biodiversity will benefit from a concentrated effort to strengthen the regulatory and legal basis for coastal and marine PAs, extend conservation to areas which are currently unprotected, and build lasting capacities of institutions and individuals directly engaged in marine biodiversity protection. The alternative scenario ensures higher marine ecosystem resilience to anthropogenic and climate-change threats, as well as improvement of the state of internationally concerned species, which are occurring in Albanian marine waters. This process will result in identification of marine and coastal areas that are especially important to marine conservation and could benefit from additional protection. This analysis can be used by relevant administrators and managers to guide future efforts to establish new MPAs, strengthen existing CPAs, or take other protection measures. The focus will be areas that are known as areas of high biodiversity values, key reproduction and nursery grounds for marine species, with additional values as special cultural and historic sites. This process will involve all interested partners and stakeholders through a transparent and science-based process, aiming to achieve the conservation objectives of the PA national system. Improvement of coverage and management of marine and coastal protected areas will be a key step for improvement of the whole PAs system in Albania. It will play an important role in increasing protection of marine resources by providing new opportunities for local and national cooperation, supporting the local and national economy by sustaining fisheries and maintaining healthy marine ecosystems for tourism and recreation activities, and promoting public participation in PA decision-making by improving access to scientific and public policy information. It will support the effective management, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and public understanding of the natural and cultural marine heritage and other marine resources and values.

Summary of costs

85. The total cost of implementing the GEF Alternative Strategy amounts to US$ 2,877,500. Of this total, co-funding constitutes 67% or US$ 1,927,500. GEF financing comprises the remaining 33% of the total, or US$ 950,000.

G. INDICATE RISKS, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS, THAT MIGHT PREVENT THE PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S) FROM BEING ACHIEVED AND OUTLINE RISK MANAGEMENT MEASURES:

Risk	Level	Risk Mitigation strategy
Continued overall institutional reform in Albania may necessitate revision of project approaches to policy- and decision-making on MPAs	M	The project will put in place the Cross-sectoral Forum as a lasting sustainable institutional network of agencies engaged in MPA decision-making. Representation on the Forum will be "function"-based (vs. "person"-based), thus it will ensure that whatever institution obtains responsibilities for MPA decision making, it is included in the Forum. This will prevent any disruption of national-level policy-making and decision-making on MPAs.
Insufficient financial resources raised to implement the Strategic Plan on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas	M	For the first time in PA governance in Albania, the MCPA will create proper legal and operational basis for diversification of funding sources for MPAs and protected areas more broadly. Three main funding sources will be stipulated: (a) budget allocations, (b) revenue raised by PAs themselves, (c) donor funding. It is recognized that budget funding may remain limited in the current economic situation. The project, therefore will put special emphasis on allowing PAs to earn and retain own income. The project will show-case business planning in the Karaburuni marine PA, and pilot revenue-generation mechanisms under the business plan. At the same time, Albania enjoys continued flows of Official Development Aid, and the project will maintain close contacts with donors and Government to insure that more ODA incorporates integrated coastal zone management including support to marine and coastal protected areas.
Political will of the relevant Albanian authorities to support and implement the SPMCPA is sustained	L	Establishing MCPAs has been identified as a national priority as articulated in the NBSAP. The POWPA project has already created a good baseline level of awareness and interest in national institutions on coastal and marine PAs. The project will build on the consultative approach developed under the POWPA project and maintain the good working relationships established. The project will stress win-win opportunities and, in the Karaburuni MPA, will demonstrate possibilities for meeting ecological objectives while also generating socio-economic benefits for local populations.
Conflicts with other sectors related to socio-economic development; Cross-sectoral and inter-institutional dialogue can be established	M	Recognizing the need for inter-institutional and cross-sectoral collaboration for effective management of MCPAs, the project will support the establishment of a Cross-sectoral Forum under the Umbrella of the Inter-Ministerial Council being established by the Albanian government. By establishing cross-sectoral dialogue at this high level the project aims to broker agreements and memorandums of understanding between relevant Ministries and institutions to manage marine and land-based threats to MCPAs.
Political support and interest in piloting marine protected areas (with the 1st at Karaburuni-Sazani) in Albania is maintained	L	The process of declaration of the Karaburuni MPA is very close to completion and is a testament to the political will for establishing Albania's first MPA. It is expected that by successfully demonstrating win-win opportunities in this area, the project will help increase support for the establishment of additional MCPAs.
Local communities are supportive of an MPA at Karaburuni-Sazani	M	A former GEF/UNDP program (2000-2006) that intended to proclaim the terrestrial part as a PA has contributed to some improvement of attitude and behaviour towards integrated coast management. In developing the Management Plan and Business Plan for Karaburuni, local stakeholder involvement will be ensured. A Management Board will be established that will include local community representatives and entrepreneurs.
Marine and coastal ecosystems are susceptible to climate change impacts	M	Project activities aimed at establishing the Karaburuni MPA and planning for its expansion will take full account of climate change risks. Proposed new MPAs 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. Further, demonstration activities in Component 2 will support concrete conservation efforts at the Karaburuni MPA that will remove anthropogenic loads (unsustainable fishing, infrastructure development) and this will lower the overall pressure on marine ecosystems increasing their resilience to climate change.

L = Low threat; M = Medium threat; H= High threat

H. EXPLAIN HOW COST-EFFECTIVENESS IS REFLECTED IN THE PROJECT DESIGN:

86.   The pursuit of the goal of increasing protection of Albania's marine and coastal biodiversity can theoretically be accomplished through four approaches. One approach is the establishment of Albania's first marine protected area, and strengthening management effectiveness of the existing coastal protected areas. At present, Albania does not have any marine protected areas included in its national system of PAs, even though MPAs are known to have an important role to play in protection of ecosystems and, in some cases, enhancing or restoring the productive potential of coastal and marine fisheries. However, MPAs are not the only solution for coastal and marine problems, and a second approach might be to integrate biodiversity conservation concerns into coastal zone sectors, without establishing MPAs. A third strategy could be to pursue both approaches in tandem i.e., establishing MCPAs and mainstreaming conservation concerns in coastal production activities. When MPAs are used in conjunction with other management tools, such as integrated coastal management (ICM), marine spatial planning and broad area fisheries management, they offer the

cornerstone of the strategy for marine conservation[18]. A fourth approach is to do nothing and continue with the business as usual scenario of no MPAs and a few coastal PAs.

87.   Of all four approaches, the first one is seen as the most cost-effective. Firstly, given the extensive presence of critically endangered and threatened species along Albania's coast and in marine areas (as described in Section A), the conservation efficacy of the second approach is highly questionable – even moderate sectoral changes are unlikely to ensure full protection for such species and their habitats. Secondly, going beyond moderate modifications in coastal sector policies will be at times more expensive than a one-off investment in the creation of protected areas entailing targeted local adjustments to sectoral activities in and around the areas.

88.   Moreover, without impacting the viability of Albania's economic sectors along the coast, properly organized protected areas by themselves can become an important source of revenue for local communities. As highlighted in the assessment of the Karaburuni area (the site recommended for declaration as Albania's first MPA), this area is gifted with several environmental, biodiversity, natural, landscape, historic, cultural, and archaeological values. This makes it one of the most attractive areas from a tourism point of view. Interesting underwater topography with caves and very diverse microhabitats, as well as the presence of ancient shipwrecks are additional tourism values, especially for divers. Special and traditional old breeds of sheep graze in Karaburuni, feeding on the rich herb and shrub vegetation. They are famous for the quality of their meat and milk and may constitute yet another potential for the area – rural and agroecological tourism. The high diversity of the topographic formations, with steep and inaccessible cliffs, canyons, tracks and plateaus (such as plateau of Ravena) also offer potential for alpinism, horse riding and other sports besides water sports. Well-managed tourism potential, coupled with strategic re-investment of tourism resources in the upkeep and maintenance of the MPA, can be an important source for local revenue generation. The project includes, among other things, one-off investment in building the foundation for such "proper organization" of marine and coastal PAs.

89.   While the third approach is the most ideal, it is unrealistic to take this on under an MSP. In order to get the full benefit for coastal and marine biodiversity conservation through a PAs approach combined with other tools such as integrated coastal management, this MSP will maintain close links with ongoing ICM efforts. Albania has made progress on coastal zone management and has developed a Coastal Zone Management Plan (2002). Currently, the Plan is under implementation as ICZM and Clean Up Program and intends to protect the coastal natural resources and cultural assets, and promote sustainable development and management of the Albanian coast. The impact of the program on the coastal area adjacent to sensitive marine areas significantly contributes to the status of marine biodiversity. Also from the institutional point of view, there are important benefits in terms establishment of local management instruments.

90.   The fourth approach is to do nothing (the business as usual scenario). However, the cost of doing nothing would be the eventual loss of important areas of coastal and marine natural ecosystems and declines in the conservation status of key species. The cost of remedial action would be at best prohibitive, or the more likely scenario would be loss of biodiversity that is irreplaceable at any cost.

91.   The first approach, therefore, is seen as most cost-effective (the "low-hanging fruit"). Given the current situation in Albania wherein there are no marine PAs and only under-capacitated coastal PAs, investing GEF and cofinancing resources in the first approach as a first step appears to be a more measured and cost-effective way of addressing the conservation needs of coastal and marine biodiversity. The project will not only strengthen the enabling environment (modifications to laws and policies, and institutional strengthening), but also establish an effectively managed MPA in Karaburuni as a precedent for progressive expansion of the nascent MPA network of Albania in the future.

92.   The cost effectiveness of the chosen approach is further enhanced by the project's method of combining systemic and site specific actions. The project design has incorporated site-specific activities in the Karaburuni area to test and develop governance and management approaches for MPAs. Albania has no MPAs and therefore has no experience and capacities to establish and manage effective MPAs. The site-specific activities will demonstrate the process for establishing MPAs, improving management effectiveness of coastal PAs, and measuring impacts on coastal and marine biodiversity. At the systemic level, policy and capacity barriers that currently hamper coastal and marine biodiversity conservation through effective PAs will be removed, thus building an enabling environment that will facilitate the gradual replication of the site level experience to the remaining 7 MPAs that have been recommended for establishment.

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[18] IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (IUCN-WCPA) (2008). Establishing Marine Protected Area Networks—Making It Happen. Washington, D.C.: IUCN-WCPA, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and The Nature Conservancy. 118 p.

93. Further, the project's emphasis on establishing a cross-sectoral forum for marine and coastal PA governance will generate cost-efficiencies by systematizing and streamlining stakeholder roles and responsibilities. It will bring together relevant ministries, MPA and coastal site managers, NGOs, and local fishermen's associations. The Forum will serve as a mechanism of streamlining the interactions, roles and responsibilities among all stakeholders in the management of marine and coastal protected areas.

PART III: INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION AND SUPPORT

A. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT

94. The project fits with the comparative advantage matrix of GEF implementing agencies. The Government of Albania has requested UNDP assistance for the design and implementation of this project due to UNDP's proven record region-wide and globally in developing the enabling environment for protected area establishment and management. The project deals with policy development, improvement of institutional coordination and capacity building, which are mainstream functions of UNDP. Currently, UNDP is supporting a number of projects in Europe and CIS focused on catalyzing the sustainability of protected areas with an impact on more than 60 protected areas in the region covering more than 16 million hectares. In GEF IV, UNDP has submitted and is planning to submit several projects in Europe and CIS focusing on improving representation of the marine and coastal protected area systems in Russia, Turkey, Montenegro and Croatia. UNDP country office in Albania has been managing a robust portfolio of environmental projects. It has maintained close cooperation with the environmental government and research institutions and is fully capable of implementing the proposed project.

B. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

95. The project will be executed through NIM execution modality by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration (MEFWA). The project organization structure (summarized in the figure below) will consist of a Project Board, Project Assurance and a Project Implementation Unit (PIU). Roles and responsibilities are described below.
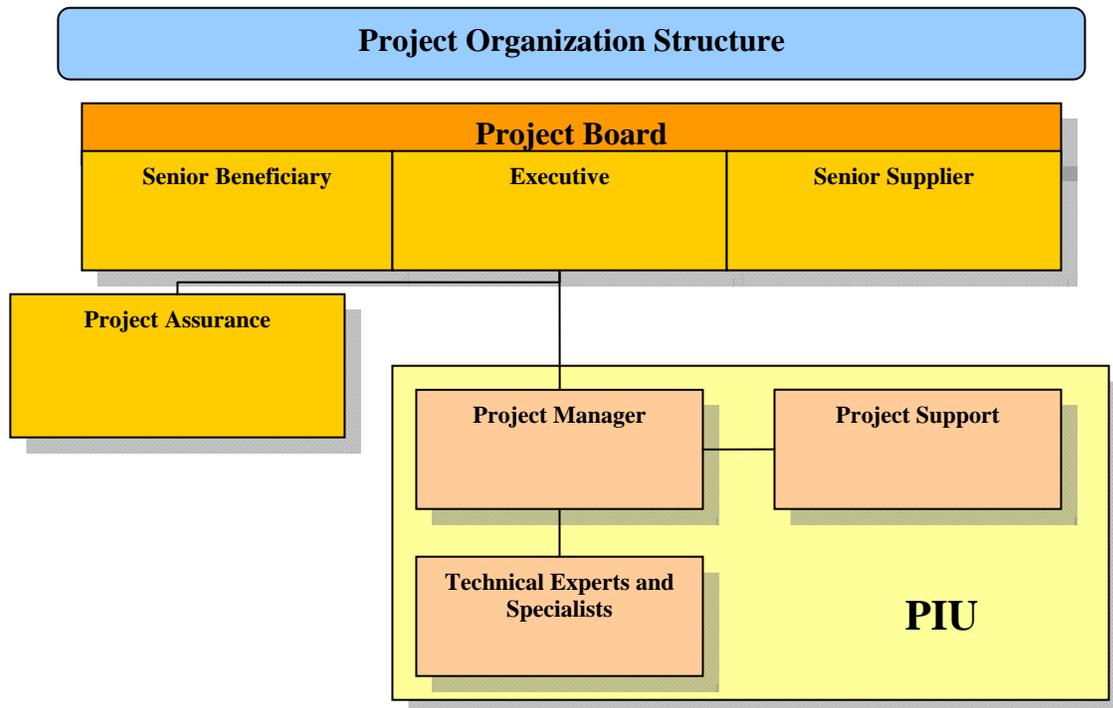
96. Project Board: The Project Board will be responsible for making management decisions for the project, in particular when guidance is required by the Project Manager. It will play a critical role in project monitoring and evaluations by assuring the quality of these processes and associated products, and by using evaluations for improving performance, accountability and learning. The Project Board will ensure that required resources are committed. It will also arbitrate on any conflicts within the project and negotiate solutions to any problems with external bodies. In addition, it will approve the appointment and responsibilities of the Project Manager and any delegation of its Project

Assurance responsibilities. Based on the approved Annual Work Plan, the Project Board can also consider and approve the annual plan and also approve any essential deviations from the original plans.

