



**REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENT**

**SIXTH NATIONAL REPORT  
TO THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA**

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## Abbreviations:

CBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
CBP	Cartagena Protocol on Bio-safety
CM	Council of Ministers
COP	Conference of the Parties
COP/MOP	Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties
CSARD	Cross-cutting Strategy on Agriculture and Rural Development;
CSE	Cross-cutting Strategy on Environment
DCM	Decision of Council of Ministers
DSPEP	Document of Strategic Policies for Environmental Protection
DSPPB	Document of Strategic Policies for the Protection of Biodiversity
ECS	Environmental Cross-cutting Strategy
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIMMS	Environmental Information Management and Monitoring System
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GEF	Global Environment Facility
INSTAT	Institute of Statistics
MoARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MoEI	Ministry of Energy and Industry
MoTI	Ministry of Tourism and Environment
NAP	National Action Programme
NAPA	National Agency of the Protected Areas
NBS	National Biodiversity Strategy
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCB	National Coordination Body
NCSA	National Capacity Self-Assessment
NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSDI	National Strategy for Development and Integration
NSRD	National Strategy for Rural Development
PAs	Protected Areas
SSBP	Sectoral Strategy on Biodiversity Protection
SPDBP	Strategic Policy Document on Biodiversity Protection
SSFPF	Sectoral Strategy on the Protection of Forestry and Pastures;
UNCBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

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### **BIODIVERSITY IN ALBANIA**

## INTRODUCTION

The Government of the Republic of Albania has ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on January 5, 1994 and therefore is obliged and committed to implementing the requirements of the Convention and the Decisions of the CBD Conference of Parties. Albania as a part of this convention has taken measures in the implementation of the Convention.

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) approved by the Council of Minister in 2000 was the first document on biodiversity for the 2000-2015 period. The Strategy defined the main directions for preserving biodiversity and habitats, through their identification and proclamation as protected areas, and through the protection of species inside and outside protected areas.

The main objectives of NBSAP's include:

- ✓ Protection and improvement of biological and landscape diversity
- ✓ Incorporation of principles and policies required for sustainable biodiversity use and management
- ✓ Promotion of sustainable development for present and future generation.

Since the time of the Strategy and Action Plan on Biodiversity the country has made progress in terms of biodiversity protection through the formulation of the institutional and legal framework, and their enforcement in practice and also through the formulation of environmental legislation and nature protection and raising public awareness.

### Country overview

#### *Biodiversity and ecosystem services*

Albania possesses a wide range of ecological systems including coastal zones, estuaries and lagoons, lakes and wetlands, grasslands, middle-low altitude coppice forests, high altitude forests, alpine vegetation and glacial areas. This variety of ecosystems allows the country to host a high diversity of habitats and species. Forests cover 36% of the country's territory, agricultural land about 26% and pastures about 15% (Ministry of Environment of Albania, 2014). Albania's high mountains and deep valleys ensure rich and diverse vegetation with about 3,200 species of vascular plants and 2,350 species of non-vascular plants. Medicinal plants (botanicals) and non-timber forest products have a long history of importance in the culture and traditional knowledge of Albania. The country also hosts 15,600 species of invertebrates and vertebrates, and is an important migration route for birds (Ministry of Environment of Albania, 2014).

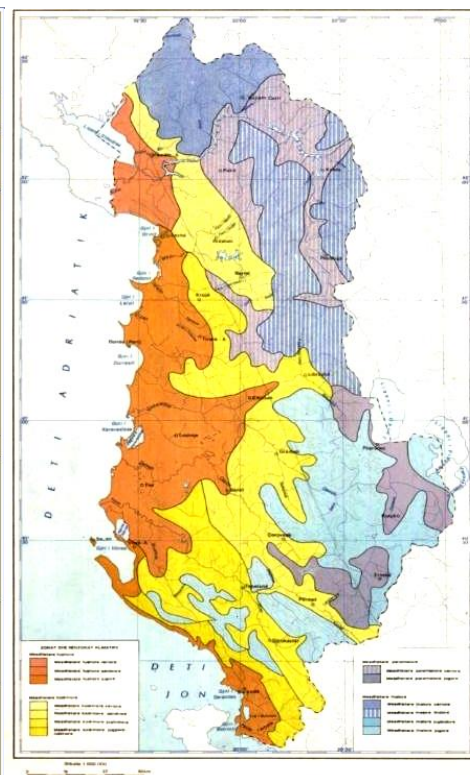
The Protected Areas network of the country has increased considerably starting since 2005, with nowadays 18,85 % of the territory being protected. The total number of protected areas is 798 (including nature monuments and one marine protected area), covering an area of more than 523 thousand hectares in the country. Albania also hosts 4 Ramsar sites of wetlands of international importance.

## Geographic profile

Covering an area of 28,745 km<sup>2</sup>, Albania is a small country situated in south-eastern Europe, in the western part of Balkan Peninsula, facing the Adriatic Sea and the Ionian Sea. Albania is bordered by Montenegro in the northwest, Kosovo in the northeast, Macedonia in the west and Greece in the south (Figure 5). The length of its coastline on the Adriatic Sea and the Ionian Sea is 476 km.

It is classified as a country with high disaster risk, ranking 40 out of 170 countries (World Risk Report, 2016). Meteorological events such as rain, storms and heat waves are the most common natural hazards in Albania (34% of the total), followed by forest fires (24%), floods and flash floods (22%) and landslides (15%). Expected climate change scenario predicts a rise in mean temperature and a change in precipitation patterns in the country (Ministry of Environment of Albania 2002). As a consequence, Albania will face the effects of climate change with seasonal increasing temperatures and decreasing precipitation, which will lead to more frequent floods. It is also anticipated that rising temperatures will increase the number of hailstorm days in summer, as well as the frequency and intensity of hot days and heat waves, ultimately leading to higher risk of forest fires.

Albania has three primary topographical areas: a coastal plain, an interior mountainous region, and an interior plain. The interior of the country is mostly mountainous, with about 70 % of the land above 300 m (Metaj, 2009), and approximately 36% is densely forested (Ministry of Environment of Albania, 2014). The medium altitude of the country is 708m above the sea level, with its highest point located at 2751m altitude (Korabi Mountain). The altitude declines moving from the east to the west of the country, and this determines the conditions of the climate, land, and vegetation (GRIDA & Dedej, 2000).



**Figure 5.** Albania map (United Nations 2012) **Figure 6.** Climatic zones of Albania (IHM. Climate of Albania).

## SECTION I

### INFORMATION ON THE TARGETS BEING PURSUED AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

If your country has set and/or adopted national targets or equivalent commitments related to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 please use the following template to describe them. Please complete this template for each of your country's national targets. National targets entered in this section will be linked to section III so that progress in their implementation can be assessed. If your country has not set or adopted any national targets related to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 please indicate so in the first box and move to section II.

The main strategic document on the protection of biodiversity in Albania is the “Document of Strategic Policies on Biodiversity Protection” (NBSAP) to 2020, was drafted during 2014-2015 and was approved by Government Decree No. 31, dated 20.1.2016. This document identifies the national targets, fully in line with global biodiversity “Aichi” targets of the CBD to 2020. In this document seven national targets are formulated for Albania, to be achieved by 2020.

In order to achieve the general scope of this strategic policy document, several priorities, goals and *national specific targets on biodiversity have been determined.*

In line with the global objectives of “Aichi” on biodiversity until 2020 in the context of the Strategic Plan on Biodiversity for the period until 2020, and in a broader context of UN Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020, the following national objectives were identified:

1. **By 2020**, to ensure approximation and implementation of EU acquis in the area of natural protection.
2. **By the end of 2015**, there should be a strategic document on biodiversity (DSPEP), revised and adopted – in line with target 17, Aichi;
3. **By 2020**, 17 % of terrestrial areas and 6% of marine and coastal areas to be designated as Protected Areas and to be managed in a sustainable integrated approach. Introduction of the ecological national network of Albania, as an integral part of the Pan European Ecological Network (PEEN) – in line with target 11 of Aichi;
4. **Rehabilitation** of at least 15 % of the degraded areas through conservation and restoration activities – in line with Aichi biodiversity targets – this will be attained through implementation of management plans for protected areas and through implementation of action plans for species, and especially for habitats;

5. **More sustainable Agriculture and forestry activities** in line with biodiversity objectives;
6. **Implementation of Nagoya Protocol** on access and sharing of genetic resources and profits from their use – in line with target 16 of Aichi;
7. **Raising awareness on biodiversity** - in line with target 1, Aichi.

One of the national objectives, already met is that of the Nagoya Protocol on the ratification of ABS – Aichi, target 16, while the process of enforcement in the country is on-going.

Other sector objectives related to protection of nature include:

- Addressing causes of loss of biodiversity
- Reducing direct pressure on biodiversity and promoting sustainable development
- Improving implementation through participatory planning, management of knowledge and capacity building
- Increasing benefits for all from biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Improving biodiversity status, while preserving the ecosystems, species and genetic diversity

There are nine national biodiversity objectives (NBOs), classified in four priorities that include the necessary steps towards achieving objectives of 2020. They are meant for attaining the general scope of the Strategy and for contributing in its vision. All NBOs are deemed to be of high priority. Figure 7 is a description of the focus group on national biodiversity with four priorities. Nine NBOs were translated into 38 specific targets.