97. In order to ensure UNDP's ultimate accountability for project results, Project Board decisions will be made in accordance with standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition. In case consensus cannot be reached within the Board, the final decision shall rest with the UNDP Project Manager.

98. Members of the Project Board will consist of key national governmental and non-governmental agencies, and appropriate local level representatives. UNDP will also be represented on the Project Board, which will be balanced in terms of gender. Potential members of the Project Board will be reviewed and recommended for approval during the PAC meeting. The Project Board will contain three distinct roles:

- *Executive Role*: This individual will represent the project "owners" and will chair the group. It is expected that MEFWA will appoint a senior official to this role who will ensure full government support of the project.
- *Senior Supplier Role*: This role requires the representation of the interests of the parties concerned which provide funding for specific cost sharing projects and/or technical expertise to the project. The Senior Supplier's primary function within the Board will be to provide guidance regarding the technical feasibility of the project. This role will rest with UNDP-Albania represented by the Country Director.
- *Senior Beneficiary Role*: This role requires representing the interests of those who will ultimately benefit from the project. The Senior Beneficiary's primary function within the Board will be to ensure the realization of project results from the perspective of project beneficiaries. This role will rest with the other institutions (key national governmental and non-governmental agencies, and appropriate local level representatives) represented on the Project Board, who are stakeholders in the project.

99. Project Assurance: The Project Assurance role supports the Project Board Executive by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. The Project Assurance role will rest with the UNDP Albania, Environment and Participation Cluster.

100. A Project Implementation Unit (PIU) will be established comprising permanent staff including: a National Project Manager (NPM) and Project Assistant. The PIU will assist MEFWA in performing its role as implementing partner. The Project Manager has the authority to run the project on a day-to-day basis on behalf of the Implementing Partner within the constraints laid down by the Board. The Project Manager's prime responsibility is to ensure that the project produces the results specified in the project document, to the required standard of quality and within the specified constraints of time and cost. The NPM will be recruited in accordance with UNDP regulations and will be based in Tirana. S/he will report to the UNDP Albania, Environment Cluster. The NPM will be responsible for overall project coordination and implementation, consolidation of work plans and project papers, preparation of quarterly progress reports, reporting to the project supervisory bodies, and supervising the work of the project experts and other project staff. The NPM will also closely coordinate project activities with relevant Government institutions and hold regular consultations with other project stakeholders and partners, including UNDP environmental projects, and the GEF Small Grants Programme. Under the direct supervision of the NPM, the Project Assistant will be responsible for administrative and financial issues, and will get support from UNDP-CO administration.

101. The permanent core technical staff of the project will be a National Technical Expert. She/he will supervise a team of national specialists who will implement specific activities of the project at the national and local level. The NPM, the National Technical Expert and national specialists will spend a large portion of their time in the field, and the NPM will be ultimately responsible for liaison with communities engaged in the project.

102. The PIU, following UNDP procedures on implementation of NEX projects, will identify national experts and consultants, and international experts as appropriate to undertake technical work. The national and international companies may also be involved in project implementation. These consultants and companies will be hired under standard prevailing UNDP procedures on implementation of NEX projects. The UNDP Country Office will provide specific support services for project realization through the Administrative and Finance Units as required.

103. Audit Arrangements: The Audit will be conducted in accordance with the established UNDP procedures set out in the Programming and Finance manuals by the legally recognized auditor.

PART IV: EXPLAIN THE ALIGNMENT OF PROJECT DESIGN WITH THE ORIGINAL PIF:

104. The project design is aligned with the approved PIF. The project document expands the project rationale, proposed project strategy, stakeholder roles, and the expected global environmental benefits. There is no change in the GEF financing requested compared to the approved PIF. There is no change in the total co-financing compared to the approved PIF.

PART V: AGENCY CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for CEO Endorsement.					

Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Yannick Glemarec Executive Coordinator UNDP/GEf	Y. Glemarec	April 28, 2010	Maxim Vergeichik	+421 905 428 152	Maxim.vergeichik@undp.org

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

This project will contribute to achieving the following Country Programme Outcome as defined in the CPD for Albania (2006-2010): 2 - Policies developed and implemented that support the achievement of MDGs	
Country Programme Outcome Indicators: 2.1.3 National Development plans reflect regional priorities	
Primary applicable Key Environment and Sustainable Development Key Result Area: Improve management effectiveness of Albania's marine and coastal protected areas	
Applicable GEF Strategic Objective and Program: Strategic Objective 1 (SO-1) Catalyzing Sustainability of Protected Area Systems at national levels; and Strategic Priority 2: Increasing Representation of Effectively Managed Marine Protected Areas in Protected Area Systems	
Applicable GEF Expected Outcomes: Increase in surface coverage of marine protected areas within the national protected area system that enhances marine ecosystem representation; Enhanced management effectiveness of the new MPA and existing 10 coastal PAs as measured by METT.	
Applicable GEF Outcome Indicators: Increase in coverage of MPAs by at least 12,570.82 hectares; achievement of METT target scores for Karaburuni MPA and for the existing 9 coastal PAs. (Note: In the PPG stage, the METT was only completed for the Karaburuni MPA pilot site to determine baseline and target METT scores. During the early stages of project implementation, the METT will be applied to all 9 coastal PAs to get baselines and targets.)	

Project Strategy	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Baseline	Target[19]	Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions
To improve coverage and management effectiveness of Albania's marine and coastal protected areas.	Area under protection as Coastal and Marine Protected Areas	100,236 ha (existing coastal protected areas – mainly coastal wetlands)	An additional 12,570.82 ha[20] declared as Albania's first MPA (Karaburun – Sazani) An additional 3,500 ha in the process of being declared as MPAs (Rodoni Cape-Lalzi Bay and Pagane-Kepi i Stillos)	Maps, technical reports and studies, official gazette	Continued overall institutional reform in Albania may necessitate revision of project approaches to policy- and decision-making on MCPAs Insufficient financial resources raised to implement the Strategic Plan on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas
	Enabling environment created for revision of the existing MCPA status, facilitated by the project	Weak capacities for revising MCPAs status	At least 2 MoE experts capable for conducting revision of MCPA according the international standards.		
	Improvement in management effectiveness of Karaburuni-Sazani MPA measured through change in METT scores	Baseline METT Score as percent of Total Possible Score is 17%	Target is 45-55%	METT score sheets for Karaburuni-Sazani MPA	
	Increased Systemic, Institutional and Individual capacities for establishing and managing an MCPA system (measured by the UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard)	See UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard for baseline	See UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard for target	Updates to CD Scorecard by project team; findings of external evaluations	
Outcome 1. Improved bio-geographical representation of marine and coastal protected areas (MCPA)	Strategic Plan for Albania's Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (SPMCPA)	No Strategic Plan has been developed for this sub-system of the national PA system	SPMCPA is developed and approved by the Inter-ministerial Council or the Council of Ministers	Minutes of meetings and other records of the Cross-sectoral Forum; Final Independent Evaluation of the project	Political will of the relevant Albanian authorities to support and implement the SPMCPA is sustained Conflicts with other sectors related to socio-economic development
	Legal Instrument establishing MPA at Karaburuni-Sazani (12,570.82 ha.)	No Legal Instrument	Legal Instrument is approved by the Council of Ministers	Official gazette	
	Legal Instrument incorporates best practice in design of such an instrument and can serve as a model	There are no MPAs in Albania and, therefore, no examples of a legal	Legal Instrument for Karaburuni-Sazani MPA is developed as a model for	Mid-term and/ or Final Independent Evaluation of the project	

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[19] The target timeframe for all indicators is by project end i.e., 2016, unless otherwise stated.

[20] During the PPG phase, the Government of Albania was close to declaring a MPA at Karaburuni-Sazani totaling an area of 12,570.82 ha. The project will not only support the government in finalizing and declaring this area as protected but also expand the area of the MPA by an additional about 3,500 ha, bringing the total area to 16,070.82 ha.

Project Strategy	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Baseline	Target[19]	Sources of verification	Risks and Assumptions
	for declaration of future MPAs	instrument establishing an MPA	future MPAs		
	Clearly demarcated buffer zones in Karaburuni-Sazani MPA, with specific guidance on permissible activities included in the Management Plan	No buffer zones defined	Buffer zones and permissible activities defined	Approved Management Plan of the Karaburuni-Sazani MPA	
	Clearly demarcated buffer zones in existing 9 coastal PAs, with specific guidance on permissible activities for inclusion in the Management Plan	No buffer zones defined No Management Plans in place.	Buffer zones and permissible activities defined	Technical reports and maps available to MEFWA	
	Process of identification of additional MPAs at Rodoni Cape-Lalzi Bay and Pagane-Kepi i Stillos has begun.	Currently the adjacent areas have a protection status as CPAs only.	Technical and scientific work for realizing designation of these areas is complete, and political consultation process has been initiated	Minutes of meetings of public hearings	
2. Improved management arrangements for MCPAs based on clear institutional responsibilities and development of capacities	Management Boards at MCPAs	0	At least 2 MCPAs have Management Boards	Official decision for the establishment and structure of the Management Boards.	Cross-sectoral and inter-institutional dialogue can be established
	Inter-institutional agreements on management of marine and land-based threats to MCPAs	0	At least 2 official agreements or memorandum of cooperation/ understanding between relevant ministries/institutions	Minutes and records of the meetings of the Cross-sectoral Forum. Official agreement (Memorandum of Understanding/Cooperation)	Political support and interest in piloting marine protected areas (with the 1st at Karaburuni-Sazani) in Albania is maintained
	Management effectiveness of existing 9 CPAs is being tracked	Baseline METT Scores as percent of Total Possible Score to be estimated by the end of 2nd year	Progress in METT scores assessed annually thereafter	METT score sheets for 9 CPAs.	Local communities are supportive of an MPA at Karaburuni-Sazani
	Number of manuals/ guidebooks prepared as a resource for imparting further training	Very limited	6 training modules	Publication record of the manuals, Project Annual Reports	Marine and coastal ecosystems are susceptible to climate change impacts
	Gap between funding needs of Karaburuni-Sazani MPA and available funds	Gap to be assessed by end of 1st year	At least 50% of funding needs are being met.	Annual financial records of the MPA	
	Status of the seagrass *Posidonia oceanica* along Karaburuni and Albanian Ionian coast improved.	4-6 meadows (2837 ha,)of *Posidonia oceanica* along the Ionian coast, with patches along the whole Albanian coast.[21]	At least 5 % increase of surface in the Ionian coast.	Scientific data, technical reports, monitoring program.	
	State of medio and infralittoral communities in Karaburuni - Sazani is improved (mainly focused on species richness and abundance of species of international concern)	Limited data on several populations	Information provided, ecological state assessed and framework monitoring programme prepared	Scientific data, technical reports, monitoring program.	

[21] Data from a 2008 study: Mapping of *Posidonia,* INCA (Albanian association) & GOA (Italian association)

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS
None at this stage

ANNEX C: CONSULTANTS TO BE HIRED FOR THE PROJECT USING GEF RESOURCES

Position Titles	$/ person week	Estimated person weeks	Tasks to be performed
For Project Management (only local consultants; no international consultants)			
Local			
National Project Manager (PM)	500	90	Supervise and coordinate the project to ensure its results are in accordance with the Project Document, rules and procedures established in the UNDP Programming Manual. Assume primary responsibility for daily project management. Ensure adherence to the project's work plan and prepare revisions of the work plan when needed. Prepare and agree with UNDP on terms of reference for consultants and subcontractors. Guide the work of consultants and subcontractors and oversee compliance with the agreed work plan. Monitor the expenditures, commitments and balance of funds under the project budget lines, and draft project budget revisions. Assume overall responsibility for meeting financial delivery targets set out in the agreed work plans and reporting on project funds. Assume overall responsibility for reporting on project progress indicators in the logframe. Undertake any other actions related to the project as requested by UNDP.
Project assistant	325	80	Assist the Project Coordinator in managing the project and provide all necessary support in implementation of the project. Coordinate the project experts and ensure that their results are delivered on time. Prepare GEF quarterly project progress reports, as well as any other reports requested by the Executing Agency and UNDP. Provide general administrative support to ensure the smooth running of the project management unit. Project logistical support to the Project Coordinator and project consultants in conducting different project activities. Assist the foreign experts in order to facilitate their visits and activities. Perform any other administrative/financial duties as requested by the Project Coordinator.
For Technical Assistance (local and international consultants)			
Local			
Technical expert – national	500	87	Assist the Project Coordinator and project team in technical aspects related to project implementation. Provide technical and logistical support to the Project Coordinator and project consultants in conducting different project activities. Assist the national and international experts in order to facilitate their site visits and other activities: formulate coordinated approaches and plans to support the implementation of the projects; support the preparation of work plans and operation plans for projects; monitor progress and advise on timely corrective actions; identify new areas of support and facilitate implementation of new initiatives; contribute substantive technical inputs on issues pertaining to ecosystem management, water resource management, biodiversity conservation, environment monitoring and management; make presentations to development partners, as required. S/he will contribute to the project assessment of best practices along projects progress. This will include encouraging an atmosphere of adaptive management in the project, (*i.e.* organizing round table discussions on projects successes and failures) where people focus on meaningful results "on the ground", rather than generating reports. Contribute also to the development of lessons learned derived from the project's experience.
Biodiversity expert	700	28	Contribute in defining buffer zones for the existing coastal PAs, assessing the ecological and conservation status of existing CPAs, updating the zoning scheme with a clearly demarcated buffer zone,

Position Titles	$/ person week	Estimated person weeks	Tasks to be performed
			and developing revised maps for each CPA. Propose a special protection/ resource use regime for the buffer zone of each of the nine CPAs. Analyze climate change risk data to ensure that the definition of buffer zones and permissible activities increase resilience to climate risks. Undertake a detailed assessment for the most sensitive marine and coastal areas. This assessment will involve desk studies of the existing data, data gathering on marine ecology, climate change risk data, zoning and demarcation of sensitive areas, and development of regulatory, management and monitoring strategies and plans. He will also contribute in establishing a system for joint surveillance and monitoring of the network of MCPAs to track biodiversity impacts and management effectiveness, as well as a Strategic Plan for Marine and Coastal Protected Areas.
PA economics expert	700	18	The expert will collaborate mainly with PA financing, PA management and PA business planning experts to contribute in the development and implementation of a financing sustainability plan, management plan and a business plan in the Karaburuni-Sazani MPA. The experts will work closely with staff from the MPA and local stakeholders, following standard consultative methodologies, to prepare the financing plan, management plan and business plan. The expert will assist in preparing a guidance document on how to elaborate a management and business plan for a MCPA and participate as a trainer for the MCPA staff, if needed. He will also provide inputs to the services program, based on the lessons learned from preparation of the management and business plans.
Legal expert	700	18	Work on the legislative aspects and regulatory framework relevant to the project. Contribute in preparation of the Strategic Plan of MCPAs; identify changes to existing laws and by-laws in supporting establishment and effective management of MCPAs. Carry out an analytical review of the legislation related to protected areas, fishery, aquaculture, biodiversity protection, hunting, wild fauna protection, territorial planning, tourism, and marine water protection from pollution and discharge. Draft specific amendments that remove legal barriers to effectively managed MCPAs, including stipulations on funding sources for budget allocations, revenue raised by PAs themselves and donor funding and establishing the legal basis for PAs to earn and retain self-generated income. Organize, in collaboration with other project experts, a consultative dialogue involving inputs from government, non-government and research institutions in order to facilitate legal reform.
PA management and business planning expert	700	5	The expert will contribute in the development and implementation of a management plan and a business plan in the Karaburuni-Sazani MPA. The experts will work closely with staff from the MPA and local stakeholders, following standard consultative methodologies, to prepare the management plan and business plan. He will also elaborate conservation recommendations related to climate change risks and increase ecosystem resilience. The expert will assist in preparing a guidance document on how to elaborate a management and business plan for a MCPA and participate as a trainer for the MCPA staff. He will also provide inputs to the services program, based on the lessons learned from preparation of the management and business plans.
PA financial analyst	700	15	Collaborate with the legal experts, PA economics experts and PA management experts for preparing a financial sustainability plan. He will contribute in examining financing needs and assessment of available financing for the expanded network of MCPAs, and will