They will help interested parties and national authorities in taking priority actions, and be implemented at least by 2020. During implementation of this strategic document, authorities should pay particular attention to information, inclusion and participation of actors. This shall mean that there would be consultation and cooperation among different actors, and would enhance support and promote implementation of the Strategy. Cooperation and partnership with stakeholder groups for concrete projects related to concrete projects regarding strategy objectives will help in raising their interest (for e.g. legal framework on thematic topics, joint studies). A short list of the main stakeholders for the implementation is given for each strategic objective. The list of institutional actors on topics of biodiversity in Albania is presented in Annex 14.

**I. Information on the targets being pursued at the national level**

My country has adopted national biodiversity targets or equivalent commitments in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets

or

My country has not adopted national biodiversity targets and is reporting progress using the Aichi Biodiversity Targets for reference. (Move to section II. In section III, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets should be used for the purpose of this report as the national targets and progress should be assessed towards their achievement in the national context.)

**National Target** (Please use the official title, if available)

**By the end of 2015**, there should be a strategic document on biodiversity (DSPEP), revised and adopted – in line with Aichi target 17.

**Rationale for the national target**

The National Strategy on Biodiversity and its action plans are the key instruments for the implementation of the Convention (CBD) at the national level. The Convention requires from the member states to draft a national Strategy on Biodiversity (or any other equivalent instrument) and asks them to make sure that this strategy is an integral part of the planning and activities of all the sectors whose activities may have a (favorable or adverse) impact on biodiversity.

The document will run a full assessment of the content, adoptability, implementation and effectiveness of the existing SAPB and in light of this assessment there will be recommendations for the steps that will need to be taken to make sure that the Document of Strategic Policies on Biodiversity Protection fulfils its role as a key mechanism for the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan on Biological Diversity 2015-2020, with particular focus on marine aspects of biodiversity.

**Level of application** (Please specify the level to which the target applies):

- Regional/multilateral – please indicate area concerned
- National/federal
- Subnational – please indicate area concerned



**Relevance of the national targets to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets** (Links between national targets and Aichi Biodiversity Targets.)

**Main related Aichi Biodiversity Targets** (Please select one or more Aichi Biodiversity Target to which the national target is wholly or partially related. Parties can select an entire target or a target component (not shown below))

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| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8  | <input type="checkbox"/> 13 | <input type="checkbox"/> 18            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 9  | <input type="checkbox"/> 14 | <input type="checkbox"/> 19            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> 15 | <input type="checkbox"/> 20            |

**Other related Aichi Biodiversity Targets** (Please select one or more Aichi Biodiversity Target to which the national target is indirectly related.)

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| <input type="checkbox"/> 3            | <input type="checkbox"/> 8  | <input type="checkbox"/> 13 | <input type="checkbox"/> 18 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4            | <input type="checkbox"/> 9  | <input type="checkbox"/> 14 | <input type="checkbox"/> 19 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5            | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> 15 | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 |

or

National target has no corresponding Aichi Biodiversity Target or relates to other parts of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity – please explain

**Other relevant information** (Please use this field to provide any other relevant information, such as the process of developing and adopting the national target, the stakeholders involved or the strategies and plans in which this national target has been included.)

The Document of Strategic Policies on Biodiversity Protection, was drafted and consulted with all stakeholders during 2014-2015, including line ministries that could contribute to its implementation and mainstreaming into sectoral policies of biodiversity. The Strategic Document and was approved by Government Decree no. 31, of 20.1.2016. Since its adoption by Government in January 2016, this document has been the main driver of plans and programmes being implemented at the national level in Albania.

**Relevant websites, web links, and files** (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this national target can be found.)

<https://www.mjedisi.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Dokumenti-i-Politikave-Strategjike-per-Mbrojtjen-e-Biodiversitetit.pdf>

## II. Information on the targets being pursued at the national level

My country has adopted national biodiversity targets or equivalent commitments in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets

or

My country has not adopted national biodiversity targets and is reporting progress using the Aichi Biodiversity Targets for reference. (Move to section II. In section III, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets should be used for the purpose of this report as the national targets and progress should be assessed towards their achievement in the national context.)

**National Target** (Please use the official title, if available)

**By 2020**, 17 % of terrestrial areas and 6% of marine and coastal areas to be designated as Protected Areas and to be managed in a sustainable integrated approach. Introduction of the ecological national network of Albania, as an integral part of the Pan European Ecological Network (PEEN) – in line with target 11 of Aichi;

### **Rationale for the national target**

Actually, the majority of Protected marine areas are mainly coastal areas (only one protected marine area) and a number of coastal areas are still unprotected, despite their key ecological, social and economic role at the national level, or for the Mediterranean. Approximately 85% of the currently coastal protected areas lay along the Adriatic coastline that is an indication of the low number of protected areas along the Ionian coast. The existing maritime protected areas (MPAs) in Albania cannot be described as part of an ecological network, but are rather initial systems that would need to generate a sustainable and coherent network, in particular integration of some MPAs in the open sea. The implementation of this objective should be in line with the management of maritime protected areas and Coastal Areas Integrated Management Strategy.

The objective of each MPA should be in line with the health and sustainability of biodiversity and ecosystems of certain areas, in order to contribute to biodiversity and health of ecosystem at the national and international level.

Albania has been working on the protected areas designation and management since early 90's. This way the country has made significant progress, especially in the period since 2005. The progress achieved until 2015 was assessed to be in line with CBD and Aichi 11, but was developed further to be fully in line with global biodiversity targets.

After international consultations with the experts and stakeholders, it was envisaged the country could reach the 17 % global target by 2020.

Protected areas may offer multiple benefits for the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable development. They assist in the protection of natural resources and areas of cultural importance on which local and other populations depend.

So far, the network of protected areas covers 16,61 % of the country, that represents different systems and objectives of ecological importance and should reach up to 17%, in line with international commitments. This is an ambitious, but realistic objective for Albania. For the protection of species and cultivated varieties and wild species similar to them, it will be necessary to introduce a protective system outside protected areas that will be improved by an integrated plan for planning and use of land. Even though, this has not been applied so far, it is very important for promoting protection of biodiversity in private territories.

According to the UNDP report on "Protected areas, evaluation of marine biodiversity gaps and legislation in Albania" UNDP 2010, more than one third of the Adriatic coast in Albania is being eroded – at a rate of 1.59 metres/annually – expedited to the removal of gravel and sand for the purposes of construction industry, uncontrolled development along the coast, deforestation of large coastal areas (even within protected areas) and development of agriculture. Increased migration in coastal areas has led to uncontrolled exploitation of coastal and marine resources. Other threats include: over-fishing, illicit collection of crustacean, uncontrolled hunting of migratory birds, extracting sand from the seabed, plans for drilling and potential exploitation of oil along the coast, invasive species and pollution of marine and coastal waters, especially the wetlands. Addressing pressure coming from these activities within a complex state structure is an important comprehensive management issue.

Objective of 6 % of protected coastal and marine areas is less than 10 % of Aichi targets, but managed protected coastal and marine areas represented a tested methodology for the conservation of habitats and populations.

**Level of application** (Please specify the level to which the target applies):

- Regional/multilateral – please indicate area concerned
- National/federal
- Subnational – please indicate area concerned

**Relevance of the national targets to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets** (Links between national targets and Aichi Biodiversity Targets.)

**Main related Aichi Biodiversity Targets** (Please select one or more Aichi Biodiversity Target to which the national target is wholly or partially related. Parties can select an entire target or a target component (not shown below))

- 1  6  11  16
- 2  7  12  17
- 3  8  13  18
- 4  9  14  19
- 5  10  15  20

**Other related Aichi Biodiversity Targets** (Please select one or more Aichi Biodiversity Target to which the national target is indirectly related.)

- 1  6  11  16
- 2  7  12  17
- 3  8  13  18
- 4  9  14  19
- 5  10  15  20

or

- National target has no corresponding Aichi Biodiversity Target or relates to other parts of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity – please explain

### **Other relevant information**

The Government of Albania (GoA) has established a National Agency of Protected Areas (NAPA) in 2015 through the Decision of the Council of Ministers 102, date 4.2.2015 as a public state budget entity subordinate to the Ministry of Tourism and Environment (MoTE). The establishment of this agency would, over the long-term, result in a significant improvement in the overall management effectiveness of the country's system of protected areas, currently covering 460,060 ha of marine and terrestrial habitats.

MoTE and NAPA should: (i) secure sufficient, stable and long-term financial resources for protected areas; (ii) allocate these resources in a timely manner; and (iii) ensure that the protected areas are managed effectively and efficiently with respect to conservation and other complementary objectives. NAPA operates with funding from the state budget through MoTE, donors, and other legally determined sources.

This specific project was designed to assist the GoA in reducing existing funding gaps for the system of protected areas, improving the management of individual protected areas, improving cost-efficiencies in individual protected areas and building the financial management capacities of protected area staff in the NAPA etc. The project has two main pillars: (i) build the financial management capacities of the agency responsible for administering the system of protected areas; and (ii) demonstrating the efficacy of different financing strategies in a sub-set of individual protected areas.

Component 1 will focus on strengthening NAPA to effectively plan, secure and administer funds for the protected area system. The work will focus in the development of a national planning framework for the protected area system, through increased financial management capabilities of the NAPA and mobilization of funding at the protected area system level from different financial strategies in a sub-set of individual protected areas.