Position Titles	$/ person week	Estimated person weeks	Tasks to be performed
			explore the feasibility of different revenue-generating mechanisms for bridging the gap (fees, charges for sustainable use, private sponsorship, public-private-partnerships, external donor funding). Assist in preparing an external fundraising methodology and training program for MCPAs, as well as a standardized financial reporting mechanism.
M&E expert	700	15	The expert will be involved in preparing a system for joint surveillance and monitoring of the network of MCPAs to track biodiversity impacts and management effectiveness. The implementation of the system will require monitoring activities in and around the MCPAs, enforcing PA regulations, collecting data on ecological and financial indicators, and collecting data to update the METT. These activities will have to be carried out in cooperation with a number of relevant national and local institutions (e.g., PA administrative unit, Regional Environmental Agency, Coast Guard, Construction Police, Fishery Inspectorate, and other state institutes that are responsible for monitoring based on the respective regulatory acts). All baseline and target information collected for the MCPAs through application of the METT will be included. Annual reports, monitoring reports, and results of field visits will be documented, as will the findings of independent mid-term and final evaluations.
Socio-economic expert national	700	6	Assist the biodiversity expert and PA management expert to consolidate studies for selection of the MPAs and/or MCPAs to be established. Determine the relevance of the economic, social and development factors in the identification of the size and boundaries of the proposed PAs. Participate in discussions with local stakeholders and obtain their agreement to cooperate on the establishment of the MPAs. Assess and provide a description of the economic development activities that affect the status of biodiversity within proposed MCPAs. Assess the expected budget of the MPA, analyze the current approach to funding protected areas in Albania and assess whether the available resources are likely to be adequate for meeting conservation needs of the proposed MPA. Develop recommendations for sources of revenue to cover the expected budget.
Monitoring specialist - national	700	6	The expert will be involved in preparing a system for joint surveillance and monitoring of the network of MCPAs to track biodiversity impacts and management effectiveness. He will elaborate issues related to agreement on ecological indicators to assess biodiversity impacts; agreement on financial indicators to track revenues generated and expenditures; identification of equipment required for the park administration to undertake monitoring; design of the system in terms of data entry and report generation; estimation of financial needs for setting-up this system; as well as elaboration of an inter-institutional collaboration plan (between research and administrative/ management institutions) in order to ensure the highest degree of professional standards. He will also contribute in preparing the Strategic Plan for Marine and Coastal Protected Areas, identification and demarcated of buffer zones for the existing coastal PAs, and identification of the most sensitive coastal and marine areas..
Independent evaluation consultant	750	4	The independent evaluation consultant will work on the mid-term and final evaluations of the projects. He will collaborate with the project team and project coordinator in order to assess the project progress, achievement of results and impacts. The project evaluation consultant will develop draft evaluation report, discuss it with the

Position Titles	$/ person week	Estimated person weeks	Tasks to be performed
			project team, government and UNDP, and if necessary participate in discussions to extract lessons for UNDP and GEF. The standards of UNDP/GEF project evaluation will be used.
GIS expert - national	700	6	Contribute in the preparation of cartography of the targeted area as MPA, with the respective zoning, based on management and conservation principles, buffer zones for the existing coastal PAs and most sensitive coastal and marine areas. The expansion plan will also be mapped, involving a ten-year strategy, which will be developed for gradually expanding the representation of coastal and marine ecosystems in Albania's national system of protected areas. The plan will be based on the existing studies on potential sites to be considered for declaration as marine and/ or coastal protected areas. The initial study completed by the POWPA project, which has identified 8 areas as potential MPAs, will be updated, and a plan on steps to be taken for proclamation of these areas will be developed.
Others	512.5	16	Additional tasks as will be identified during project implementation to be commissioned through short-term consultancies.
International			
Biodiversity expert	2375	10	Collaborate with the national biodiversity expert in updating the zoning scheme with a clearly demarcated buffer zone, and developing revised maps for each CPA. Propose a special protection/ resource use regime for the buffer zone of each of the nine CPAs. Analyze climate change risk data to ensure that the definition of buffer zones and permissible activities increase resilience to climate risks. Contribute in a detailed assessment for the most sensitive marine and coastal areas. This assessment will involve desk studies of the existing data, data gathering on marine ecology, climate change risk data, zoning and demarcation of sensitive areas, and development of regulatory, management and monitoring strategies and plans. He will also give inputs in establishing a system for joint surveillance and monitoring of the network of MCPAs and a Strategic Plan for Marine and Coastal Protected Areas.
Legal expert	2375	8	Transfer international best practices on legal frameworks for coastal and marine protected areas to the project team. Collaborate closely with the national legal expert and other project experts for improving regulatory framework related to MCPAs. Contribute in preparation of the Strategic Plan of MCPAs, especially in identifying the necessary changes to existing legislation for supporting establishment and effective management of MCPAs. Facilitate the review of Albanian legislation related to protected areas, fishery, aquaculture, biodiversity protection, hunting, wild fauna protection, territorial planning, tourism, and marine water protection. Facilitate drafting of specific amendments that remove legal barriers to effectively managed MCPAs, including stipulations on funding sources for budget allocations, revenue raised by PAs themselves and donor funding and establishing the legal basis for PAs to earn and retain self-generated income.
PA financing expert international	2375	6	Assist the national financing expert and other experts (legal, PA economics and PA management experts) for preparing a financial sustainability plan, by reflecting the best international practices and experiences in financial sustainability of MCPAs. He will contribute in examining financing needs for the expanded network of MCPAs in Albania and will explore the feasibility of different revenue-generating mechanisms for bridging the gap (fees, charges for sustainable use, private sponsorship, public-private-partnerships, external donor funding). He will assist in preparing an external fundraising methodology and a standardized financial reporting

Position Titles	$/ person week	Estimated person weeks	Tasks to be performed
			mechanism
Independent evaluation consultant	2375	4	The independent evaluation consultant will lead the mid-term and final evaluations of the projects. He will work with the local evaluation consultant and other project team in order to assess the project progress, achievement of results and impacts. He will facilitate the preparation of the draft evaluation report accordingly to the standard of UNDP/GEF project evaluation
PA economics expert	2375	4	The international expert will closely collaborate with the national PA economics expert, but also with PA financing, PA management and PA business planning experts for contributing in the development and implementation of a financing sustainability plan, management plan and a business plan in the Karaburuni-Sazani MPA. The expert will provide international standards for preparing the financing plan, management plan and business plan. The expert will assist in preparing a guidance document on how to elaborate a management and business plan for a MCPA.
PA management and business planning expert	2375	2	The main role of the relevant international expert is to give the appropriate orientations and to guide toward means for cost-containment and new income-generating measures that have proven to be successful in other countries and that can be adapted to the situation in Albania. He will facilitate the work of the national expert on development and implementation of a management plan and a business plan in the Karaburuni-Sazani MPA. The international expert will work in close collaboration with PA financing and PA economics expert, as well as the whole project team.
Socio-economic expert international	2375	2	Facilitate the national socio-economic expert and other project team to consolidate studies for selection of the MPAs and/or MCPAs to be established. Determine the relevance of the economic, social and development factors in the identification of the size and boundaries of the proposed PAs, based on the best practices and experiences from other countries. Assess and provide a description of the economic development activities that affect the status of biodiversity within proposed MCPAs. Assess the expected budget of the MPA, analyze the current approach to funding protected areas in Albania and assess whether the available resources are likely to be adequate for meeting conservation needs of the proposed MPA. Develop recommendations for sources of revenue to cover the expected budget.
Monitoring specialist - international	2375	2	The international expert will assess the system for joint surveillance and monitoring of the network of MCPAs to track biodiversity impacts and management effectiveness. This assessment will take into account the agreement on ecological indicators to assess biodiversity impacts; agreement on financial indicators to track revenues generated and expenditures; identification of infrastructure required for the park administration to undertake monitoring; design of the system in terms of data entry and report generation; estimation of financial needs for setting-up this system; as well as elaboration of an inter-institutional collaboration plan (between research and administrative/ management institutions) in order to ensure the highest degree of professional standards.
Others	2375	2	Additional international consultancy as will be identified during project implementation to be commissioned through short-term assignments.

ANNEX D: **STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS**

A. Explain if the PPG objective has been achieved through the PPG activities undertaken

105. The objectives of the PPG have been fully realized. An international, and counterpart national, consultants were recruited in November 2009 to implement the PPG. A work plan was collaboratively developed by the UNDP, the consultants and a focal team from the Ministry of Environment to guide and direct the work to be undertaken during the preparatory phase. A national working group, representing the different stakeholder institutions and organizations, was constituted by the national focal point to oversee and approve the preparatory studies and draft project documents. The PPG delivered all studies which made it possible to finalize the MSP request.

B. Describe findings that might affect the project design or any concerns on project implementation, if any:

106. No concerns arose during the PPG on project implementation, other than potential risks that have been identified in section G above. Risk mitigation measures have been included in project design.

C. Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities and their implementation status in the table below:

PPG	Implementation Status	GEF Amount ($)				Cofinancing
		Amount Approved	Amount Spent To-date	Amount Committed	Uncommitted Amount*	Amount
Component 1. Assessment of current status	Ongoing	16,775	14,475	2,300	0	13,000
Component 2. Assessment of MCPAs	Ongoing	10,760	3,645	7,115	0	17,000
Component 3. Feasibility study and budget	Ongoing	22,465	6,884	15,581	0	20,000
Total		**50,000**	**25,004**	**24,996**	**0**	**50,000**

- Uncommitted amount should be returned to the GEF Trust Fund. Please indicate expected date of refund transaction to Trustee

ANNEX E: TOTAL BUDGET AND WORK PLAN (UNDP ATLAS FORMAT)

Award ID:	to be added
Award Title:	4255 BD MSP: Improving coverage and management effectiveness of marine and coastal protected areas
Business Unit:	ALB 10
Project Title:	4255 BD MSP: Improving coverage and management effectiveness of marine and coastal protected areas
Atlas Project ID	to be added
PIMS number:	4255
Implementing Partner (Executing Agency)	MEFWA (NIM execution)

GEF Outcome/Atlas Activity	Responsible Party/ Implementing Agent	Fund ID	Donor Name	Atlas Budgetary Account Code	Atlas Budget Description	Amount Year 1 (USD)	Amount Year 2 (USD)	Amount Year 3 (USD)	Amount Year 4 (USD)	Amount Year 5 (USD)	Total	Budget Note
Outcome 1	MEFWA	62000	GEF	71400	Technical expert (national)	2,000	6,000	6,000	3,000	3,000	20,000	1
Improved bio-geographical representation of marine and coastal protected areas (MCPAs)				71300	Local consultants (national)	2,400	20,000	18,000	5,000	5,000	50,400	2
				71200	International consultants (international)		20,000	20,000	3,750	3,750	47,500	3
				72100	Contractual Services-Companies		40,000	30,000	10,000	10,000	90,000	4
				74200	Audio-visual and printing production costs	2,000	15,000	15,000	4,000	4,000	40,000	5
				72200	Equipments and furniture		25,000				25,000	6
				72600	Travel	1,000	8,000	8,000	2,000	2,000	21,000	7
				74500	Miscellaneous	2,000	5,000	5,000	1,500	1,500	15,000	8
					TOTAL OUTCOME 1	9,400	139,000	102,000	29,250	29,250	308,900	
Outcome 2	MEFWA	62000	GEF	71400	Technical expert (national)	1,500	8,000	8,000	3,000	3,000	23,500	9
Improved management arrangements for MCPAs based on clear institutional responsibilities and development of capacities				71300	Local consultants (national)	2,000	15,000	15,000	5,350	5,350	42,700	10
				71200	International consultants (international)		20,000	15,000	6,250	6,250	47,500	11
				72100	Contractual Services-Companies		70,000	70,000	30,000	30,000	200,000	12
				72200	Equipments and furniture		30,000	30,000	10,000	10,000	80,000	13
				72300	Materials and goods	5,000	10,000	10,000	2,500	2,500	30,000	14
				72400	Audio-visual and printing production costs	2,000	20,000	25,000	6,500	6,500	60,000	15
				72600	Travel	1,000	12,000	12,000	5,000	5,000	35,000	16
				74500	Miscellaneous	1,400	10,000	8,000	4,000	4,000	27,400	17
					TOTAL OUTCOME 2	12,900	195,000	193,000	72,600	72,600	546,100	
Project Mngmt	MEFWA	62000	GEF	71400	Project Coordinator	2,000	15,000	15,000	6,500	6,500	45,000	18
				71400	Project Assistant	1,000	8,500	8,500	4,000	4,000	26,000	19
				73100	Office facilities ,equipment and communications	1,000	5,000	5,000	1,500	1,500	14,000	20
				72600	Travel	500	4,000	4,000	750	750	10,000	21
					TOTAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT	4,500	32,500	32,500	12,750	12,750	95,000	
					TOTAL GEF ALLOCATION	26,800	366,500	327,500	114,600	114,600	950,000	

Budget Notes:

1	Annex C provides details on total weeks, weekly rate and terms of reference for this consultant.
2	Annex C provides details on total weeks, weekly rate and terms of reference for these consultants.
3	Annex C provides details on total weeks, weekly rate and terms of reference for these consultants.
4	Subcontracts for organizing, hosting, facilitating and documenting stakeholder consultations on (1) different aspects of the SPMCPA, (2) development of the legal instrument for Karaburuni-Sazani MPA, (3) definition of buffer zones and agreement on resource use agreements for these buffer zones in the existing coastal PAs, (4) getting agreement on establishment and boundaries of 2 new MPAs (estimated average per day cost is 2,000).
5	Expenditures related to communication activities/ materials for Outcome 1.
6	Purchase of equipment such as computers, projector, printer, scanner, photocopier, digital and underwater camera, GPS, and furniture required for carrying out different activtiies related to improving biogeographical representation of MCPAs in Albania.
7	Travel for international experts (estimated at 4 trips @ $1,000 each) and DSA for field work & missions in Albania for national and international experts (estimated at $160 per day).
8	Different charges like storage, bank charges, insurances
9	Annex C provides details on total weeks, weekly rate and terms of reference for this consultant.
10	Annex C provides details on total weeks, weekly rate and terms of reference for these consultants.
11	Annex C provides details on total weeks, weekly rate and terms of reference for these consultants.
12	Subcontracts for organizing, hosting, facilitating and documenting stakeholder consultations related to (1) the work of the Cross-Sectoral Forum for MCPAs, (2) development of the joint monitoring system and enforcement agreements, (3) workshops for capacity development, training, site visits for imparting on-the-ground experience with skills development, (4) development of the management plan and business plan for Karaburuni-Sazani MPA. Subcontracts for implementing income-generating activities at Karaburuni Sazani MPA. (Estimated average per day cost is 2,000.)
13	Equipment for site observation and surveillance such as vehicle, cabin motorboat, inflatable motor boat, multiprobe, scuba diving equipment, air compressor, Van Veen grab, Ekman grab, fish nets, plankton nets, Ruttner water sampler, Niskin water sampler, Hand winch, accessories (spare parts).
14	Logistic for the MPA Administration like office facilities, surveying devices, communication means, etc.
15	Expenditures related to communication activities/ materials for Outcome 2.
16	Travel for international experts (estimated at 3 trips @ $1,000 each) and DSA for field work & missions in Albania for national and international experts (estimated at $160 per day).
17	Different charges like storage, bank charges, insurances
18	Annex C provides details on total weeks, weekly rate and terms of reference for this consultant.
19	Annex C provides details on total weeks, weekly rate and terms of reference for this consultant.
20	Facilities and communications for management purposes (estimated at approximately $250/ month)
21	Management-related travel to/from project sites for the project management team to enable hands-on management (estimated 1 day-trip per month @ $160/day).

Summary of Funds: [22]

	Amount Year 1 (USD)	Amount Year 2 (USD)	Amount Year 3 (USD)	Amount Year 4 (USD)	Amount Year 5 (USD)	Total (USD)
GEF	26,800	366,500	327,500	114,600	114,600	950,000
MEFWA (partner managed)	60,000	600,000	600,000	308,750	308,750	1,877,500
UNDP	0	30,000	30,000	25,000	15,000	100,000
TOTAL FINANCING (Excluding PPG)	86,800	996,500	957,500	448,350	438,350	2,927,500

[22] Summary table includes all financing of all kinds: GEF financing, cofinancing, cash, in-kind, etc.

National PA Category		Name of PA	Qarku	District	Approval	Area (ha.)
STRICT NATURE RESERVES (IUCN CATEGORY I)						
	1	Lumi i Gashit	Kukës	Tropojë	VKM[1] nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	3,000
	2	Kardhiq	Gjirokastër	Gjirokastër	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	1,800
					Sub-total (area)	**4,800**
					Sub-total (number)	**2**
NATIONAL PARKS (IUCN CATEGORY II)						
	1	Thethi	Shkodër	Shkoder	VKM[4] nr. 96,datë 21.11.1966	2,630
	2	Lura	Dibër	Dibër	VKM[4] nr. 96,datë 21.11.1966	1,280
	3	Llogara	Vlorë	Vlorë	VKM[4] nr. 96,datë 21.11.1966	1,010
	4	Bredhi i Drenovës	Korçë	Korçë	VKM[4] nr. 96,datë 21.11.1966	1,380
	5	Mali i Tomorrit	Berat	Berat	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	4,000
	6	Lugina e Valbonës	Kukës	Tropojë	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	8,000
	7	Qafë Shtamë	Durrës	Kruje	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	2,000
	8	Zall Gjoçaj	Dibër	Mat	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	140
	9	Prespa	Korçë	Korçë	VKM[3] nr. 80,datë 18.02.1999	27,750
	10	Butrinti	Vlorë	Sarandë	VKM[7] nr. 693, datë 10.11.2005	8,591
	11	Mali i Dajtit	Tiranë	Tiranë	VKM[11] nr.402,datë 21.06.2006**	29,217
	12	Divjakë-Karavasta	Fier, Tiranë	Lushnjë, Kavajë, Fier	VKM[13] nr.687,datë 19.10.2007	22,230
	13	Shebenik-Jabllanice	Elbasan, Diber	Librazhd,Bulqize	VKM[14] nr.640,datë 21.05.2008	33,928
	14	Bredhi i Hotovës-Dangelli	Gjirokastër, Korce	Përmet, Kolonje	VKM[15] nr.1631,datë 17.12.2008	34,361
					Sub-total (area)	**176,517**
					Sub-total (number)	**14**
NATURAL MONUMENTS (IUCN CATEGORY III)						
	1	Various Bio Monuments (348 in number)	Various	Various	VKM[5] nr.676,datë 20.12.2002	--
	2	Various Geo Monuments (398 in number)	Various	Various	VKM[5] nr.676,datë 20.12.2002	--
	3	Various Nature Monuments (4 in number)			VKM[5] nr.676,datë 20.12.2002	3,490
		Bredhi i Sotirës	Gjirokastër	Gjirokastër	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	1,740
		Zhej	Gjirokastër	Gjirokastër	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	1,500
		Syri i Kaltër	Vlorë	Delvinë	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	200
		Vlashaj	Dibër	Dibër	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	50
					Sub-total (area)	**3,490**
					Sub-total (number)	**750**
MANAGED NATURE RESERVES (IUCN CATEGORY IV)						
	1	Kune	Lezhë	Lezhë	07.07.1940, 1977-Rreg.MB**	800
	2	Vain	Lezhë	Lezhë	07.07.1940, 1977-Rreg.MB**	1,500
	3	Karaburuni Peninsula	Vlorë	Vlorë	Urdhër MB, 22.02.1968, 1977**	20,000
	4	Cangonj	Korçë	Devoll	Urdhër MB, 05.11.1969, 1977**	250
	5	Bogovë	Berat	Skrapar	Urdhër MB, 1970, 1977-Rreg.MB**	330

National PA Category	Name of PA	Qarku	District	Approval	Area (ha.)
6	Krastafillak	Korçë	Korçë	Urdhër MB, 1970	250
7	Kuturman	Elbasan	Librazhd	Urdhër MB, 1970, 1977-Rreg.MB**	3,600
8	Pishë Poro	Fier	Fier	Urdhër MB, 1958, 1977-Rreg.MB**	1,500
9	Patok-Fushë Kuqe	Lezhë	Kurbin	Urdhër MB, 1962, 1977-Rreg.MB**	2,200
10	Berzanë	Lezhë	Lezhë	Urdhër MB, 1977-Rreg.MB**	880
11	Levan	Fier	Fier	Urdhër MB, 1977-Rreg.MB**	200
12	Balloll**	Berat	Berat	Urdhër MB, 1977-Rreg.MB**	330
13	Qafë Bushi	Elbasan	Elbasan	Urdhër MB, 1977-Rreg.MB**	500
14	Rrushkull	Durrës	Durrës	Rreg.MB 1977**,Urdhër MB nr.2,datë 26.12.1995	650
15	Rrëzomë	Vlorë	Delvinë	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	1,400
16	Tej Drini Bardhë	Kukës	Has	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	30
17	Gërmenj-Shelegur	Korçë	Kolonjë	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	430
18	Polis	Elbasan	Librazhd	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	45
19	Stravaj	Elbasan	Librazhd	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	400
20	Sopot	Elbasan	Librazhd	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	300
21	Dardhë-Xhyrë	Elbasan	Librazhd	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	400
22	Liqeni i Shkodrës	Shkodër	Shkodër	VKM[9] nr. 684,datë 02.11.2005	26,535
				Sub-total (area)	**62,530**
				Sub-total (number)	**22**
PROTECTED LANDSCAPE AREAS (IUCN CATEGORY V)					
1	Nikolicë	Korçë	Devoll	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	510
2	Pogradec	Korçë	Pogradec	VKM[3] nr. 80,datë 18.02.1999	27,323
3	Vjosë-Nartë	Vlorë	Vlorë	VKM[6] nr.680,datë 22.10.2004	19,738
4	Lumi Buna-Velipojë	Shkodër	Shkodër	VKM[7] nr.682,datë 02.11.2005	23,027
5	M.Gropa-Bizë-Martanesh	Tiranë-Diber	Tiranë-Mat-Bulqize	VKM[12] nr.49, datë 31.01.2007	25,266
				Sub-total (area)	**95,864**
				Sub-total (number)	**5**
PROTECTED AREAS OF MANAGED RESOURCES (IUCN CATEGORY VI)					
1	Luzni-Bulaç	Dibër	Dibër	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	5,900
2	Piskal-Shqeri	Korçë	Kolonjë	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	5,400
3	Bjeshka e Oroshit	Lezhë	Mirditë	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	4,700
4	Guri i Nikës	Korçë	Pogradec	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	2,200
				Sub-total (area)	**18,200**
				Sub-total (number)	**4**
Total area of PAs					**361,401**
Total national territory					**2,874,800**
PA area as % of national territory					**12.57%**
Total no. of PAs					**797**

Notes to table:
Qarku - administrative grouping of several districts (usually 2 - 4)
VKM - Decision of Ministerial Council
Rreg.MB - Regulation of the Ministry of Internal Affairs
Urdher MB - Order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs
Bio Monuments and Geo Monuments are represented as numbers (quantity), not as surface area (ha).
PAs highlighted in light green are coastal protected areas.
As of February 2010, there are no marine PAs. One MPA is in the process of being established. A draft decision for the proclamation of the Karaburuni Marine Protected Area as a National Marine Park (IUCN Category II) has been submitted to the MEFWA. It is expected to be approved by the Council of Ministers.

ANNEX G: DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED MARINE PROTECTED AREA AND PROJECT PILOT SITE -- KARABURUNI PENINSULA – SAZANI ISLAND

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan document of Albania (1999) has proposed 8 areas along the Albanian coast as potential Marine Protected Areas. National experts have undertaken a comprehensive analysis of each of these areas, with the objective of identifying and proposing one single area as the most suitable for being declared as the first MPA in Albania.[23] This assessment has taken place under the aegis of the ongoing PoPWA project: "PA Gap assessment and MPA development in Albania".

The analysis is based on the best available data and covers the following aspects: natural and landscape values; importance of habitats, communities and species, especially those of special importance due to their rare and/ or endangered status at the national and international level; feeding and/ or hatching grounds; as well as on cultural, historical and socio-economic values. The areas analyzed are listed in the table below.

Table 5. Proposed MPAs of Albania

Name of Proposed MPA	Surface	Proposed Protection Status	IUCN Category
Cape of Rodoni - Lalzi Bay - Ishmi Forest.	2,500 ha	Landscape/ Seascape Protected Area	V
Cape of Lagji -Turra Castle	600 ha	Scientific Reserve	I
Karaburuni Peninsula – Sazani Island (within the area Llogora-Orikum-Karaburun-Sazan-Radhimë-Tragjas-Dukat)	35,000 ha	National Park (marine and terrestrial components)	II
Canyon of Gjipe	1,200 ha	Landscape/ Seascape Protected Area	V
Porto Palermo	600 ha	Strict Nature Reserve	I
Kakomea Bay and Qefali Cape	2,200 ha	Landscape/ Seascape Protected Area	V
Çuka Channel -Ksamili Bay and Islands	1,000 ha	Landscape/ Seascape Protected Area	V
Pagane – Stillo Cape and Island	500 ha	Strict Nature Reserve (marine and terrestrial components)	I

Based on the existing data, the area Sazani Island–Western side of Karaburuni Peninsula has been distinguished from the other areas for declaration as Albania's first Marine Protected Area. The coastal part (terrestrial) of Sazani Island and western side of Karaburuni Peninsula is aimed to be included together with the proposed marine protected area, due to its high biodiversity values and natural habitats.

The proposed area fits with the definition of a "Marine and Coastal Protected Area" (MCPA) adopted by the AHTEG (Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group) of the Convention of the Biological Diversity in 2004. According to this definition, "Marine and Coastal Protected Area" means any defined area within or adjacent to the marine environment, together with its overlying waters and associated flora, fauna, and historical and cultural features, which has been reserved by legislation or other effective means, including custom, with the effect that its marine and/ or coastal biodiversity enjoys a higher level of protection than its surroundings. The following sections summarize and highlight the main features, characteristics and reasons, which distinguish the area Sazani Island – Karaburuni Peninsula from the other potential areas[24].

Karaburuni Peninsula – Sazani Island

Karaburuni peninsula and Sazani Island are characterized by a high diversity of landscapes, with steep and inaccessible cliffs, fissures, caves, capes, small beaches and bays (bays of Bristan, Dafina, Grama, etc.). These attractive formations to the visitor's eye take additional values from the well developed vegetation, which covers almost the whole peninsula from the mountain top until the coast. The Western side of Sazani – Karaburuni area has been identified as a priority area by many recent environmental policy documents of the Government of Albania. The WWF Mediterranean Program has identified 10 Mediterranean marine and

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[23] Analysis of the proposed Marine Protected Areas in Albania. Protected Areas Gap Assessment and Marine Protected Areas Development Project. Report prepared by Lefter Kashta, Sajmir Beqiraj, Virginie Tilot. UNDP-Albania. GEF. Tirana, 2009. (Available upon request from UNDP-Albania)
[24] For detailed information on biodiversity and other values of the remaining 7 proposed MPAs, see the report referred to in the previous footnote.

coastal areas that are vital for biodiversity. One of them is the coasts and islands of the eastern part of the Ionian Sea (Albania, Greece). In other reports and documents, this area, due to its remoteness, lack of infrastructure and human settlements has been considered as the most likely site for the establishment of the first Marine Park in Albania.

Forests of *Quercus ithaburensis* subsp. *macrolepis* in the Karaburuni Peninsula are considered the best preserved forest in Albania. Gryka e Xhenemit and Sazani Island are the northern limit for extended beds of *Euphorbia dendroides* and the alliance *Oleo-Ceratonion*, which has scientific values in bio-geographical and ecological aspects.

A high diversity of vegetation types characterizes the hill slopes and other habitats of the peninsula and the island. Some of the most interesting are: broadleaved evergreen forests (Assoc. *Orno –Quercetum ilicis*); plant communities dominated by *Quercus coccifera* (Assoc. *Orno- Quercetum cocciferae*); plant communities dominated by *Euphorbia dendroides* and *Pistacia lentiscus* (Assoc. *Pistacxio – Euphorbietum dendroides*); as well as forests dominated by *Quercus ithaburensis* subsp. *macrolepis* (known as Valona oak). The last one is considered as a relict species, together with the laurel *Laurus nobilis*, which is also present in natural conditions in this area.

A considerable number of terrestrial plant species, which belong to the Red Book of Albanian Flora are present in this area, such as: *Athamanta macedonica, Brassica oleracea* subsp. *oleracea, Brasica incana, Laurus nobilis, Origanum vulgare, Prunus webbii, Quercus ilex, Limonium anfractum, Lotus cytisoides, Desmazeria marina, Capparis spinosa, Prasium majus, Ephedra distachia, Orchis* sp.div., *Daphne gnidium*.