Component 2 will implement a suite of mechanisms to improve revenue streams in individual protected area with the main focus on three National Parks: (i) Dajti National Park; (ii) Divjaka-Karavasta National Park; and (iii) Llogara-Karaburun protected area Complex.

What have we accomplished so far?

- The National Planning Framework is being developed with the aim to formulate (i) An overarching medium-term Strategic Plan for the institutional development of the NAPA, and (ii) A medium-term Financial Plan for the protected Area System.
- Baseline assessment for the current knowledge of the biodiversity, natural and socio-economic values, financial analysis features and its conservation status and trends in the Dajti National Park. The baseline and financial analysis of the Dajti National Park is a crucial prerequisite for its effective management, protection and development of the business plan.
- Baseline assessment on management structure and resource mapping of the Divjaka-Karavastja Protected Area.
- Business plan for Karaburun-Sazani MPA is finalised, while for Llogara National Park is under completion. It intends to give a clear picture of the financial needs that must be met in order to conduct management plan activities, and potential revenue sources to help meet those needs. Introduction of business planning approach results in improved knowledge of protected areas management, establishment of effectively functioning mechanisms for securing financial sustainability and in the development of a specific pilot set of actions which will create replicable and scalable outputs.

**Relevant websites, web links, and files** (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this national target can be found)

www.akzm.gov.al

### **III. Information on the targets being pursued at the national level**

My country has adopted national biodiversity targets or equivalent commitments in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets

or

My country has not adopted national biodiversity targets and is reporting progress using the Aichi Biodiversity Targets for reference. (Move to section II. In section III, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets should be used for the purpose of this report as the national targets and progress should be assessed towards their achievement in the national context.)

**National Target** (Please use the official title, if available)

**Rehabilitation** of at least 15 % of the degraded areas through conservation and restoration activities – in line with Aichi biodiversity targets – this will be attained through implementation of management plans for protected areas and through implementation of action plans for species, and especially for habitats;

#### **Rationale for the national target**

The main threats to biodiversity include: industrial development, urbanization, illegal hunting, fishing, soil erosion, energy and mining, transport and tourism, as some of the sectors that have an adverse impact on the diversity of the biological species. The main factors behind the loss of biological diversity are the anthropogenic activities, where deforestation and desertification of arable land, together with devastation of meadows and pastures have had a major adverse impact on changes in the habitats in the near past. Construction of roads and deviations in the water stream or building of dams, and pipes, the pollution from different sources, fires, diseases and climate changes have been and will continue to be some of the reasons behind degradation and fragmentation of habitats in Albania.

Hunting is one of the activities with the largest impact on the status of biodiversity and its components. This is due to the fact that illicit hunting activities for almost two decades could not be under control efficiently. This has led to a declining trend of the population of wild species, subject to hunting, in particular birds, which for the most part are migratory birds (Source: Ministry of Environment, INSTAT annual data).

**Level of application** (Please specify the level to which the target applies):

- Regional/multilateral – please indicate area concerned
- National/federal
- Subnational – please indicate area concerned

**Relevance of the national targets to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets** (Links between national targets and Aichi Biodiversity Targets.)

**Main related Aichi Biodiversity Targets** (Please select one or more Aichi Biodiversity Target to which the national target is wholly or partially related. Parties can select an entire target or a target component (not shown below))

- 1  6  11  16
- 2  7  12  17
- 3  8  13  18
- 4  9  14  19
- 5  10  15  20

**Other related Aichi Biodiversity Targets** (Please select one or more Aichi Biodiversity Target to which the national target is indirectly related.)

- 1  6  11  16
- 2  7  12  17
- 3  8  13  18
- 4  9  14  19
- 5  10  15  20

or

National target has no corresponding Aichi Biodiversity Target or relates to other parts of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity – please explain

**Other relevant information** (Please use this field to provide any other relevant information, such as the process of developing and adopting the national target, the stakeholders involved or the strategies and plans in which this national target has been included.)

Forests represent a sector with a very important impact on biodiversity. Loss and fragmentation of habitats, due to illegal hunting/ and/or overuse represent the main adverse element in this aspect. According to estimates, more than 80,000 ha of forestry area have been deforested during the last two decades.

In order to improve this situation, recently were introduced a series of measures such as: prohibition of export of timber and coal from Albania. The main issues to be addressed are implementation of the law and updated credible data for the forestry cadastre.

During 2018 the Document of Strategic Policies of Forests for the period 2018-2030 has been developed and approved by Government Decree on the 31.12.2018.

Introducing a common Albanian methodology for the identification and monitoring of main components of biodiversity.

Erosion of biodiversity and loss of environmental services at the global level are not a result of unsuitable means for protection of nature, but rather of pressure on natural environment. So far, there is no methodology to identify priority elements of biodiversity in Albania at the national level. The methodology may take into consideration the conduct, and identification of main areas of biodiversity based on bio-regional approaches, to select the biodiversity components at risk of extinction or species of special importance for the functioning of endangered ecosystems, together with a flag\* Product for Albania.

It is important to establish and apply common standards for the inventories of biodiversity and monitoring, for the assessment of the status of biodiversity, taking into account existing instruments on monitoring and reporting obligations at the EU and CBD levels. The categories and criteria used by the Red List of IUCN on endangered species may also be used. The monitoring system may apply methods such as: "Pressure - State - Response", as provided in the CBD, or methods such as: "driving forces", Pressure, State, Impact, Adapted responses by EEA"

**Relevant websites, web links, and files** (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this national target can be found.)

[www.akm.gov.al](http://www.akm.gov.al); [www.akzm.gov.al](http://www.akzm.gov.al)



**IV. Information on the targets being pursued at the national level**

My country has adopted national biodiversity targets or equivalent commitments in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets

or

My country has not adopted national biodiversity targets and is reporting progress using the Aichi Biodiversity Targets for reference. (Move to section II. In section III, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets should be used for the purpose of this report as the national targets and progress should be assessed towards their achievement in the national context.)

**National Target** (Please use the official title, if available)

**More sustainable Agriculture and forestry activities** in line with biodiversity objectives;

**Rationale for the national target**

Agriculture represents one of the most important sectors of the Albanian economy, contributing to approximately 21 % of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and to the employment of 48 % of the country's population living in the rural areas.

Even though average real growth in agricultural production, during the last five years was almost 3, 0-3, 5% annually, agricultural sector growth is under the national average, and far from average national rate, and far from its real potential. However there is a clear trend of the increase in agricultural production. Main systems of agriculture are mainly protected systems (greenhouses, tunnels) and are lesser in number regarding the system of biological agriculture. Currently, at the country level, approximately 398.800 ha of land is planted with agricultural cultures, of which 49, 1% is alfalfa (195,000 ha), whereas the rest is: wheat, corn, vegetables, and in lesser extent sunflower, tobacco etc.

Furthermore, the agriculture sector plays a very important role for food production, biodiversity management, while being an engine for the economy in the rural areas for the in-situ conservation of local species, varieties and domestic animals. Different missions composed of agriculture cultures, such as (beans, lentils, alfalfa, peas, oats, sorghum), vegetables and fruits have shown large variability. However, for reducing the pressure on biodiversity, agriculture is a major challenge for farmers in Albania.

Stakeholders involved in the implementation of this objective include: State Entity for Seedlings and Sapling, the Centre for the Transfer of Agricultural Technologies (CTAT), Public Extension Service and Genetic Bank for Agricultural Genetic Resources alongside with the farmers, other national authorities and government agencies, agricultural universities, research centres, and other sectors such as: food security chain, agro-food, and public health, etc.

**Level of application** (Please specify the level to which the target applies):

- Regional/multilateral – please indicate area concerned
- National/federal
- Subnational – please indicate area concerned

**Relevance of the national targets to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets** (Links between national targets and Aichi Biodiversity Targets.)

**Main related Aichi Biodiversity Targets** (Please select one or more Aichi Biodiversity Target to which the national target is wholly or partially related. Parties can select an entire target or a target component (not shown below))

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| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8            | <input type="checkbox"/> 13 | <input type="checkbox"/> 18 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 9            | <input type="checkbox"/> 14 | <input type="checkbox"/> 19 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10           | <input type="checkbox"/> 15 | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 |

**Other related Aichi Biodiversity Targets** (Please select one or more Aichi Biodiversity Target to which the national target is indirectly related.)

- |                            |                             |  |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6  | <input type="checkbox"/> 11            | <input type="checkbox"/> 16 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7  | <input type="checkbox"/> 12            | <input type="checkbox"/> 17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 13 | <input type="checkbox"/> 18 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 9  | <input type="checkbox"/> 14            | <input type="checkbox"/> 19 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> 15            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 |

or

National target has no corresponding Aichi Biodiversity Target or relates to other parts of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity – please explain

**Other relevant information** (Please use this field to provide any other relevant information, such as the process of developing and adopting the national target, the stakeholders involved or the strategies and plans in which this national target has been included.)

Biodiversity for food and agriculture includes "present and important biological diversity for agriculture, forests and water systems used for production. It includes diversity and variability of wildlife, plants, micro genetic organisms, species and layers of ecosystem that support the structure, functions and processes of the production systems. This diversity is managed by the farmers, livestock growers, foresters and amateur fishermen for hundreds of generations, and reflects the diversity of human activities and natural processes. Genetic resources are indispensable, be them plant insects, microscopic bacteria important for cheese processing, different breed of cattle for life or thousands of culture varieties that support food security. However, due to economic pressure and intense urbanization, drastic genetic erosion of old land, were developed cultivars and actions for their collection, evaluation and conservation, but this process continues still to remain an emergency.

In order to ensure sustainable use of genetic diversity for food and agricultural purposes in Albania, it is important to undertake coordinated actions, including: (1) first, conservation of local species, varieties of domestic animals and forms of microbe life with current and potential value, and (2) improvement of development of appropriate banks for useful genes for ex-situ conservation of genetic resources.

During the transition period from a centralized economy towards free market economy, the implementation of rural development policies is quite biased towards economic development, with relatively little explicit knowledge of inter-dependence between economic, social and environmental development. Intensification of agriculture is quite obvious since it has been considered as quite desirable by government officials.

There is a declining trend between the forestry areas and biodiversity in Albania, inter alia, due to forest fires, insects, diseases, invasive species, pollution, fragmentation and storms.

Implementation of appropriate mechanisms for the value of ecosystem services through payments for the environmental service schemes, (i.e. protection or improvement of the management of a specific forest with higher potential for protecting or increasing specific environmental services) may help in the healthy conservation of biodiversity and forests. In addition, this will reinforce protection of forestry non timber products such as: genetic resources that are still untapped.

Stakeholders involved in the implementation of this objective include: the Ministry of

Environment, National Environmental Agency, Forestry Service Departments at 60

municipalities, National Agency of protected Areas forest rangers, local government units, forestry professional associations, NGOs, and Faculty of Forestry Sciences.

**Relevant websites, web links, and files** (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this national target can be found.)

[www.mjedisi.gov.al/pyje](http://www.mjedisi.gov.al/pyje); and [www.bujqesia.gov.al](http://www.bujqesia.gov.al)

**V. Information on the targets being pursued at the national level**

My country has adopted national biodiversity targets or equivalent commitments in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets

or

My country has not adopted national biodiversity targets and is reporting progress using the Aichi Biodiversity Targets for reference. (Move to section II. In section III, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets should be used for the purpose of this report as the national targets and progress should be assessed towards their achievement in the national context.)

**National Target** (Please use the official title, if available)

**Implementation of Nagoya Protocol on access and sharing of genetic resources and profits from their use – in line with target 16 of Aichi;**

### **Rationale for the national target**

Despite its relatively small size, Albania is well known for its high diversity of ecosystems and habitats. Albania is well known for its rich and complex hydrographic network of rivers, lakes, wetland and groundwater. Around 3200 taxa of higher plants, 800 fungi, 1200 diatoms, as well as 313 taxa of fish, 323 birds, 36 reptiles, 70 mammals, and 520 mollusks are identified so far. A total of 27 plant species, with 150 sub-species, are endemic to the country. There are a number of threatened species in Albania (73 vertebrate and 18 invertebrate). The issue of protection of Traditional Knowledge, innovations, and practices has not been resolved on the whole or systematically. However, in the last few years, efforts have been made to reduce pressure on the natural populations of medicinal and aromatic herbs by specifying limits to their harvesting.

#### *Legal and Institutional Context*

- Albania is a Party to the Nagoya Protocol since its entry into force on October 12, 2014.
- The Biodiversity Protection Act of 2006 has some provisions related to access to genetic resources in Albania, but those provisions should be further developed in a bylaw to be fully effective.
- The reviewed NBSAP 2015-2020, reflects the relevance of ABS for the country with explicit references to the Nagoya Protocol under Target 8 (“Foster and Contribute to an Equitable Access and Sharing of Benefits arising from the Use of Genetic Resources”).
- The country has developed several national reports related to genetic resources used for food and agriculture.

Albania is among the first group of countries that adhered to Nagoya Protocol for access to genetic resources and sharing of benefits from their utilization on January 29, 2013, when the Parliament adopted law no. 113/2012, dated 22.11.2012 "On membership of the Republic of Albania in the Nagoya Protocol."

Interested parties in the implementing of this target are: national and local authorities and institutions, botanical gardens, different sectors active in research and development, universities, broad public, keepers of traditional knowledge, users of genetic resources, and any other association that works towards the same goal as DSPEP.

**Level of application** (Please specify the level to which the target applies):

- Regional/multilateral – please indicate area concerned <Text entry>  
 National/federal  
 Subnational – please indicate area concerned <Text entry>

**Relevance of the national targets to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets** (Links between national targets and Aichi Biodiversity Targets.)

**Main related Aichi Biodiversity Targets** (Please select one or more Aichi Biodiversity Target to which the national target is wholly or partially related. Parties can select an entire target or a target component (not shown below))

- |                            |                             |                             |  |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6  | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 16 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7  | <input type="checkbox"/> 12 | <input type="checkbox"/> 17            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8  | <input type="checkbox"/> 13 | <input type="checkbox"/> 18            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 9  | <input type="checkbox"/> 14 | <input type="checkbox"/> 19            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> 15 | <input type="checkbox"/> 20            |

**Other related Aichi Biodiversity Targets** (Please select one or more Aichi Biodiversity Target to which the national target is indirectly related.)

- |                            |                             |                             |  |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6  | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 | <input type="checkbox"/> 16            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7  | <input type="checkbox"/> 12 | <input type="checkbox"/> 17            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8  | <input type="checkbox"/> 13 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 9  | <input type="checkbox"/> 14 | <input type="checkbox"/> 19            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> 15 | <input type="checkbox"/> 20            |

or

National target has no corresponding Aichi Biodiversity Target or relates to other parts of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity – please explain

**Other relevant information** (Please use this field to provide any other relevant information, such as the process of developing and adopting the national target, the stakeholders involved or the strategies and plans in which this national target has been included.)

Albania is the first country in the Central European Region to adhere in the Nagoya Protocol. By 2015, Nagoya Protocol for access to genetic resources, fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization should be effective and operational in line with the national legislation. For Albania to implement and ratify the Nagoya protocol, it should take further measures to translate the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol into practice. These measures may include introduction or revision of internal acts related to the implementation of ABS, collection and evaluation of forests, biological resources and their sustainable use; standard development models for the exchange of benefits from genetic resources; and definition of the biological species subject to export permits.

In addition, preservation and sharing of traditional knowledge should be integrated in these development projects or Albanian scientific cooperation that focuses on the local communities, as primary actors. Furthermore, traditional knowledge and practice should be recognised by approaches and agreements for sharing of benefits. The participation of the representatives of the local communities in the appropriate fora should be endorsed.

There is actually a running project on ABS protocol national framework, in the context of the global ABS project being implemented for the period 2016-2019 (with the recent extension).

The main objective of the Project, is to assist countries as Albania, in the development and strengthening of their national ABS framework, human resources, and administrative capabilities to implement the Nagoya Protocol. The project aims to remove the barriers that prevent this from happening through in-country and regional and global level activities.

The project will support the government of Albania through the Ministry of Tourism and Environment to:

1. Strengthening the legal, policy and institutional capacity to develop national ABS frameworks.
2. Building trust between users and providers of genetic resources to facilitate the identification of bio-discovery effort.
3. Strengthening the capacity of indigenous and local communities to contribute to the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

So far the following measures have been implemented:

- Regulatory Proposals on Legal, Policy and Institutional Capacity to Develop and Implement National ABS Framework, developed. A national workshop was held in December 2018, to present the gaps identified and the proposed policy for national implementation of the protocol.
- National CHM web portal was updated as per national reports and related information. – ABS procedures and information, uploaded into the existing CHM.
- Mapping of existing genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge and database for PGR developed and published in the National CHM.



**Relevant websites, web links, and files** (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this national target can be found.)

<http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/projects/strengthening-human-resources--legal-framework--and-institutiona.html>

**VI. Information on the targets being pursued at the national level**

My country has adopted national biodiversity targets or equivalent commitments in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets

or

My country has not adopted national biodiversity targets and is reporting progress using the Aichi Biodiversity Targets for reference. (Move to section II. In section III, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets should be used for the purpose of this report as the national targets and progress should be assessed towards their achievement in the national context.)

**National Target** (Please use the official title, if available)

**Raising awareness on biodiversity** - in line with target 1, Aichi.

**Rationale for the national target**

Education of the broad public plays an important role regarding conservation. It is important to introduce changes in the education programs, and do more on awareness raising regarding the importance for the conservation of biodiversity for plants in general in the country, and in particular for fish of marine and fresh waters.

It is important to organize and broadcast TV shows focusing on the values of medicinal plants, Albanian endemic plants or Pisces and fauna of different Pisces in the country, in cooperation with the National Museum of Sciences etc.

**Raising public awareness and education about biological diversity**

One of the priorities should be raising public awareness and coming up with a special awareness raising campaign on biodiversity, which should lead to changes in the mentalities related to biological diversity.

*Proposed methodology:* Conducting surveys on raising public awareness regarding biodiversity.

*Expectations:* Concrete results following public awareness campaign surveys and biodiversity policies

*Expectations:* Launching different public programs such as: Biodiversity day, Earth day, Wetlands day etc. (annually).

In addition to different publications, field instructions about fish of sea waters and fresh waters, it is important to raise public awareness regarding the importance and conservation of Pisces. Other education programs and publicity should be organized with relevant parties, in order to raise public awareness about ecosystem services and equal sharing of benefits, fish and fresh water fish, for raising awareness about protection of medicinal and industrial plants.