In the coastal and marine habitats, at the mediolittoral stage, biocenosis dominated by Lithophyllum byssoides is present in both Sazani Island and Karaburuni Peninsula. This incrusting coralline alga, which is a characteristic species of western Mediterranean and Adriatic Sea, grows slightly above mean sea level, in small caves, corridors and along cliffs. In this area it has created small cushions (hemispheric concretions) and rarely built rims, usually known as "trottoirs". Another biocenosis in the mediolittoral is that of mediolittoral caves, which correspond to crevices or the entrances of caves that are partially out of the water.

In the infralittoral stage the most important biocenosis is that of *Posidonia oceanica* meadows. This habitat belongs to the Habitat Directive 92/43/EEC as priority habitat, whereas *P. oceanica* as a species belongs to the Annex II (List of the endangered or threatened species) of the Barcelona Convention (Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean). On the western coast, *Posidonia oceanica* generally grows on rocky substrates and rarely on sandy sea beds.

In the hard beds and rocks of the infralittoral, perennial brown algae are dominant over extensive parts of shallow hard substrata in the western side of Karaburuni and Sazani. The most important group is that of the brown algae *Cystoseira*, represented with 5 species (*Cystoseira amentacea var. spicata, C. barbata, C. compressa, C. crinita and C. spinosa*). The Cystoseira communities together with the Posidonia meadows are the main supporters of biodiversity in shallow water. Other important associations are those of *Dictyopteris polypodioides, Corallina elongata* and *Cladocora caespitosa*.

Another important biocenosis is that of semi-obscure caves, where the red coral *Corallium rubrum* and several species of sponges live. The red coral (*Corallium rubrum*) is a species of Annex-III of the Barcelona Convention, as a species whose exploitation is regulated and also a species of Annex III of the Bern Convention, as protected fauna species. *Coralligenous* biocenosis are present on hard substrata, with calcareous red seaweeds, gorgonians and bryozoans. This biocenosis is well developed on the western side of Sazani Island and Karaburuni Peninsula.

In the marine waters of this area, the presence of the loggerhead turtle *Caretta caretta* has been recorded, the common dolphin *Delphinus delphis*, the bottlenose dolphin *Tursiops truncatus* and the Mediterranean monk seal *Monachus monachus*, which are among the most threatened species on a global scale, as well as many other threatened species of international concern that are protected by several international conventions (Barcelona, Bonn, CITES, Bern). Several reports have stated that suitable and potential habitats for the monk

seal exist along the western coast of Karaburuni (although the presence of the monk seal itself is a very rare occasion in this area). This area seems to be an important migrating corridor for the loggerhead turtle *Caretta caretta*, from its nesting site in Greek islands at the Ionian Sea, to the Patoku coast in Albania in the Adriatic Sea, which has been recently identified as an important foraging site for this species.

At least 36 marine species of international concern belonging to the lists of endangered and/or protected species of several Conventions are present in the Sazani – Karaburuni area. They include seagrasses, seaweeds, sponges, cnidarians, mollusks, crustaceans, echinoderms, fishes, reptiles, pinnipeds and cetaceans.

On a national scale, about 75% of endangered species of marine animals, mostly benthic macroinvertebrates, which belong to the Red Book of Albanian Fauna (2006) and to the Red List of Albanian Fauna (2007), have been recorded in Sazani – Karaburuni area.

This area also possesses precious archaeological, historical and cultural values. In the south-western coast of Karaburuni is situated Grama bay, a former famous harbor since thousands of years. On the rocks of Grama bay there are abundant inscriptions in old Greek and Latin languages, dating back more than 2000 years that have made this bay to be considered as the richest "rocky diary" in the Mediterranean. In the south-eastern part of Karaburuni Peninsula is situated the ancient town of Orikumi (former Orik), one of the most important Illyrian ports, founded in 4th century BC and mentioned as an important economic and cultural center in the Mediterranean during the ancient Greek and Roman periods until the Medieval period. In the underwater habitats of Karaburuni, a considerable number of wrapped ships and many archaeological objects are testimony to the relations of this area with other civilizations of the Greek and Roman periods. Divers can also see traces of the two world wars of the 20th century.

The environmental, biodiversity, natural, landscape, historic, cultural, and archaeological values mentioned above make this area one of the most attractive in terms of tourism. Interesting underwater topography with caves and very diverse microhabitats, as well as the presence of the wrapped ships are additional tourism values, especially for divers. Special and traditional old breeds of sheep graze in Karaburuni, feeding on the rich herb and shrub vegetation. They are famous for the quality of their meat and milk and may constitute yet another potential for the area -- rural and agroecological tourism. The high diversity of the topographic formations, with steep and inaccessible cliffs, canyons, tracks and plateaus (such as plateau of Ravena) also offer potential for alpinism, horse riding and other sports besides water sports.

Limited access in Karaburuni and Sazani, mostly due to the lack of roads and the steep rocky coast, has protected and conserved natural habitats. However, there are possibilities for controlled tourist and visitor access in the area, through trails in the hills and forests and by boat in the small bays and beaches with mooring possibilities, such as the Bay of Raguza and the Bay of Shën Jan in eastern coast and the Bay of Bristan, the Bay of Dafina and the Bay of Grama in the western coast of Karaburuni.

Over the last 20 years Albania has been steadily losing many of its biodiversity values and natural habitats, including marine ones, due to uncontrolled urban and tourism development, increased pollution, deforestation, erosion, lack of suitable environmental legislation and its weak implementation. In addition, Vlora Bay on the eastern side of Sazan–Karaburuni, is expecting some industrial and energy development, which may have impacts on the entire coastal and marine area. These developments underscore the urgency for declaring this area as a Marine Protected Area.

1st METT ASSESSMENT OF KARABURUNI - SAZANI MARINE AREA
Vlora, February 2010

BACKGROUND

This assignment is part of the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) process for development of a medium-size UNDP/GEF project document in Biodiversity focal area addressing improving coverage and management effectiveness of marine and coastal protected areas in Albania, with relevance on policy development and capacity building aspects. The project intends to addresses the priorities of country strategic documents putting priority on establishing marine protected areas to conserve the unique marine biodiversity of Albania. The planning of this project will encompass efforts in improvement of bio-geographical representation of marine and coastal protected areas (MCPA) and MCPA management arrangements, tackling institutional settings and capacity building issues.

The UNDP expert team developing this document, is also responsible for providing first METT assessment report as part of the project LFA and also as a basis for further project monitoring and evaluation which is conducted in accordance with established UNDP and GEF procedures (i.e., performance and impact indicators for project implementation, progress on increasing the management effectiveness of marine and coastal PAs). During project implementation, the use of the METT is to be institutionalized as a system-level tool for measuring and monitoring MCPA management effectiveness, and it will be applied to all proposed marine and coastal protected areas.

In the meantime, the project maintains close relations with other development issues and actors in that area who will soon be, or are actually, implementing different sectoral activities in the Karaburuni Area and its vicinity This relation envisages sharing of different information on activities that impact management of that area, capturing problems and issues that relate to administrative capacities, conservation capacities, sustainable forest management, and public and community involvement.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF KARABURUNI-SAZANI AREA

The main baseline information and scientific data have been provided during a former project (GEF/UNDP Gap assessment of MPA and establishment of the MPA in Albania), including video and photo recording.

The coastal part (terrestrial) of Sazani Island and western side of Karaburuni Peninsula-Sazani Island, is proposed to be marine protected area, due to its high values of biodiversity and natural habitats. Actually approval procedures are on the way and soon GoA will proclaim this site as MPA. Some of the main features and characteristics distinguish the area Sazani Island – Karaburuni Peninsula among the other marine areas. This targeted area is characterized by a high diversity of landscapes, with steep and inaccessible cliffs, fissures, caves, capes, small beaches and bays (bays of Bristan, Dafina, Grama etc.). These attractive formations for the visitor's eye take additional values from the well developed vegetation, which covers almost the whole peninsula from the mountain top until the coast. Forest of *Quercus ithaburensis subsp. macrolepis* in the Karaburuni Peninsula, is considered as the best preserved forest in Albania. Gryka e Xhenemit and Sazani Island are the north limit for the extended beds of *Euphorbia dendroides* and the alliance Oleo-Ceratonion (to be verified), which has scientific values in the bio-geographical and ecological aspects; Plant communities dominated by *Euphorbia dendroides* and *Pistacia lentiscus* (Assoc. Pistacxio – Euphorbietum dendroides); as well as the forests dominated by *Quercus ithaburensis subsp. macrolepis* (known as Valona oak). The last one is considered as a relict species,

together with the laurel *Laurus nobilis*, which is also present in natural conditions in this area. In the coastal and marine habitats, at the mediolittoral stage, biocenosis dominated by *Lithophyllum byssoides* is present in both Sazani Island and Karaburuni Peninsula. This incrusting coralline alga, which is a characteristic species of western Mediterranean and Adriatic Sea, grows slightly above mean sea level, in small caves, corridors and along cliffs. In this area it has created small cushions (hemispheric concretions) and rarely builds rims, usually known as "trottoirs".

In the infralittoral stage the most important biocenosis is that of *Posidonia oceanica* meadows. This habitat belongs to the Habitat Directive 92/43/EEC as priority habitat, whereas *P. oceanica* as a species belongs to the Annex II of the Barcelona Convention. On the western coast, *Posidonia oceanica* grows generally on rocky substrates and rarely on sandy seabeds, in front of small beaches. In the hard beds and rocks of the infralittoral, perennial brown algae are dominant over extensive parts of shallow hard substrata in the western side of Karaburuni and Sazani. The most important group is that of the brown algae Cystoseira, represented with 5 species (*Cystoseira amentacea var. spicata, C. barbata, C. compressa, C. crinita and C. spinosa*).Other important associations are those of *Dictyopteris polypodioides, Corallina elongata* and *Cladocora caespitose*; Another important biocoenosis is that of semi-obscure caves, where the red coral *Corallium rubrum* and several species of sponges live. Coralligenous biocenosis is present in the circalittoral zone, on hard substrata, with calcareous red seaweeds, gorgonians and bryozoans. This biocenosis is well developed on the western side of Sazani Island and Karaburuni Peninsula.

In the marine waters of this area has been also recorded the presence of the loggerhead turtle *Caretta caretta*, the common dolphin *Delphinus delphi*s, the bottlenose dolphin *Tursiops truncatus* and the Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*); Several reports have stated that suitable and potential habitats for the monk seal exist along the western coast of Karaburuni (although the presence of the monk seal itself is a very rare occasion in this area).

This area seems to be an important migrating corridor for the loggerhead turtle *Caretta caretta*, from its nesting site in Zakynthos Island in Greece at the Ionian Sea, to the Patoku coast in Albania at the Adriatic Sea, which has been recently identified as an important foraging site for this species. At least 36 marine species, which are of international concern and belong to the lists of endangered and/or protected species of several Conventions are present in Sazani – Karaburuni area. They involve seagrasses, seaweeds, sponges, cnidarians, mollusks, crustaceans, echinoderms, fishes, reptiles, pinnipeds and cetaceans. In national scale, about 75% of endangered species of marine animals, mostly benthic macroinvertebrates, have been recorded in Sazani – Karaburuni area.

This area owns precious archaeological, historical and cultural values, too. In the south-western coast of Karaburuni is situated Grama bay, a former famous harbor since thousands of years. On the rocks of Grama bay there are abundant inscriptions in old Greek and Latin languages, dating more than 2000 years, which have made this bay to be considered as the richest "rocky diary" in the Mediterranean. In the south-eastern part of Karaburuni Peninsula is situated the ancient town of Orikumi (former Orik), one of the

most important Illyrian ports, founded in 4th century BC and mentioned as an important economic and cultural center in the Mediterranean during the ancient Greek and Roman periods until the Medieval period. In the underwater habitats of Karaburuni, a considerable number of wrapped ships and many archaeological objects are testimony of the relations of this area with other civilizations of the Greek and Roman periods. Divers can also see the traces of the two world wars of the 20th century.

All the values mentioned above make this area as one of the most potential area of the Albanian coast as a tourist destination in many aspects: environment, biodiversity, nature, landscape, history, culture, archaeology etc. Some special and traditional old breeds of sheep graze in Karaburuni, feeding on the rich herb and shrub vegetation. They are famous for the quality of their meat and milk and may consist in another potential of the area for development of the rural and ecological tourism.

Western side of Sazani – Karaburuni area has been identified as a priority area by many recent environmental policy documents of the Government of Albania. The WWF Mediterranean Program has identified 10 Mediterranean marine and coastal areas that are vital for biodiversity. One of them is the coasts and islands of the eastern part of the Ionian Sea (Albania, Greece). In the last 20 years Albania is quickly loosing many values of its biodiversity and natural habitats, also including marine ones, due to the uncontrolled urban and tourism development, increased pollution, deforestation, erosion, lack of suitable environmental legislation and its week implementation etc. Besides this, in Vlora Bay, at the eastern part of Sazan – Karaburuni, some industrial and energetic developments are on the way, which have impacts in the whole coastal and marine area

METHODOLOGY

To assess the management effectiveness of both protected areas and protected area systems and to give guidance to managers and others, etc., the World Commission on Protected Areas has provided an overarching framework, the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT or Tracking Tool)[25]. It has been developed to help track and monitor progress in the achievement of the World Bank/WWF Alliance worldwide protected area management effectiveness target. It is also hoped that the Tracking Tool will be used more generally where it can help monitor progress towards improving management effectiveness; for example it is now obligatory for all Global Environment Facility protected area projects to use the Tracking Tool three times during the project's lifespan and the tool has been modified for use in several national PA systems. In addition, use of the Tracking Tool can help managers track progress in implementing protected areas commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. METT tool forms part of a series of management effectiveness assessment tools, which range from the WWF Rapid Assessment and Prioritisation Methodology (PAPPM) used to identify key protected areas at threat within a PA system to detailed monitoring systems. The Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool is:

- Capable of providing a harmonized reporting system for PA assessment;
- Suitable for replication;
- Able to supply consistent data to allow tracking of progress over time;
- Relatively quick and easy to complete by protected area staff, so as not to be reliant on high levels of funding or other resources;
- Capable of providing a "score" if required;
- Based around a system that provides four alternative text answers to each question, strengthening the scoring system;
- Easily understood by non-specialists; and
- Nested within existing reporting systems to avoid duplication of effort.

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[25] Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool: Reporting Progress at Protected Area Sites. Second Edition, Revised Edition published by WWF International, July 2007

It is composed of the following sections:
1. Project General Information
2. Data Sheet 1: Reporting Progress at Protected Area Sites (which details key information on the site, its characteristics and management objectives)
3. Data Sheet 2: Protected Areas Threats
4. Assessment Form

RESULTS

The 1st METT assessment aims to estimate the baseline status and information which is needed and indispensable for the project development phase as well as for the fine tuning of the project LFA. In addition it will be the initial reference point for the other project tasks related to monitoring, evaluating project progress and project implementation. The preliminary data on METT assessment are given in the following sections.

Project General Information

1. Project Name: Improving Coverage and Management Effectiveness of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas
2. Project Type (MSP or FSP): MSP
3. Project ID (GEF): 3997
4. Project ID (IA): 4255
5. Implementing Agency: UNDP
6. Country: Albania

Name of reviewers completing tracking tool and completion dates:

	Name	Title	Agency
CEO Approval	Violeta Zuna	Project Manager	UNDP
Project Mid-term			
Final Evaluation/project completion			

7. Project duration: *Planned* 5 years   *Actual*

8. Lead Project Executing Agency (ies): **MEFWA**

9. GEF Strategic Program (choose 1):
Strategic Priority 2: Increasing Representation of Effectively Managed Marine Protected Areas in Protected Area Systems

10. Protected area coverage in hectares:

Targets and Timeframe **Total Extent in hectares of protected areas targeted by the project by biome type**	Foreseen at project start	Achievement at Mid-term Evaluation of Project	Achievement at Final Evaluation of Project
Marine (soon to be established MPA)	12,570.82		

11. Please complete the table below for the protected areas that are the target of the GEF intervention.

Name of Protected Area	Is this a new protected area? Please answer yes or no.	Area in Hectares	Global designation or priority lists (E.g., Biosphere Reserve, World Heritage site, Ramsar site, WWF Global 200, etc.)	Local Designation of Protected Area (E.g, indigenous reserve, private reserve, etc.)	IUCN Category					
					I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Karaburuni-Sazani	YES	12,570.82		National Park		II				

Data Sheet 1 Reporting Progress at Protected Area Sites:

Name, affiliation and contact details for person responsible for completing the METT (email etc.)	UNDP Project unit. Violeta.zuna@undp.org; tel. + 355 42257627
Date assessment carried out	March 2010
Name of protected area	Vlora Bay – Karaburuni MPA, Albania (under designation procedures)
WDPA site code (these codes can be found on www.unep-wcmc.org/wdpa/)	-

Designations	National ☒		IUCN Category II	International (please also complete sheet overleaf)
Country	Albania			

Location of protected area (province and if possible map reference)	**Vlora County, Orikumi Municipality, Albania**
Date of establishment	Gazetted: Council of Ministers' Decree no. xxx on dd.mm.yyyy (expected soon)

Ownership details (please tick)	State ☒	Private ☐	Community ☐	Other ☐

Management Authority	Not yet established; partial management activities are executed by the Vlora forestry service but these are not directly related to conservation
Size of protected area (ha)	12,570.82 ha

Number of staff	Permanent : not yet defined		Temporary: not yet defined

Annual budget (US$) – excluding staff salary costs	Recurrent (operational) funds N/A	Project or other supplementary funds

What are the main values for which the area is designated	High diversity of landscapes, with steep and inaccessible cliffs, fissures, caves, capes, small beaches and bays (bays of Bristan, Dafina, Grama etc); well developed vegetation,; scientific values in the bio-geographical and ecological aspects; Plant communities dominated by Euphorbia dendroides and Pistacia lentiscus; In the coastal and marine habitats, at the mediolittoral stage, biocenosis dominated by Lithophyllum byssoides. In this area it has created small cushions (hemispheric concretions) and rarely builds rims, usually known as "trottoirs"; In the infralittoral stage the most important biocenosis is that of Posidonia oceanica meadows; as well as that of semi-obscure caves, where the red coral Corallium rubrum and several species of sponges live; suitable and potential habitats for the monk seal exist along the western coast of Karaburuni; area is an important migrating corridor for the loggerhead turtle Caretta caretta. At least 36 marine species, which are of international concern and belong to the lists of endangered and/or protected species of several conventions are present in Sazani – Karaburuni area; In national scale, about 75% of endangered species of marine animals, mostly benthic macro invertebrates, have been recorded in Sazani – Karaburuni area; the area owns precious archaeological, historical and cultural values, too; on the rocks of Grama bay there are abundant inscriptions in old Greek and Latin languages, dating more than 2000 years, which have made this bay to be considered as the richest "rocky diary" in the Mediterranean.

List the two primary protected area management objectives	
Management objective 1	Conservation of ecological values and functions and of the biological diversity in the Karaburuni-Sazani
Management objective 2	Introduce MPA management and administrative instruments in this area.

No. of people involved in completing assessment	7 (Seven)

Including: (tick boxes)	PA manager ☐	PA staff ☐	Other PA agency staff ☐	NGO ☒
	Local community ☒	Donors ☐	External experts ☒	Other ☐

Please note if assessment was carried out in association with a particular project, on behalf of an organisation or donor	The assessment was carried out by the UNDP/GEF project responsible for the PPG development and preparation of CEO endorsement request.

Information on International Designations			
UNESCO World Heritage site (see: whc.unesco.org/en/list)			
Date listed	Site name	Site area	Geographical co-ordinates
Criteria for designation (i.e. criteria i to x)			
Statement of Outstanding Universal Value			
Ramsar site (see: www.wetlands.org/RSDB/)			
Date listed	Site name	Site area	Geographical number
Reason for Designation (see Ramsar Information Sheet)			
UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves (see: www.unesco.org/mab/wnbrs.shtml)			
Date listed	Site name	Site area Total: Core: Buffer: Transition:	Geographical co-ordinates
Criteria for designation			
Fulfilment of three functions of MAB (conservation, development and logistic support.)			
Please list other designations (i.e. ASEAN Heritage, Natura 2000) and any supporting information below			
Name:	Detail:		
Name:	Detail:		

Data Sheet 2: Protected Areas Threats

Please tick all relevant existing threats as either of high, medium or low significance. Threats ranked as of **high** significance are those which are seriously degrading values; **medium** are those threats having some negative impact and those characterized as **low** are threats which are present but not seriously impacting values or **N/A** where the threat is not present or not applicable in the protected area.

1. Residential and commercial development within protected area

High	Medium	Low	N/A	
			✓	1.1 Housing and settlement
			✓	1.2 Commercial and industrial areas
			✓	1.3 Tourism and recreation infrastructure

2. Agriculture and aquaculture within a protected area

Threats from farming and grazing as a result of agricultural expansion and intensification, including silviculture, mariculture and aquaculture

High	Medium	Low	N/A	
			✓	2.1 Annual and perennial non-timber crop cultivation
			✓	2.1a Drug cultivation
			✓	2.2 Wood and pulp plantations
			✓	2.3 Livestock farming and grazing
	✓			2.4 Marine and freshwater aquaculture

3. Energy production and mining within a protected area

Threats from production of non-biological resources

High	Medium	Low	N/A	
			✓	3.1 Oil and gas drilling
			✓	3.2 Mining and quarrying
			✓	3.3 Energy generation, including from hydropower dams

4. Transportation and service corridors within a protected area

Threats from long narrow transport corridors and the vehicles that use them including associated wildlife mortality

High	Medium	Low	N/A	
			✓	4.1 Roads and railroads (include road-killed animals)
			✓	4.2 Utility and service lines (e.g. electricity cables, telephone lines)
	✓			4.3 Shipping lanes and canals
			✓	4.4 Flight paths

5. Biological resource use and harm within a protected area

Threats from consumptive use of "wild" biological resources including both deliberate and unintentional harvesting effects; also persecution or control of specific species (note this includes hunting and killing of animals)

High	Medium	Low	N/A	
			✓	5.1 Hunting, killing and collecting terrestrial animals (including killing of animals as a result of human/ wildlife conflict)
			✓	5.2 Gathering terrestrial plants or plant products (non-timber)
			✓	5.3 Logging and wood harvesting
	✓			5.4 Fishing, killing and harvesting aquatic resources

6. Human intrusions and disturbance within the protected area

Threats from human activities that alter, destroy or disturb habitats and species associated with non-consumptive uses of biological resources

High	Medium	Low	N/A	
	✓			6.1 Recreational activities and tourism
			✓	6.2 War, civil unrest and military exercises
			✓	6.3 Research, education and other work-related activities in protected areas
			✓	6.4 Activities of protected area managers (e.g. construction or vehicle use, artificial watering points and dams)
			✓	6.5 Deliberate vandalism, destructive activities or threats to protected area staff and visitors

7. Natural system modifications
Threats from other actions that convert or degrade habitat or change the way the ecosystem functions

High	Medium	Low	N/A	
			✓	7.1 Fire and fire suppression (including arson)
	✓			7.2 Dams, hydrological modification and water management/use
			✓	7.3a Increased fragmentation within protected area
			✓	7.3b Isolation from other natural habitat (e.g. deforestation, dams without effective aquatic wildlife passages)
			✓	7.3c Other 'edge effects' on park values
			✓	7.3d Loss of keystones species (e.g. top predators, pollinators etc.)

8. Invasive and other problematic species and genes
Threats from terrestrial and aquatic non-native plants, animals, pathogens/microbes or genetic materials that have or are predicted to have harmful effects on biodiversity following introduction, spread and/or increase

High	Medium	Low	N/A	
			✓	8.1 Invasive non-native/alien plants (weeds)
			✓	8.1a Invasive non-native/alien animals
			✓	8.1b Pathogens (non-native or native but creating new/increased problems)
			✓	8.2 Introduced genetic material (e.g. genetically modified organisms)

9. Pollution entering or generated within protected area
Threats from introduction of exotic and/or excess materials or energy from point and non-point sources

High	Medium	Low	N/A	
	✓			9.1 Household sewage and urban waste water
			✓	9.1a Sewage and waste water from protected area facilities (e.g. toilets, hotels etc.)
	✓			9.2 Industrial, mining and military effluents ad discharges (e.g. poor water quality discharge from dams, e.g. unnatural temperatures, de-oxygenated, other pollution)
	✓			9.3 Agricultural and forestry effluents (e.g. excess fertilizers or pesticides)
			✓	9.4 Garbage and solid waste
			✓	9.5 Air-borne pollutants
			✓	9.6 Excess energy (e.g. heat pollution, lights etc.)

10. Geological events
Geological events may be part of natural disturbance regimes in many ecosystems. But they can be a threat if a species or habitat is damaged and has lost its resilience and is vulnerable to disturbance.
Management capacity to respond to some of these changes may be limited.

High	Medium	Low	N/A	
			✓	10.1 Volcanoes
			✓	10.2 Earthquakes/Tsunamis
			✓	10.3 Avalanches/ Landslides
	✓			10.4 Erosion and siltation/ deposition (e.g. shoreline or riverbed changes)

11. Climate change and severe weather
Threats from long-term climatic changes which may be linked to global warming and other severe climatic/weather events outside of the natural range of variation

High	Medium	Low	N/A	
			✓	11.1 Habitat shifting and alteration
			✓	11.2 Droughts
	✓			11.3 Temperature extremes
	✓			11.4 Storms and flooding

12. Specific cultural and social threats

High	Medium	Low	N/A	
			✓	12.1 Loss of cultural links, traditional knowledge and/or management practices
			✓	12.2 Natural deterioration of important cultural site values
			✓	12.3 Destruction of cultural heritage buildings, gardens, sites etc.

Assessment Form

Issue	Criteria	Score[26]		Comment/Explanation	Next steps
1. Legal status Does the protected area have legal status (or in the case of private reserves is covered by a covenant or similar)? *Context*	The protected area is not gazetted/covenanted	0			
	There is agreement that the protected area should be gazetted/covenanted but the process has not yet begun	1			
	The protected area is in the process of being gazetted/covenanted but the process is still incomplete (includes sites designated under international conventions, such as Ramsar, or local/traditional law such as community conserved areas, which do not yet have national legal status or covenant)	2	X	The area is analyzed and the procedure are completed for submission to the council of ministers for designation and gazetting of the area as MPA IUCN IV	
	The protected area has been formally gazetted/covenanted	3			
2. Protected area regulations Are appropriate regulations in place to control land use and activities (e.g. hunting)? *Planning*	There are no regulations for controlling land use and activities in the protected area	0			
	Some regulations for controlling land use and activities in the protected area exist but these are major weaknesses	1			
	Regulations for controlling land /sea use and activities in the protected area exist but there are some weaknesses or gaps	2	X	The main legal framework is in place, but the implementation and enforcements of these legal frameworks are hindered due to lack of awareness, funding and inconsistency in the legal frame itself (eg Fishery law vs energy and industrial development).	
	Regulations for controlling inappropriate land use and activities in the protected area exist and provide an excellent basis for management	3			
3. Law enforcement Can staff (i.e. those with responsibility for managing the site) enforce protected area rules well enough? *Input*	The staff have no effective capacity/resources to enforce protected area legislation and regulations	0	X	No MC in place and no site administration yet.	
	There are major deficiencies in staff capacity/resources to enforce protected area legislation and regulations (e.g. lack of skills, no patrol budget, lack of institutional support)	1			
	The staff have acceptable capacity/resources to enforce protected area legislation and regulations but some deficiencies remain	2			
	The staff have excellent capacity/resources to enforce protected area legislation and regulations	3			
4. Protected area objectives	No firm objectives have been agreed for the protected area	0	X	The management objective are not yet formalised and introduced through any	

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[26] Tick only one box per question.