**Level of application** (Please specify the level to which the target applies):

- Regional/multilateral – please indicate area concerned
- National/federal
- Subnational – please indicate area concerned

**Relevance of the national targets to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets** (Links between national targets and Aichi Biodiversity Targets.)

**Main related Aichi Biodiversity Targets** (Please select one or more Aichi Biodiversity Target to which the national target is wholly or partially related. Parties can select an entire target or a target component (not shown below))

- 1  6  11  16  
 2  7  12  17  
 3  8  13  18  
 4  9  14  19  
 5  10  15  20

**Other related Aichi Biodiversity Targets** (Please select one or more Aichi Biodiversity Target to which the national target is indirectly related.)

- 1  6  11  16  
 2  7  12  17  
 3  8  13  18  
 4  9  14  19  
 5  10  15  20

or

National target has no corresponding Aichi Biodiversity Target or relates to other parts of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity – please explain

**Other relevant information** (Please use this field to provide any other relevant information, such as the process of developing and adopting the national target, the stakeholders involved or the strategies and plans in which this national target has been included.)

Participation of interested parties in projects and programs of biodiversity may be the key to ensure their long-term sustainability. Promoting participation helps in creating ownership and enhances transparency and accountability, and this way enhances effectiveness of development projects and policies.

*Proposed methodology:* establishment of the network of actors such as: local governments, NGOs, and the business sector.

*Expectations:* private companies and NGOs are part of the process of conservation of biodiversity.

*Expectations:* detailed instructions for the participation of the private sector are drafted, and expected to begin implemented by 2016.

*Expectations:* it is important to promote programs for encouraging the broad public to explore nature.

**Relevant websites, web links, and files** (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this national target can be found.)

<https://www.turizmi.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Dokumenti-i-Politikave-Strategjike-per-Mbrojtjen-e-Biodiversitetit.pdf>

## SECTION II

### IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES TAKEN (IN RELATION TO THE NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN)

#### Section II. Implementation measures taken, assessment of their effectiveness, associated obstacles and scientific and technical needs to achieve national targets

Using the template below, please report on the major measures your country has taken to implement its national biodiversity strategy and action plan. Please also provide an assessment of the effectiveness of these measures. The template should be replicated for each measure reported.

<p><b>I. Implementation measures taken, assessment of their effectiveness, associated obstacles and scientific and technical needs to achieve national targets</b></p>
<p><b>Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan</b></p> <p><b>Increase of the Protected Areas coverage in Albania.</b> Actually Protected Areas in Albania cover 18,5 % of the country's territory or 526,334 thousand hectares. The following protected areas have been designated each year, according to the annual plan of the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, as follows:</p>
<p><b>For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes</b></p> <p>Aichi target 11</p>
<p><b>Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Measure taken has been effective <input type="checkbox"/> Measure taken has been partially effective <input type="checkbox"/> Measure taken has been ineffective <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown</p> <p><b>Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above</b></p> <p>Comparison of the area covered by protected areas in years since 2015.</p> <p><b>Relevant websites, web links and files</b> (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).</p>
<p><b>Other relevant information</b>, including case studies to illustrate how the measure taken has resulted in (or is expected to result in) outcomes that contribute to the implementation of the NBSAP</p>

Biodiversity studies for the proposed areas are the first step, accompanied by maps and specifically habitat maps.

**Relevant websites, web links and files** (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information can be found)

[www.akzm.gov.al](http://www.akzm.gov.al)

**Obstacles and scientific and technical needs related to the measure taken:** Please describe what obstacles have been encountered and any scientific and technical needs for addressing these, including technical and scientific cooperation, capacity development activities or the need for guidance materials.

Limited human and financial resources, including lack of biodiversity data for certain areas.

**Relevant websites, web links and files** (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to these obstacles and scientific and technical needs can be found).

[www.mjedisi.gov.al](http://www.mjedisi.gov.al)

[www.akzm.gov.al](http://www.akzm.gov.al)

## **II. Implementation measures taken, assessment of their effectiveness, associated obstacles and scientific and technical needs to achieve national targets**

**Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan**

Management effectiveness of protected areas.

**For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes**

With the support of a donors; projects running in the country such as: NaturAL (IPA 2013), UNDP-GEF on Protected Areas financial mechanisms and UNDP-Italian Cooperation on Karaburun - Sazan marine National Park the management effectiveness of major protected areas in the country has been assessed, initially in 2015 and three years after in 2018.

**Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:**

- Measure taken has been effective
- Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

**Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above**

During a two-year project initiated in late 2011, experts from IUCN and the Italian Cooperation, in close collaboration with the MoE, will identify priority needs in safeguarding ecosystem services and biodiversity by developing management plans for two selected protected areas. Key to the project is demonstrating the broad range of benefits that communities could enjoy from healthy, well-functioning ecosystems. The project will demonstrate to local people how nature can help improve human well-being and provide opportunities for social and economic

development by promoting innovative approaches to protected area management which put into practice management methods based on quantitative data and monitoring, and apply principles of ecosystems and biodiversity economics.

A previous UNDP project has worked in the management effectiveness assessment for the first time in Albania in 2015, piloting selected protected areas in the country, with RAPPAM methodology.

**Relevant websites, web links and files** (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).

[https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/import/downloads/albania\\_brochure\\_eng\\_31\\_05\\_2012\\_web\\_1.pdf](https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/import/downloads/albania_brochure_eng_31_05_2012_web_1.pdf); [www.natura.al](http://www.natura.al); <http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/projects/enhancing-financial-sustainability-of-the-protected-areas-system.html>;  
<http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/projects/marine-and-coastal-protected-areas2.html>

**Other relevant information**, including case studies to illustrate how the measure taken has resulted in (or is expected to result in) outcomes that contribute to the implementation of the NBSAP

The summary report can be found in the address: [www.natura.al](http://www.natura.al) under section publications.

**Relevant websites, web links and files** (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information can be found)

<http://www.natura.al/page.php?lang=en&section=publications>

**Obstacles and scientific and technical needs related to the measure taken:** Please describe what obstacles have been encountered and any scientific and technical needs for addressing these, including technical and scientific cooperation, capacity development activities or the need for guidance materials.

Introduction of the METT methodology for the assessment of PAs effectiveness to build capacities of Protected Areas managers in the country, had some limitations in terms of needed capacities for a proper assessment.

**Relevant websites, web links and files** (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to these obstacles and scientific and technical needs can be found).

[www.akzm.gov.al](http://www.akzm.gov.al)

#### IMPROVING COVERAGE AND MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS OF MARINE AND COASTAL PROTECTED AREAS

The main project outcomes relate to improved bio-geographical representation of marine and coastal protected areas (MCPA) and improved management arrangements for MCPAs, clarifying institutional settings and capacity building. The immediate global biodiversity benefits include expanded protected coverage (by at least 13,000 ha) for 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, sea-grasses and other important habitats and species.

The project is fully aligned with the priorities of the National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP), which put priority on establishing marine protected areas to conserve the unique marine biodiversity of Albania. The Albanian Government intends to

double the PA surface and expand the MPA coverage, ensuring better bio-geographical representation, as well as higher management effectiveness, and diversification of revenue sources. Thus, project outcomes will feed into the MoEFWA policies aimed at the expansion and improvement of the network of MPAs. The main project outputs was Developing the Strategic Plan of MCPA (SPMCPA) including MCPA expansion scenario with a 10-year vision; Developing of a simple monitoring system for the MCPA to be applied in local level; particular support to the Karaburun–Sazani MPA administration and the other relevant local institution on the smooth monitoring system implementation resolving conflicts, contradictions and/or overlapping among national and local institutions; A guidance on the implementation and enforcement of the MPA expansion, covering issues such as: restrictions on construction along the coast, introduction / amendment of tourism loads indicators, ban on fires, regulation of livestock pastures in the coastal lagoons and wetlands etc; Development of a guide document on establishing financial mechanism for the MCPA; The project will further support the MPA in the Karaburuni-Sazani locality including developing of management and business plans, capacitating and equipping the management unit as well as support conservation facilities and infrastructure for it, conservation and monitoring activities; Creation of buffer zones for the existing coastal PAs and the new MPAs; Create and support the cross-sectoral forum on PA management with advisory function at the Ministry level, bringing 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. The forum’s primary counterpart would be the General Directorate of Environmental Policy; A system-level MCPA management effectiveness assessment for all coastal and marine PAs (METT); Provide technical Extension Services under the roof of MoEFWA or the Forum providing guidance to site managers on cost-effective management and conservation approaches; Seminars, workshops and trainings to increase the capacities of the site managers (particularly on PA management and business planning, participatory PA Management Boards, MBD conservation measures and monitoring;

**III. Implementation measures taken, assessment of their effectiveness, associated obstacles and scientific and technical needs to achieve national targets**

**Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country’s national biodiversity strategy and action**

**Monitoring of wild fauna species:**

**Winter Bird census**

**WIMS system of wild fauna**

**For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes**

**This implementation measure contribute to the achievement of Aichi target 12.**

**Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:**

- Measure taken has been effective
- Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

**Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above**

Winter Bird census, especially since 2015, has produced reliable and time series data for the winter bird counts in Albania.