Issue	Criteria	Score[26]		Comment/Explanation	Next steps
				management instruments	
Is management undertaken according to agreed objectives? *Planning*	The protected area has agreed objectives, but is not managed according to these objectives	1			
	The protected area has agreed objectives, but is only partially managed according to these objectives	2			
	The protected area has agreed objectives and is managed to meet these objectives	3			
5. Protected area design Is the protected area the right size and shape to protect species, habitats, ecological processes and water catchments of key conservation concern? *Planning*	Inadequacies in protected area design mean achieving the major objectives of the protected area is very difficult	0			
	Inadequacies in protected area design mean that achievement of major objectives is difficult but some mitigating actions are being taken (e.g. agreements with adjacent land owners for wildlife corridors or introduction of appropriate catchment management)	1	X	The first proposal from the PoWPA project included also the Vlora bay. The MoEFA proceeded with a smaller version.	
	Protected area design is not significantly constraining achievement of objectives, but could be improved (e.g. with respect to larger scale ecological processes)	2			
	Protected area design helps achievement of objectives; it is appropriate for species and habitat conservation; and maintains ecological processes such as surface and groundwater flows at a catchment scale, natural disturbance patterns etc	3			
6. Protected area boundary demarcation Is the boundary known and demarcated? *Process*	The boundary of the protected area is not known by the management authority or local residents/neighbouring land users	0	X		Clear definition to be made after GoA approval
	The boundary of the protected area is known by the management authority but is not known by local residents/neighbouring land users	1			
	The boundary of the protected area is known by both the management authority and local residents/neighbouring land users but is not appropriately demarcated	2			
	The boundary of the protected area is known by the management authority and local residents/neighbouring land users and is appropriately demarcated	3			
7. Management plan Is there a management plan and is it being implemented?	There is no management plan for the protected area	0	X		
	A management plan is being prepared or has been prepared but is not being implemented	1			
	A management plan exists but it is only being partially implemented because of	2			

Issue	Criteria	Score[26]		Comment/Explanation	Next steps
Planning	funding constraints or other problems				
	A management plan exists and is being implemented	3			
Additional points: Planning					
7a. Planning process	The planning process allows adequate opportunity for key stakeholders to influence the management plan	+1			
7b. Planning process	There is an established schedule and process for periodic review and updating of the management plan	+1			
7c. Planning process	The results of monitoring, research and evaluation are routinely incorporated into planning	+1			
8. Regular work plan Is there a regular work plan and is it being implemented *Planning*	No regular work plan exists	0	X		
	A regular work plan exists but few of the activities are implemented	1			
	A regular work plan exists and many activities are implemented	2			
	A regular work plan exists and all activities are implemented	3			
9. Resource inventory Do you have enough information to manage the area? *Input*	There is little or no information available on the critical habitats, species and cultural values of the protected area	0			
	Information on the critical habitats, species, ecological processes and cultural values of the protected area is not sufficient to support planning and decision making	1			
	Information on the critical habitats, species, ecological processes and cultural values of the protected area is sufficient for most key areas of planning and decision making	2	X	Information on extent/condition of priority species and habitat distribution, abundance, and condition is updated.	
	Information on the critical habitats, species, ecological processes and cultural values of the protected area is sufficient to support all areas of planning and decision making	3			
10. Protection systems Are systems in place to control access/resource use in the protected area? *Process*	Protection systems (patrols, permits etc) do not exist or are not effective in controlling access/resource use	0	X	Protection systems are ineffective due to weak law enforcement, lack of institutional capacity, adequate information on resources (such as fish stock, habitat situation) and funding constraints.	
	Protection systems are only partially effective in controlling access/resource use	1			
	Protection systems are moderately effective in controlling access/resource use	2			
	Protection systems are largely or wholly effective in controlling access/resource use	3			
11. Research	There is no survey or research work	0			

Issue	Criteria	Score[26]		Comment/Explanation	Next steps
	taking place in the protected area				
Is there a programme of management-orientated survey and research work? *Process*	There is a small amount of survey and research work but it is not directed towards the needs of protected area management	1	X	Planned surveys or research work were finalised during 2009 as part of the PoWPA	
	There is considerable survey and research work but it is not directed towards the needs of protected area management	2			
	There is a comprehensive, integrated programme of survey and research work, which is relevant to management needs	3			
12. Resource management Is active resource management being undertaken? *Process*	Active resource management is not being undertaken	0			
	Very few of the requirements for active management of critical habitats, species, ecological processes and cultural values are being implemented	1	X	The first PA resource management needs substantial inputs and revision to become a tool for active management of critical ecosystems and cultural values.	
	Many of the requirements for active management of critical habitats, species, ecological processes and, cultural values are being implemented but some key issues are not being addressed	2			
	Requirements for active management of critical habitats, species, ecological processes and, cultural values are being substantially or fully implemented	3			
13. Staff numbers Are there enough people employed to manage the protected area? *Inputs*	There are no staff	0	X		
	Staff numbers are inadequate for critical management activities	1		.	
	Staff numbers are below optimum level for critical management activities	2			
	Staff numbers are adequate for the management needs of the protected area	3			
14. Staff training Are staff adequately trained to fulfil management objectives? *Process*	Staff lack the skills needed for protected area management	0			
	Staff training and skills are low relative to the needs of the protected area	1	X	The key staff of some other relevant institutions has been receiving training (eg. Captain fleet, forestry services etc) ; further training for multi-disciplinary tasking is necessary	
	Staff training and skills are adequate, but could be further improved to fully achieve the objectives of management	2			
	Staff training and skills are aligned with the management needs of the protected area	3			
15. Current budget Is the current budget sufficient? *Inputs*	There is no budget for management of the protected area	0	X		
	The available budget is inadequate for basic management needs and presents a serious constraint to the capacity to manage	1			

Issue	Criteria	Score[26]		Comment/Explanation	Next steps
	The available budget is acceptable but could be further improved to fully achieve effective management	2			
	The available budget is sufficient and meets the full management needs of the protected area	3			
16. Security of budget

Is the budget secure?

Inputs | There is no secure budget for the protected area and management is wholly reliant on outside or highly variable funding | 0 | X | The state allocates small budget that covers basic patrolling of the marine area. No secure outside budget is available. | |
	There is very little secure budget and the protected area could not function adequately without outside funding	1			
	There is a reasonably secure core budget for regular operation of the protected area but many innovations and initiatives are reliant on outside funding	2			
	There is a secure budget for the protected area and its management needs	3			
17. Management of budget

Is the budget managed to meet critical management needs?

Process | Budget management is very poor and significantly undermines effectiveness (e.g. late release of budget in financial year) | 0 | X | | |
	Budget management is poor and constrains effectiveness	1			
	Budget management is adequate but could be improved	2			
	Budget management is excellent and meets management needs	3			
18. Equipment

Is equipment sufficient for management needs?

Input | There are little or no equipment and facilities for management needs | 0 | X | | |
	There are some equipment and facilities but these are inadequate for most management needs	1			
	There are equipment and facilities, but still some gaps that constrain management	2			
	There are adequate equipment and facilities	3			
19. Maintenance of equipment

Is equipment adequately maintained?

Process | There is little or no maintenance of equipment and facilities | 0 | X | . | |
	There is some ad hoc maintenance of equipment and facilities	1			
	There is basic maintenance of equipment and facilities	2			
	Equipment and facilities are well maintained	3			
20. Education and awareness

Is there a planned education programme linked to the objectives and | There is no education and awareness programme | 0 | | | |
| | There is a limited and ad hoc education and awareness programme | 1 | X | Education programme and awareness actions are provided by the MoEFWA for all protected areas in Albania and as a part of the various donor assistance programme some awareness activities | |

Issue	Criteria	Score[26]		Comment/Explanation	Next steps
needs? *Process*				took place but not in a systematic manner.	
	There is an education and awareness programme but it only partly meets needs and could be improved	2			
	There is an appropriate and fully implemented education and awareness programme	3			
21. Planning for land and water use Does land and water use planning recognise the protected area and aid the achievement of objectives? *Planning*	Adjacent land and water use planning does not take into account the needs of the protected area and activities/policies are detrimental to the survival of the area	0	X	e.g the thermo power facility on Vlore bay and /or oil deposits;	
	Adjacent land and water use planning does not take into account the long term needs of the protected area, but activities are not detrimental for the area	1			
	Adjacent land and water use planning partially takes into account the long term needs of the protected area	2		.	
	Adjacent land and water use planning fully takes into account the long term needs of the protected area	3			
Additional points: Land and water planning					
21a: Land and water planning for habitat conservation	Planning and management in the catchment or landscape containing the protected area incorporates provision for adequate environmental conditions (e.g. volume, quality and timing of water flow, air pollution levels etc) to sustain relevant habitats.	+1			
21b: Land and water planning for connectivity	Management of corridors linking the protected area provides for wildlife passage to key habitats outside the protected area (e.g. to allow migratory fish to travel between freshwater spawning sites and the sea, or to allow animal migration).	+1	X	Even though there is no effective management of the MPA, there are some management activities by the fishery sector that include partial management of such corridors insofar as this relates to compliance with fishing management objectives.	
21c: Land and water planning for ecosystem services & species conservation	"Planning addresses ecosystem-specific needs and/or the needs of particular species of concern at an ecosystem scale (e.g. volume, quality and timing of freshwater flow to sustain particular species, fire management to maintain savannah habitats etc.)"	+1			
22. State and commercial neighbours Is there co-operation with adjacent land and water users? *Process*	There is no contact between managers and neighbouring official or corporate land and water users	0	X	There are contacts with farmers, fishermen cattle raisers, traders, small business-shops state institutions like harbour authorities, captain navy but no management authority in place	
	There is contact between managers and neighbouring official or corporate land and water users but little or no cooperation	1			
	There is contact between managers and	2			

Issue	Criteria	Score[26]		Comment/Explanation	Next steps
	neighbouring official or corporate land and water users, but only some co-operation				
	There is regular contact between managers and neighbouring official or corporate land and water users, and substantial co-operation on management	3			
23. Indigenous people Do indigenous and traditional peoples resident or regularly using the protected area have input to management decisions? *Process*	Indigenous and traditional peoples have no input into decisions relating to the management of the protected area	0	X	There are native people residing in the area who have been there for centuries and are identified as native people. These people have a close link with their land, and livestock. But, due to the political history of Albania, before 1990 lands were state owned. Since 1990, with the establishment of market economy and democratic system, the process of land ownership restitution has begun. This is a crucial issue in the area where land ownership is recognized but not yet restituted to its owners.	
	Indigenous and traditional peoples have some input into discussions relating to management but no direct role in management	1			
	Indigenous and traditional peoples directly contribute to some relevant decisions relating to management but their involvement could be improved	2			
	Indigenous and traditional peoples directly participate in all relevant decisions relating to management, e.g. co-management	3			
24. Local communities Do local communities resident or near the protected area have input to management decisions? *Process*	Local communities have no input into decisions relating to the management of the protected area	0	X		
	Local communities have some input into discussions relating to management but no direct role in management	1			
	Local communities directly contribute to some relevant decisions relating to management but their involvement could be improved	2			
	Local communities directly participate in all relevant decisions relating to management, e.g. co-management	3			
Additional points Local communities/indigenous people					
24 a. Impact on communities	There is open communication and trust between local and/or indigenous people, stakeholders and protected area managers	+1			
24b. Impact on communities	Programmes to enhance community welfare, while conserving protected area resources, are being implemented	+1			
24c. Impact on	Local and/or indigenous people actively	+1	X	A former GEF/UNDP program was	

Issue	Criteria	Score[26]		Comment/Explanation	Next steps
communities	support the protected area			implemented 2000-2006 and intended to proclaim the terrestrial part as PA. It contributed to some improvement of attitude and behavior towards integrated coast management	
25. Economic benefit Is the protected area providing economic benefits to local communities, e.g. income, employment, payment for environmental services? *Outcomes*	The protected area does not deliver any economic benefits to local communities	0			
	Potential economic benefits are recognised and plans to realise these are being developed	1			
	There is some flow of economic benefits to local communities	2			
	There is a major flow of economic benefits to local communities from activities associated with the protected area	3	X	MPA establishment will not directly impact the local economy although there are clear potential for economic benefits to local communities from fishery and other tourism activities	
26. Monitoring and evaluation Are management activities monitored against performance? *Process*	There is no monitoring and evaluation in the protected area	0	X	Very sporadic monitoring /surveillance has been performed on the case of some research projects (donor programs)	
	There is some ad hoc monitoring and evaluation, but no overall strategy and/or no regular collection of results	1			
	There is an agreed and implemented monitoring and evaluation system but results do not feed back into management	2			
	A good monitoring and evaluation system exists, is well implemented and used in adaptive management	3			
27. Visitor facilities Are visitor facilities adequate? *Outputs*	There are no visitor facilities and services despite an identified need	0	X		
	Visitor facilities and services are inappropriate for current levels of visitation	1			
	Visitor facilities and services are adequate for current levels of visitation but could be improved	2			
	Visitor facilities and services are excellent for current levels of visitation	3			
28. Commercial tourism operators Do commercial tour operators contribute to protected area management? *Process*	There is little or no contact between managers and tourism operators using the protected area	0	X		
	There is contact between managers and tourism operators but this is largely confined to administrative or regulatory matters	1			
	There is limited co-operation between managers and tourism operators to enhance visitor experiences and maintain protected area values	2			
	There is good co-operation between managers and tourism operators to enhance visitor experiences, and	3			

Issue	Criteria	Score[26]		Comment/Explanation	Next steps
	maintain protected area values				
29. Fees If fees (i.e. entry fees or fines) are applied, do they help protected area management? *Process*	Although fees are theoretically applied, they are not collected	0	X	According to the PA law, the forest service is entitled to impose fines or penalties subject to violation of law and /or rules that they are responsible to implement as part of their tasks. However, they have no executive power to collect fees. AS a result, they can impose fines/ penalties but their collection rate is very low.	
	Fees are collected, but make no contribution to the protected area or its environs	1			
	Fees are collected, and make some contribution to the protected area and its environs	2			
	Fees are collected and make a substantial contribution to the protected area and its environs	3			
30. Condition of values What is the condition of the important values of the protected area as compared to when it was first designated? *Outcomes*	Many important biodiversity, ecological or cultural values are being severely degraded	0			
	Some biodiversity, ecological or cultural values are being severely degraded	1	X	Biodiversity values are still being degraded to some extent due to illegal activities	
	Some biodiversity, ecological and cultural values are being partially degraded but the most important values have not been significantly impacted	2			
	Biodiversity, ecological and cultural values are predominantly intact	3			
Additional Points: Condition of values					
30a: Condition of values	The assessment of the condition of values is based on research and/or monitoring	+1			
30b: Condition of values	Specific management programmes are being implemented to address threats to biodiversity, ecological and cultural values	+1			
30c: Condition of values	Activities to maintain key biodiversity, ecological and cultural values are a routine part of park management	+1			
TOTAL SCORE		**17**			

ANNEX I: UNDP CAPACITY ASSESSMENT SCORECARD FOR PROTECTED AREA PROJECTS

In Table 1, each indicator is scored from 0 (worst) to 3 (best), with an explanation of what each score represents for the particular indicator. The tool then estimates the baseline situation/ score for each indicator (cell marked in red), and then identifies the target situation/ score (marked in green). Tables 2 through 6 provide a quantitative summary of the total possible scores, baseline scores, target scores, baseline score as a percentage of the total possible score, and the target score as a percentage of the total possible score.

Table 1: Scorecard

Strategic Area of Support	Capacity Level	Indicator	Scores							
			Worst (Score 0)		Marginal (Score 1)		Satisfactory (Score 2)		Best (Score 3)	
1. Capacity to conceptualize and formulate policies, legislations, strategies and programmes	Systemic	The MCPA agenda is being effectively championed / driven forward	There is essentially no MCPA agenda		There are some persons or institutions actively pursuing a MCPA agenda but they have little effect or influence	1	There are a number of MCPA champions that drive the MCPA agenda, but more is needed		There are an adequate number of able "champions" and "leaders" effectively driving forwards a MCPA agenda	3
1. Capacity to conceptualize and formulate policies, legislations, strategies and programmes	Systemic	There is a strong and clear legal mandate for the establishment and management of MCPAs	There is no legal framework for MCPAs		There is a partial legal framework for MCPAs but it has many inadequacies		There is a reasonable legal framework for MCPAs but it has a few weaknesses and gaps	2	There is a strong and clear legal mandate for the establishment and management of MCPAs	3
1. Capacity to conceptualize and formulate policies, legislations, strategies and programmes	Institutional	There is an institution responsible for MCPAs able to strategize and plan	MCPA institutions have no plans or strategies		MCPA institutions do have strategies and plans, but these are old and no longer up to date or were prepared in a totally top-down fashion	1	MCPA institutions have some sort of mechanism to update their strategies and plans, but this is irregular or is done in a largely top-down fashion without proper consultation		MCPA institutions have relevant, participatorily prepared, regularly updated strategies and plans	3
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	Systemic	There are adequate skills for MCPA planning and management	There is a general lack of planning and management skills		Some skills exist but in largely insufficient quantities to guarantee effective planning and management	1	Necessary skills for effective MCPA management and planning do exist but are stretched and not easily available		Adequate quantities of the full range of skills necessary for effective MCPA planning and management are easily available	3

Strategic Area of Support	Capacity Level	Indicator	Scores							
			Worst (Score 0)		Marginal (Score 1)		Satisfactory (Score 2)		Best (Score 3)	
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	Systemic	There are MCPA systems	No or very few MCPA exist and they cover only a small portion of the habitats and ecosystems	0	MCPA system is patchy both in number and geographical coverage and has many gaps in terms of representativeness		MCPA system is covering a reasonably representative sample of the major habitats and ecosystems, but still presents some gaps and not all elements are of viable size	2	The MCPAs includes viable representative examples of all the major habitats and ecosystems of appropriate geographical scale	
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	Systemic	There is a fully transparent oversight authority for the MCPAs institutions[27]	There is no oversight at all of MCPA institutions		There is some oversight, but only indirectly and in an untransparent manner	1	There is a reasonable oversight mechanism in place providing for regular review but lacks in transparency (e.g. is not independent, or is internalized)	2	There is a fully transparent oversight authority for the MCPAs institutions	
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	Institutional	MCPA institutions are effectively led	MCPA institutions have a total lack of leadership		MCPA institutions exist but leadership is weak and provides little guidance		Some MCPA institutions have reasonably strong leadership but there is still need for improvement	2	MCPA institutions are effectively led	3
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	Institutional	MCPAs have regularly updated, participatorily prepared, comprehensive management plans	MCPAs have no management plans		Some MCPAs have up-to-date management plans but they are typically not comprehensive and were not participatorially prepared	1	Most MCPAs have management plans though some are old, not participatorially prepared or are less than comprehensive		Every MCPA has a regularly updated, participatorially prepared, comprehensive management plan	3
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	Institutional	Human resources are well qualified and motivated	Human resources are poorly qualified and unmotivated		Human resources qualification is spotty, with some well qualified, but many only poorly and in general unmotivated	1	HR in general reasonably qualified, but many lack in motivation, or those that are motivated are not sufficiently qualified.		Human resources are well qualified and motivated	3

[27] In assigning scores, it is assumed that the term "MCPA institutions" covers all institutions that play some role in management of the existing coastal PAs and could have a potential role in yet-to-be-established marine PAs. This includes central institutions (i.e., MEFWA and other sector ministries such as fisheries, agriculture, tourism, physical planning), local administrations, PA management units (where these exist), and PA management boards (where these exist).

Strategic Area of Support	Capacity Level	Indicator	Scores							
			Worst (Score 0)		Marginal (Score 1)		Satisfactory (Score 2)		Best (Score 3)	
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	Institutional	Management plans are implemented in a timely manner effectively achieving their objectives	There is very little implementation of management plans		Management plans are poorly implemented and their objectives are rarely met	1	Management plans are usually implemented in a timely manner, though delays typically occur and some objectives are not met	2	Management plans are implemented in a timely manner effectively achieving their objectives	
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	Institutional	MCPA institutions are able to adequately mobilize sufficient quantity of funding, human and material resources to effectively implement their mandate	MCPA institutions typically are severely underfunded and have no capacity to mobilize sufficient resources	0	MCPA institutions have some funding and are able to mobilize some human and material resources but not enough to effectively implement their mandate		MCPA institutions have reasonable capacity to mobilize funding or other resources but not always in sufficient quantities for fully effective implementation of their mandate	2	MCPA institutions are able to adequately mobilize sufficient quantity of funding, human and material resources to effectively implement their mandate	
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	Institutional	MCPA institutions are effectively managed, efficiently deploying their human, financial and other resources to the best effect	While the MCPA institution exists it has no management		Institutional management is largely ineffective and does not deploy efficiently the resources at its disposal	1	The institution is reasonably managed, but not always in a fully effective manner and at times does not deploy its resources in the most efficient way	2	The MCPA institution is effectively managed, efficiently deploying its human, financial and other resources to the best effect	
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	Institutional	MCPA institutions are highly transparent, fully audited, and publicly accountable	MCPA institutions totally un-transparent, not being held accountable and not audited		MCPA institutions are not transparent but are occasionally audited without being held publicly accountable	1	MCPA institutions are regularly audited and there is a fair degree of public accountability but the system is not fully transparent		The MCPA institutions are highly transparent, fully audited, and publicly accountable	3

Strategic Area of Support	Capacity Level	Indicator	Scores							
			Worst (Score 0)		Marginal (Score 1)		Satisfactory (Score 2)		Best (Score 3)	
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	Institutional	**There are legally designated MCPA institutions with the authority to carry out their mandate**	There is no lead institution or agency with a clear mandate or responsibility for MCPAs		There are one or more institutions or agencies dealing with MCPAs but roles and responsibilities are unclear and there are gaps and overlaps in the arrangements	1	There are one or more institutions or agencies dealing with MCPAs, the responsibilities of each are fairly clearly defined, but there are still some gaps and overlaps		MCPA institutions have clear legal and institutional mandates and the necessary authority to carry this out	3
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	Institutional	**MCPAs are effectively protected**	No enforcement of regulations is taking place		Some enforcement of regulations but largely ineffective and external threats remain active	1	MCPA regulations are regularly enforced but are not fully effective and external threats are reduced but not eliminated	2	MCPA regulations are highly effectively enforced and all external threats are negated	
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	Individual	**Individuals are able to advance and develop professionally**	No career tracks are developed and no training opportunities are provided		Career tracks are weak and training possibilities are few and not managed transparently	1	Clear career tracks developed and training available; HR management however has inadequate performance measurement system	2	Individuals are able to advance and develop professionally	
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	Individual	**Individuals are appropriately skilled for their jobs**	Skills of individuals do not match job requirements		Individuals have some or poor skills for their jobs		Individuals are reasonably skilled but could further improve for optimum match with job requirement	2	Individuals are appropriately skilled for their jobs	3
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	Individual	**Individuals are highly motivated**	No motivation at all		Motivation uneven, some are but most are not	1	Many individuals are motivated but not all		Individuals are highly motivated	3

Strategic Area of Support	Capacity Level	Indicator	Scores							
			Worst (Score 0)		Marginal (Score 1)		Satisfactory (Score 2)		Best (Score 3)	
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	Individual	There are appropriate systems of training, mentoring, and learning in place to maintain a continuous flow of new staff	No mechanisms exist (Note: several programs of training and know-how transfer have been conducted but this has been project-based; there is no comprehensive training system in place.)	0	Some mechanisms exist but unable to develop enough and unable to provide the full range of skills needed		Mechanisms generally exist to develop skilled professionals, but either not enough of them or unable to cover the full range of skills required		There are mechanisms for developing adequate numbers of the full range of highly skilled MCPA professionals	3
3. Capacity to engage and build consensus among all stakeholders	Systemic	MCPAs have the political commitment they require	There is no political will at all, or worse, the prevailing political will runs counter to the interests of MCPAs		Some political will exists, but is not strong enough to make a difference		Reasonable political will exists, but is not always strong enough to fully support MCPAs	2	There are very high levels of political will to support MCPAs	3
3. Capacity to engage and build consensus among all stakeholders	Systemic	MCPAs have the public support they require	The public has little interest in MCPAs and there is no significant lobby for MCPAs		There is limited support for MCPAs (Note: there is some sensitization (but not enough) so there is limited public support; there is increasing pressure from NGOs and lobby groups.)	1	There is general public support for MCPAs and there are various lobby groups such as environmental NGO's strongly pushing them	2	There is tremendous public support in the country for MCPAs	
3. Capacity to engage and build consensus among all stakeholders	Institutional	MCPA institutions are mission oriented	Institutional mission not defined		Institutional mission poorly defined and generally not known and internalized at all levels	1	Institutional mission well defined and internalized but not fully embraced	2	Institutional missions are fully internalized and embraced	

Strategic Area of Support	Capacity Level	Indicator	Scores							
			Worst (Score 0)		Marginal (Score 1)		Satisfactory (Score 2)		Best (Score 3)	
3. Capacity to engage and build consensus among all stakeholders	Institutional	**MCPA institutions can establish the partnerships needed to achieve their objectives**	MCPA institutions operate in isolation	0	Some partnerships in place but significant gaps and existing partnerships achieve little		Many partnerships in place with a wide range of agencies, NGOs etc, but there are some gaps, partnerships are not always effective and do not always enable efficient achievement of objectives		MCPA institutions establish effective partnerships with other agencies and institutions, including provincial and local governments, NGO's and the private sector to enable achievement of objectives in an efficient and effective manner	3
3. Capacity to engage and build consensus among all stakeholders	Individual	**Individuals carry appropriate values, integrity and attitudes**	Individuals carry negative attitude		Some individuals have notion of appropriate attitudes and display integrity, but most don't		Many individuals carry appropriate values and integrity, but not all	2	Individuals carry appropriate values, integrity and attitudes	3
4. Capacity to mobilize information and knowledge	Systemic	**MCPA institutions have the information they need to develop and monitor strategies and action plans for the management of the MCPA system**	Information is virtually lacking		Some information exists, but is of poor quality, is of limited usefulness, or is very difficult to access		Much information is easily available and mostly of good quality, but there remain some gaps in quality, coverage and availability	2	MCPA institutions have the information they need to develop and monitor strategies and action plans for the management of the MCPA system	3
4. Capacity to mobilize information and knowledge	Institutional	**MCPA institutions have the information needed to do their work**	Information is virtually lacking		Some information exists, but is of poor quality and of limited usefulness and difficult to access	1	Much information is readily available, mostly of good quality, but there remain some gaps both in quality and quantity		Adequate quantities of high quality up to date information for MCPA planning, management and monitoring is widely and easily available	3
4. Capacity to mobilize information and knowledge	Individual	**Individuals working with MCPAs work effectively together as a team**	Individuals work in isolation and don't interact		Individuals interact in limited way and sometimes in teams but this is rarely effective and functional	1	Individuals interact regularly and form teams, but this is not always fully effective or functional		Individuals interact effectively and form functional teams	3

Strategic Area of Support	Capacity Level	Indicator	Scores							
			Worst (Score 0)		Marginal (Score 1)		Satisfactory (Score 2)		Best (Score 3)	
5. Capacity to monitor, evaluate, report and learn	Systemic	**MCPA policy is continually reviewed and updated**	There is no policy or it is old and not reviewed regularly	0	Policy is only reviewed at irregular intervals		Policy is reviewed regularly but not annually		National MCPAs policy is reviewed annually	3
5. Capacity to monitor, evaluate, report and learn	Systemic	**Society monitors the state of MCPAs**	There is no dialogue at all		There is some dialogue going on, but not in the wider public and restricted to specialized circles	1	There is a reasonably open public dialogue going on but certain issues remain taboo.		There is an open and transparent public dialogue about the state of the MCPAs	3
5. Capacity to monitor, evaluate, report and learn	Institutional	**Institutions are highly adaptive, responding effectively and immediately to change**	Institutions resist change	0	Institutions do change but only very slowly		Institutions tend to adapt in response to change but not always very effectively or with some delay	2	Institutions are highly adaptive, responding effectively and immediately to change	
5. Capacity to monitor, evaluate, report and learn	Institutional	**Institutions have effective internal mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning**	There are no mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, reporting or learning		There are some mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning but they are limited and weak	1	Reasonable mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning are in place but are not as strong or comprehensive as they could be		Institutions have effective internal mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning	3
5. Capacity to monitor, evaluate, report and learn	Individual	**Individuals are adaptive and continue to learn**	There is no measurement of performance or adaptive feedback		Performance is irregularly and poorly measured and there is little use of feedback	1	There is significant measurement of performance and some feedback but this is not as thorough or comprehensive as it might be		Performance is effectively measured and adaptive feedback utilized	3

Table 2: Quantitative summary of Total Possible Scores

Strategic Areas of Support	Total Possible Scores		
	Systemic	Institutional	Individual
1. Capacity to conceptualize and formulate policies, legislations, strategies and programme	6	3	-
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	9	27	12
3. Capacity to engage and build consensus among all stakeholders	6	6	3
4. Capacity to mobilize information and knowledge: Technical skills related specifically to the requirements of GEF SO-2 and SP-4	3	3	3
5. Capacity to monitor, evaluate and report and learn at the sector and project levels	6	6	3
Total	30	45	21

Note: "-" means no indicator was selected for that level.

Table 3: Quantitative summary of Baseline Scores

Strategic Areas of Support	Baseline Scores		
	Systemic	Institutional	Individual
1. Capacity to conceptualize and formulate policies, legislations, strategies and programme	3	1	-
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	2	9	4
3. Capacity to engage and build consensus among all stakeholders	3	1	2
4. Capacity to mobilize information and knowledge: Technical skills related specifically to the requirements of GEF SO-2 and SP-4	2	1	1
5. Capacity to monitor, evaluate and report and learn at the sector and project levels	1	1	1
Total	11	13	8

Note: "-" means no indicator was selected for that level.

Table 4: Quantitative summary of Target Scores

Strategic Areas of Support	Target Scores		
	Systemic	Institutional	Individual
1. Capacity to conceptualize and formulate policies, legislations, strategies and programme	6	3	-
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	7	23	11
3. Capacity to engage and build consensus among all stakeholders	5	5	3
4. Capacity to mobilize information and knowledge: Technical skills related specifically to the requirements of GEF SO-2 and SP-4	3	3	3
5. Capacity to monitor, evaluate and report and learn at the sector and project levels	6	5	3
Total	27	39	20

Note: "-" means no indicator was selected for that level.

Table 5: Quantitative summary of Baseline Scores as a % of Total Possible Scores

Strategic Areas of Support	Baseline Scores as % of TPS		
	Systemic	Institutional	Individual
1. Capacity to conceptualize and formulate policies, legislations, strategies and programme	50%	33%	-
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	22%	33%	33%
3. Capacity to engage and build consensus among all stakeholders	50%	17%	-
4. Capacity to mobilize information and knowledge: Technical skills related specifically to the requirements of GEF SO-2 and SP-4	67%	-	33%
5. Capacity to monitor, evaluate and report and learn at the sector and project levels	17%	17%	-
Total	37%	29%	38%

Note: "-" means no indicator was selected for that level.

Table 6: Quantitative summary of Target Scores as a % of Total Possible Scores

Strategic Areas of Support	Baseline Scores as % of TPS		
	Systemic	Institutional	Individual
1. Capacity to conceptualize and formulate policies, legislations, strategies and programme	100%	100%	-
2. Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes	78%	85%	92%
3. Capacity to engage and build consensus among all stakeholders	83%	83%	-
4. Capacity to mobilize information and knowledge: Technical skills related specifically to the requirements of GEF SO-2 and SP-4	100%	-	100%
5. Capacity to monitor, evaluate and report and learn at the sector and project levels	100%	83%	-
Total	90%	87%	95%

Note: "-" means no indicator was selected for that level.