**Relevant websites, web links and files** (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).

**Other relevant information**, including case studies to illustrate how the measure taken has resulted in (or is expected to result in) outcomes that contribute to the implementation of the NBSAP

Prespa Ohrid Nature park is a good example of the integrated management of protected areas that will contribute to the preparation of the management plan for Prespa Biosphere Reserve. Details can be found in the link: <https://www.pont.org/>

**Relevant websites, web links and files** (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information can be found)

<http://www.natura.al/gallery.php?lang=en&album=10#gallbegin>

[www.akzm.gov.al](http://www.akzm.gov.al)

[www.natura.al](http://www.natura.al)

**Obstacles and scientific and technical needs related to the measure taken:** Please describe what obstacles have been encountered and any scientific and technical needs for addressing these, including technical and scientific cooperation, capacity development activities or the need for guidance materials.

Capacity strengthening of the protected areas staff engaged in monitoring activities and winter bird census as well.

**Relevant websites, web links and files** (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to these obstacles and scientific and technical needs can be found). Reports can also be found at the following link: [www.natura.al](http://www.natura.al)

#### **IV. Implementation measures taken, assessment of their effectiveness, associated obstacles and scientific and technical needs to achieve national targets**

**Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national**



**biodiversity strategy and action plan**

National activities for the implementation of the Nagoya protocol on ABS in Albania

**For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes**

These measures will contribute to the achievement of Aichi target 16 in Albania.

**Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:**

- Measure taken has been effective
- Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

**Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above**

National legal framework completion.

**Relevant websites, web links and files** (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).

<http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/projects/strengthening-human-resources--legal-framework--and-institutiona.html>

**Other relevant information**, including case studies to illustrate how the measure taken has resulted in (or is expected to result in) outcomes that contribute to the implementation of the NBSAP

A biodiscovery case from Albania, on the pilot case of bilberry is included in the publication ABS is genetic resources for sustainable development.

**Relevant websites, web links and files** (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information can be found)

<https://abs-sustainabledevelopment.net/resource/abs-is-genetic-resources-for-sustainable-development/>

**Obstacles and scientific and technical needs related to the measure taken:** Please describe what obstacles have been encountered and any scientific and technical needs for addressing these, including technical and scientific cooperation, capacity development activities or the need for guidance materials.

Lack of scientific expertise for the ABS implementation in the country.

Limited knowledge on the Nagoya Protocol legal requirements.

**Relevant websites, web links and files** (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to these obstacles and scientific and technical needs can be found).

<https://abs-sustainabledevelopment.net/story/albania-one-step-forward-on-the-implementation-of-the-nagoya-protocol/>

**V. Implementation measures taken, assessment of their effectiveness, associated obstacles and scientific and technical needs to achieve national targets**

**Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan**

Red List of wild fauna and flora of Albania, revised and updated every 5 years (last update 2013, currently being updated)  
Hunting ban in the Republic of Albania, initially for two years (2014-2016) and the extension for the period 2016-2021.

**For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes**

**Aichi target 12.**

**Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:**

- Measure taken has been effective  
 Measure taken has been partially effective  
 Measure taken has been ineffective  
 Unknown

**Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above**

Although the hunting ban is in force since 2014, there are still cases of illegal hunting reported by NGOs and the Environment Inspectorate.

**Relevant websites, web links and files** (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).

<http://www.insq.gov.al/>

**Other relevant information**, including case studies to illustrate how the measure taken has resulted in (or is expected to result in) outcomes that contribute to the implementation of the NBSAP

2019 report on the winter bird census in Albania.

**Relevant websites, web links and files** (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information can be found)

<http://www.natura.al/news.php?lang=en&uid=53>

**Obstacles and scientific and technical needs related to the measure taken:** Please describe what obstacles have been encountered and any scientific and technical needs for addressing these, including technical and scientific cooperation, capacity development activities or the need for guidance materials.

Limited capacities on bird census skills.

**Relevant websites, web links and files** (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to these obstacles and scientific and technical needs can be found).

<http://www.natura.al/news.php?lang=en&uid=53>

**VI. Implementation measures taken, assessment of their effectiveness, associated obstacles and scientific and technical needs to achieve national targets**

**Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan**

**Single species action plan**

**For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes**

Aichi target 12.

**Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:**

- Measure taken has been effective  
 Measure taken has been partially effective  
 Measure taken has been ineffective  
 Unknown

**Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above**

Action plans of threatened species drafted and approved by Ministerial Order.

**Relevant websites, web links and files** (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).

<https://mjedisi.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Urdher-Ministri-plani-veprimit-pelikanit.pdf>

**Other relevant information**, including case studies to illustrate how the measure taken has resulted in (or is expected to result in) outcomes that contribute to the implementation of the NBSAP

Pursuant to the identification as a flag species of the Dalmatian Pelikan in Albania, it is celebrated The Day of the Pelikan, on the 10<sup>th</sup> May each year.

**Relevant websites, web links and files** (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information can be found)

<http://www.akzm.gov.al/aktivitete/lajme/item/311-dita-e-pelikanit-kacurel-ne-parkun-kombetar-divjake-karavasta>

**Obstacles and scientific and technical needs related to the measure taken:** Please describe what obstacles have been encountered and any scientific and technical needs for addressing these, including technical and scientific cooperation, capacity development activities or the need for guidance materials.

Limited financial resources and scientific knowledge for the drafting of the Action Plan.

**Relevant websites, web links and files** (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to these obstacles and scientific and technical needs can be found).

**VII. Implementation measures taken, assessment of their effectiveness, associated obstacles and scientific and technical needs to achieve national targets**

**Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan**

Protected Areas management plans elaboration and/or update.

**For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes**

**Target 11.**

**Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:**

- Measure taken has been effective
- Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

**Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above**

Guidelines and methodology for Protected Areas management plans

**Relevant websites, web links and files** (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).

<http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/projects/enhancing-financial-sustainability-of-the-protected-areas-system.html>

**Other relevant information**, including case studies to illustrate how the measure taken has resulted in (or is expected to result in) outcomes that contribute to the implementation of the NBSAP

NAPA webpage with information on PAs management plans.

**Relevant websites, web links and files** (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information can be found)

UNDP projects' webpage on the Protected Areas financial mechanisms, which will support the MTE and NAPA on the revision/update of three management plans of protected areas, namely: Dajti national Park, Divjake-Karavasta national park and Llogara national park.

**Obstacles and scientific and technical needs related to the measure taken:** Please describe what obstacles have been encountered and any scientific and technical needs for addressing these, including technical and scientific cooperation, capacity development activities or the need for guidance materials.

Limited financial and human resources.

**Relevant websites, web links and files** (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to these obstacles and scientific and technical needs can be found).

[http://www.natura.al/contentfiles/docs/Albania-poster-IUCN\\_ECARO\\_WEB.jpg](http://www.natura.al/contentfiles/docs/Albania-poster-IUCN_ECARO_WEB.jpg)

**VIII. Implementation measures taken, assessment of their effectiveness, associated obstacles and scientific and technical needs to achieve national targets**

**Describe a measure taken to contribute to the implementation of your country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan**

Habitat mapping and monitoring

**For the implementation measure, please indicate to which national or Aichi Biodiversity Target(s) it contributes**

**Aichi target 5.**

**Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation measure taken in achieving desired outcomes:**

- Measure taken has been effective
- Measure taken has been partially effective
- Measure taken has been ineffective
- Unknown

**Please explain the selection and where possible indicate the tools or methodology used for the assessment of effectiveness above**

Habitat mapping is carried out in accordance with the EU methodology under habitats directive.

**Relevant websites, web links and files** (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).

<http://www.natura.al/page.php?lang=en&section=albaniapas>

**Other relevant information**, including case studies to illustrate how the measure taken has resulted in (or is expected to result in) outcomes that contribute to the implementation of the NBSAP

Detailed habitat maps of 10 major protected areas in Albania, is completed with the support of NaturaAl IPA 2013 project.

**Relevant websites, web links and files** (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information can be found)

<http://www.natura.al/page.php?lang=en&section=selectedpas>

**Obstacles and scientific and technical needs related to the measure taken:** Please describe what obstacles have been encountered and any scientific and technical needs for addressing these, including technical and scientific cooperation, capacity development activities or the need for guidance materials.

Lack of experience of habitat mapping. Limited human resources to carry out the detailed assessment and mapping.

**Relevant websites, web links and files** (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to these obstacles and scientific and technical needs can be found).

[www.akzm.gov.al](http://www.akzm.gov.al)

<http://www.natura.al/page.php?lang=en&section=albaniatowardsn2000>

**SECTION III**  
**ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS TOWARDS EACH NATIONAL TARGET**

Using the template below, please assess the level of progress made towards each of your country's national targets or similar commitments. The template should be replicated for each national target. If your country has not set national targets please use the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

<b>I. Assessment of progress towards each national target</b>
<p><b>Target</b></p> <p><b>By the end of 2015</b>, there should be a strategic document on biodiversity (DSPEP), revised and adopted – in line with Aichi target 17.</p>
<p><b>Category of progress towards the implementation of the selected target:</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On track to exceed target  <input type="checkbox"/> On track to achieve target  <input type="checkbox"/> Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate  <input type="checkbox"/> No significant change  <input type="checkbox"/> Moving away from target  <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown</p>
<p><b>Date the assessment was done:</b></p> <p>The Document of Strategic Policies on Biodiversity Protection was adopted by the Government on 20.1.2016. The target is therefore achieved in time.</p>
<p><b>Additional information</b> (Please provide information on the evidence used in the assessment of this target, drawing upon relevant information provided in section II, including obstacles in undertaking the assessment).</p> <p>The document was approved by a Decision of Council of Ministers' no. 31, dated 20.1.2016 and published in the Official Journal.</p>
<p><b>Indicators used in this assessment</b></p> <p><i>Indicator(s) used in this assessment</i></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No indicator used</p>
<p><b>Please describe any other tools or means used for assessing progress</b></p> <p>The elaboration of the Government Decree that approved the Document on Strategic Policies on Biodiversity protection, to 2020 in Albania is the document that proves its adoption by the Government of Albania.</p>
<p><b>Relevant websites, web links and files</b> (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).</p> <p><a href="https://www.mjedisi.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Strategic-Document-of-Biodiversity-Policy-Albania-english.pdf">https://www.mjedisi.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Strategic-Document-of-Biodiversity-Policy-Albania-english.pdf</a></p>

**Level of confidence of the above assessment**

- Based on comprehensive evidence
- Based on partial evidence
- Based on limited evidence

**Please provide an explanation for the level of confidence indicated above.**

It is a by-law, by which the DSPBP to 2020 for Albania was adopted.

**Adequacy of monitoring information to support assessment**

- Monitoring related to this target is adequate
- Monitoring related to this target is partial (e.g. only covering part of the area or issue)
- No monitoring system in place
- Monitoring is not needed

**Please describe how the target is monitored and indicate whether there is a monitoring system in place**

The strategies' implementation is monitored on an annual basis by the Ministry of Tourism and Environment of Albania.

**Relevant websites, web links and files** (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to the monitoring system can be found)

An annual report is prepared by the General Directorate of Environmental Policies in terms of the progress with the national legal framework, as well as implementing measures.

**II. Assessment of progress towards each national target**

**Target**

**By 2020**, 17 % of terrestrial areas and 6% of marine and coastal areas to be designated as Protected Areas and to be managed in a sustainable integrated approach. Introduction of the ecological national network of Albania, as an integral part of the Pan European Ecological Network (PEEN) – in line with target 11 of Aichi;

**Category of progress towards the implementation of the selected target:**

- On track to exceed target
- On track to achieve target
- Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate
- No significant change
- Moving away from target
- Unknown

**Date the assessment was done:**

December 2018.

**Additional information** (Please provide information on the evidence used in the assessment of this target, drawing upon relevant information provided in section II, including obstacles in undertaking the assessment).

The progress towards protected areas coverage for the terrestrial component has already exceeded the target, as it stands at 18,5 % of the country's territory or 526 334 hectares; meanwhile limited progress has been made for the marine and coastal areas, actually standing at around 3 %.

**Indicators used in this assessment**

*Indicator(s) used in this assessment*

Table of protected areas coverage in Albania is used as an indicator.  
Please provide a list of indicators used for the assessment of this target  
or:

No indicator used

**Please describe any other tools or means used for assessing progress**

Cumulative impact of newly designated/extended existing protected areas is the tool used.

**Relevant websites, web links and files** (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).

[www.mjedisi.gov.al](http://www.mjedisi.gov.al); [www.akzm.gov.al](http://www.akzm.gov.al); [www.natura.al](http://www.natura.al); [www.akm.gov.al/rgjm](http://www.akm.gov.al/rgjm);

**Level of confidence of the above assessment**

- Based on comprehensive evidence  
 Based on partial evidence  
 Based on limited evidence

**Please provide an explanation for the level of confidence indicated above.**

Figures are correct and verified by GIS maps and shape files.

**Adequacy of monitoring information to support assessment**

- Monitoring related to this target is adequate  
 Monitoring related to this target is partial (e.g. only covering part of the area or issue)  
 No monitoring system in place  
 Monitoring is not needed

**Please describe how the target is monitored and indicate whether there is a monitoring system in place**

Annual report is compiled by the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, which is also part of the annual State of the Environment Report, on the progress made with protected areas increase and/or extension.

**Relevant websites, web links and files** (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to the monitoring system can be found)

[www.akzm.gov.al](http://www.akzm.gov.al)  
[www.akm.gov.al/rgjm](http://www.akm.gov.al/rgjm)



### III. Assessment of progress towards each national target

#### Target

**Rehabilitation** of at least 15 % of the degraded areas through conservation and restoration activities – in line with Aichi biodiversity targets – this will be attained through implementation of management plans for protected areas and through implementation of action plans for species, and especially for habitats.

#### Category of progress towards the implementation of the selected target:

- On track to exceed target
- On track to achieve target
- Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate
- No significant change
- Moving away from target
- Unknown

#### Date the assessment was done:

April 2019

**Additional information** (Please provide information on the evidence used in the assessment of this target, drawing upon relevant information provided in section II, including obstacles in undertaking the assessment).

Assessment was carried out with the support of the donor projects' being implemented in Albania. Progress is being made to protected threatened habitats, mainly by the means of management plans implementation in practice.

#### Indicators used in this assessment

*Indicator(s) used in this assessment*

Please provide a list of indicators used for the assessment of this target

or:

- No indicator used

#### Please describe any other tools or means used for assessing progress

Monitoring trips, mainly for habitats within protected areas are used.

**Relevant websites, web links and files** (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).

[www.mjedisi.gov.al/](http://www.mjedisi.gov.al/)

[www.bionna.al](http://www.bionna.al)

[www.akm.gov.al](http://www.akm.gov.al)

<p><b>Level of confidence of the above assessment</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Based on comprehensive evidence</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Based on partial evidence</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Based on limited evidence</p>
<p><b>Please provide an explanation for the level of confidence indicated above.</b></p> <p>Since the assessment did not follow precise indicators, the level of confidence is based on partial evidence gathered during field trips.</p>
<p><b>Adequacy of monitoring information to support assessment</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring related to this target is adequate</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Monitoring related to this target is partial (e.g. only covering part of the area or issue)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No monitoring system in place</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring is not needed</p>
<p><b>Please describe how the target is monitored and indicate whether there is a monitoring system in place</b></p> <p>A monitoring system is in place in Albania, but due to financial constraints it is not possible to perform monitoring in the whole country.</p> <p><b>Relevant websites, web links and files</b> (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to the monitoring system can be found)</p> <p><a href="http://www.akm.gov.al/rgjm">www.akm.gov.al/rgjm</a>; <a href="http://www.bionna.al">www.bionna.al</a>;</p>

<p><b>IV. Assessment of progress towards each national target</b></p>
<p><b>Target</b></p> <p><b>Sustainable Agriculture and forestry activities</b> in line with biodiversity objectives.</p>
<p><b>Category of progress towards the implementation of the selected target:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> On track to exceed target</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On track to achieve target</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No significant change</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moving away from target</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Unknown</p>
<p><b>Date the assessment was done:</b></p> <p>December 2018</p>
<p><b>Additional information</b> (Please provide information on the evidence used in the assessment of this target, drawing upon relevant information provided in section II, including obstacles in undertaking the</p>

assessment).

Evaluation report prepared in the frame of Natural Resources Project, dedicated to forestry, running in Albania for the period 2015-2019.

**Indicators used in this assessment**

*Indicator(s) used in this assessment*

Please provide a list of indicators used for the assessment of this target

or:

No indicator used

**Please describe any other tools or means used for assessing progress**

**Relevant websites, web links and files** (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).

[http://web.worldbank.org/archive/website01337/WEB/0\\_CO-28.HTM](http://web.worldbank.org/archive/website01337/WEB/0_CO-28.HTM)

**Level of confidence of the above assessment**

- Based on comprehensive evidence
- Based on partial evidence
- Based on limited evidence

**Please provide an explanation for the level of confidence indicated above.**

Assessment was done with the technical support of international forestry experts, therefore the level of reliability is quite

**Adequacy of monitoring information to support assessment**

- Monitoring related to this target is adequate
- Monitoring related to this target is partial (e.g. only covering part of the area or issue)
- No monitoring system in place
- Monitoring is not needed

**Please describe how the target is monitored and indicate whether there is a monitoring system in place**

A monitoring system is in place, but it needs to be consolidated further.

**Relevant websites, web links and files** (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to the monitoring system can be found)

[www.mjedisi.gov.al](http://www.mjedisi.gov.al); [www.bionna.al](http://www.bionna.al);  
<http://www.akm.gov.al/pyjet.html>

<b>V. Assessment of progress towards each national target</b>
<p><b>Target</b></p> <p><b>Implementation of Nagoya Protocol on access and sharing of genetic resources and profits from their use – in line with target 16 of Aichi;</b></p>
<p><b>Category of progress towards the implementation of the selected target:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> On track to exceed target</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On track to achieve target</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No significant change</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moving away from target</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Unknown</p>
<p><b>Date the assessment was done:</b></p> <p>April 2019</p>
<p><b>Additional information</b> (Please provide information on the evidence used in the assessment of this target, drawing upon relevant information provided in section II, including obstacles in undertaking the assessment).</p>
<p><b>Indicators used in this assessment</b></p> <p><i>Indicator(s) used in this assessment</i></p> <p>Please provide a list of indicators used for the assessment of this target</p> <p>or:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No indicator used</p>
<p><b>Please describe any other tools or means used for assessing progress</b></p> <p>In the framework of the project the following progress is achieved so far:  Regulatory Proposals on Legal, Policy and Institutional Capacity to Develop and Implement National ABS Framework, developed. A national workshop was held to present the gaps identified and the proposed policy for national implementation of the protocol.  National CHM web portal updated as per national reports and related information. –</p>

ABS procedures and information, uploaded into the existing CHM.  
Mapping of existing genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge and database for PGR developed and published in the National CHM.

**Relevant websites, web links and files** (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).

<http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/projects/strengthening-human-resources--legal-framework--and-institutiona.html>  
[www.mjedisi.gov.al/projekte](http://www.mjedisi.gov.al/projekte)  
<https://abs-sustainabledevelopment.net/story/traditional-knowledge-biodiversity-under-the-nagoya-protocol-the-undp-gef-global-abs-projects-contribution-to-the-unpfii-eighteenth-session/>

**Level of confidence of the above assessment**

- Based on comprehensive evidence  
 Based on partial evidence  
 Based on limited evidence

**Please provide an explanation for the level of confidence indicated above.**

The project has contracted an international expert as well as national experts working together and supporting the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, which are providing clear guidance and knowledge on the implementation of the Nagoya protocol in Albania.

**Adequacy of monitoring information to support assessment**

- Monitoring related to this target is adequate  
 Monitoring related to this target is partial (e.g. only covering part of the area or issue)  
 No monitoring system in place  
 Monitoring is not needed

**Please describe how the target is monitored and indicate whether there is a monitoring system in place**

The progress towards the proper implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Albania, is closely monitored in terms of national legal framework, capacity building in the country as well as the proper functioning of the permitting system when introduced.

**Relevant websites, web links and files** (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to the monitoring system can be found)

<http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/projects/strengthening-human-resources--legal-framework--and-institutiona.html>  
[www.mjedisi.gov.al/projekte](http://www.mjedisi.gov.al/projekte)  
<https://abs-sustainabledevelopment.net/story/traditional-knowledge-biodiversity-under-the-nagoya-protocol-the-undp-gef-global-abs-projects-contribution-to-the-unpfii-eighteenth-session/>

<b>VI. Assessment of progress towards each national target</b>
<p><b>Target</b>  <b>Raising awareness on biodiversity</b> - in line with target 1, Aichi.</p>
<p><b>Category of progress towards the implementation of the selected target:</b></p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> On track to exceed target  <input type="checkbox"/> On track to achieve target  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate  <input type="checkbox"/> No significant change  <input type="checkbox"/> Moving away from target  <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown </p>
<p><b>Date the assessment was done:</b>  December 2018</p>
<p><b>Additional information</b> (Please provide information on the evidence used in the assessment of this target, drawing upon relevant information provided in section II, including obstacles in undertaking the assessment).</p>
<p><b>Indicators used in this assessment</b>  <i>Indicator(s) used in this assessment</i>  Please provide a list of indicators used for the assessment of this target</p> <p>or:  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No indicator used</p>
<p><b>Please describe any other tools or means used for assessing progress</b>  Reports produced in the course of biodiversity and nature protection projects being implemented in Albania.</p>
<p><b>Relevant websites, web links and files</b> (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to this assessment can be found).</p>
<p><b>Level of confidence of the above assessment</b></p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Based on comprehensive evidence  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Based on partial evidence  <input type="checkbox"/> Based on limited evidence </p>
<p><b>Please provide an explanation for the level of confidence indicated above.</b></p>

As there are data combined from different

**Adequacy of monitoring information to support assessment**

- Monitoring related to this target is adequate
- Monitoring related to this target is partial (e.g. only covering part of the area or issue)
- No monitoring system in place
- Monitoring is not needed

**Please describe how the target is monitored and indicate whether there is a monitoring system in place**

Monitoring of this target is carried out by several reports compiled and later combined by the Ministry of Tourism and Environment.

**Relevant websites, web links and files** (Please use this field to indicate any relevant websites, web links or documents where additional information related to the monitoring system can be found)

<http://www.natura.al/news.php?lang=en&uid=71>

**SECTION IV.**

**DESCRIPTION OF THE NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF EACH GLOBAL AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGET**

Using the template below, please describe your country's contribution towards the achievement of each global Aichi Biodiversity Target. This template should be replicated for each of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

For Parties whose national targets are identical to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, some of this information may be captured in sections II and III above. Please provide additional descriptions of your country's national contribution to the achievement of each global Aichi Biodiversity Target.

**IV. Description of national contribution to the achievement of each global Aichi Biodiversity Target**

**Aichi Biodiversity Target 1**, By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.

**Please describe how and to what extent your country has contributed to the achievement of this Aichi Biodiversity Target and summarize the evidence used to support this description**

During the reporting period, a number of activities have taken place in Albania to increase the awareness on biodiversity values and to better engage people in its conservation and sustainable use.

**Aichi target 12** By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.

To contribute to this target in the context of Albania being a small country, provision of comprehensive data that will provide a clear and full picture of the state of species and habitats is a priority. In this regard the following developments have taken place since the last report, which consist on the establishment of a national platform on biodiversity (BioNNA).

### **Data and taxonomic coverage**

BioNNA aggregates primary biodiversity data, i.e. occurrences of plants and animals recorded in Albania. They have been obtained by Albanian and international researchers from three different sources: i) field data collected in the years 2015–2016 during the Institutional Support and the NaturAL projects, ii) data published in the scientific literature and iii) field data collected in the last 10 years by international experts or local researchers involved in the Institutional Support and the NaturAL projects. Field data have been collected mostly during June–October 2012/2013/2016 field campaigns in 7 protected areas, which were selected because of their relevance in terms of species and habitats diversity: Buna River-Velipoje Protected Landscape, Shebenik-Jabllanica National Park, Lake Shkodra Managed Nature Reserve, Korab-Koritnik Managed Nature Reserve, Divjaka-Karavasta National Park, Tomorri Mountain National Park, and Bredhi i Hotoves-Dangelli National Park (Fig. 1).

### **Software**

The core of BioNNA is a federated database system of primary biodiversity data (i.e. data obtained from floristic and faunistic observations and from specimens of natural history collections), which uses the BioCASE protocol for allowing the communication amongst the nodes of the federation and ABCD as data standard. When a user queries the system, the output is produced by sending the query to all federated nodes and returning an answer in the standard format ABCD. The BioCASE provider software is a free package supplied by the BioCASE project (<http://www.biocase.org>), supported by the Botanic Garden and Botanical Museum of Berlin-Dahlem. The Web-App was the part of the system which required the highest effort, since it was developed from scratch. It allows the use of BioNNA in two different modalities; as a Standard User, which is allowed to query and retrieve data and as a Professional User, which also has access to several editing tools for managing the databases. In order to improve users' experience, the Web-App was developed by using innovative libraries from DEVEXPRESS, within a Microsoft Visual Studio development environment. All the functions of the Web-App are provided with automated input control tools, in order to prevent any erroneous use, in particular in data cleansing and updating processes.

BioNNA is hosted in a web portal which, other than the Web-App, hosts:



- Introductory Pages, where information about BioNNA and the dataset can be retrieved;
- Species Fact Sheets, where it is possible to list the taxa and their biological features. This section also links to the Encyclopaedia of Life (EOL), for retrieving information on taxonomy, distribution and conservation status of the species;
- Species Data pages, where it is possible to list the occurrence points. From the Species Data page, it is also possible to access the Web-GIS viewer;
- Web-GIS viewer, which is used for visualising the spatial distribution of each infrageneric taxon. This tool has been specifically developed for the BioNNA system, making use of open source and open code tools;
- Protected Areas page, which contains Socio-Ecological Fact Sheets (data and technical information) about the current situation of the Albanian protected areas.

A well as being a federated network of data providers, BioNNA was also planned as a data provider for the BioCASE and GBIF networks, in order to make the biodiversity heritage of Albania available worldwide.

### **BioNNA: datasets and policy**

BioNNA is currently the largest aggregator of primary biodiversity data in Albania and it is planned to grow further by aggregating new datasets. However, the aggregation of a new dataset into the federation is not an automated process. Each dataset must have a certain level of data quality, as well as a minimum mandatory set of data: a unique ID for each observation record, the scientific name of the taxon, latitude and longitude. For consistency purposes, it is suggested that the coordinates follow the WGS84 geographic system in decimal degrees. These minimum requirements are evaluated by the Scientific Committee of BioNNA. In addition to the minimum mandatory dataset, many other data can potentially be included. Those which have been already implemented in the Web-App of BioNNA are: date of survey or collection, collector or observer, locality of collection or observation, community in which the organism was surveyed and references. Furthermore, the use of ABCD, which lists ca. 1200 concepts, permits far more data for each observation record to be aggregated in the BioNNA federation.

BioNNA is also storing data on sensitive taxa. In this case, a relevant issue is given by showing the exact locations of occurrence, providing the risk of misuse of those sensitive data by parties with commercial interests. On the other hand, the exact location of sensitive taxa (e.g. species classified as threatened by the IUCN – critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable – e.g. important nursery colony of bats, den site of bears, otter holts etc.) is an important source of information for decision-makers, such as the Ministry of Environment, the National Environmental Agency (NEA), the National Agency of Protected Areas (NAPA) and other Ministries and development agencies. Hence, sensitive data will not be displayed online, but provided under strict safeguard policy, in order to avoid their misuse. Currently, BioNNA aggregates not only data of taxa listed in the Birds and Habitats Directives,

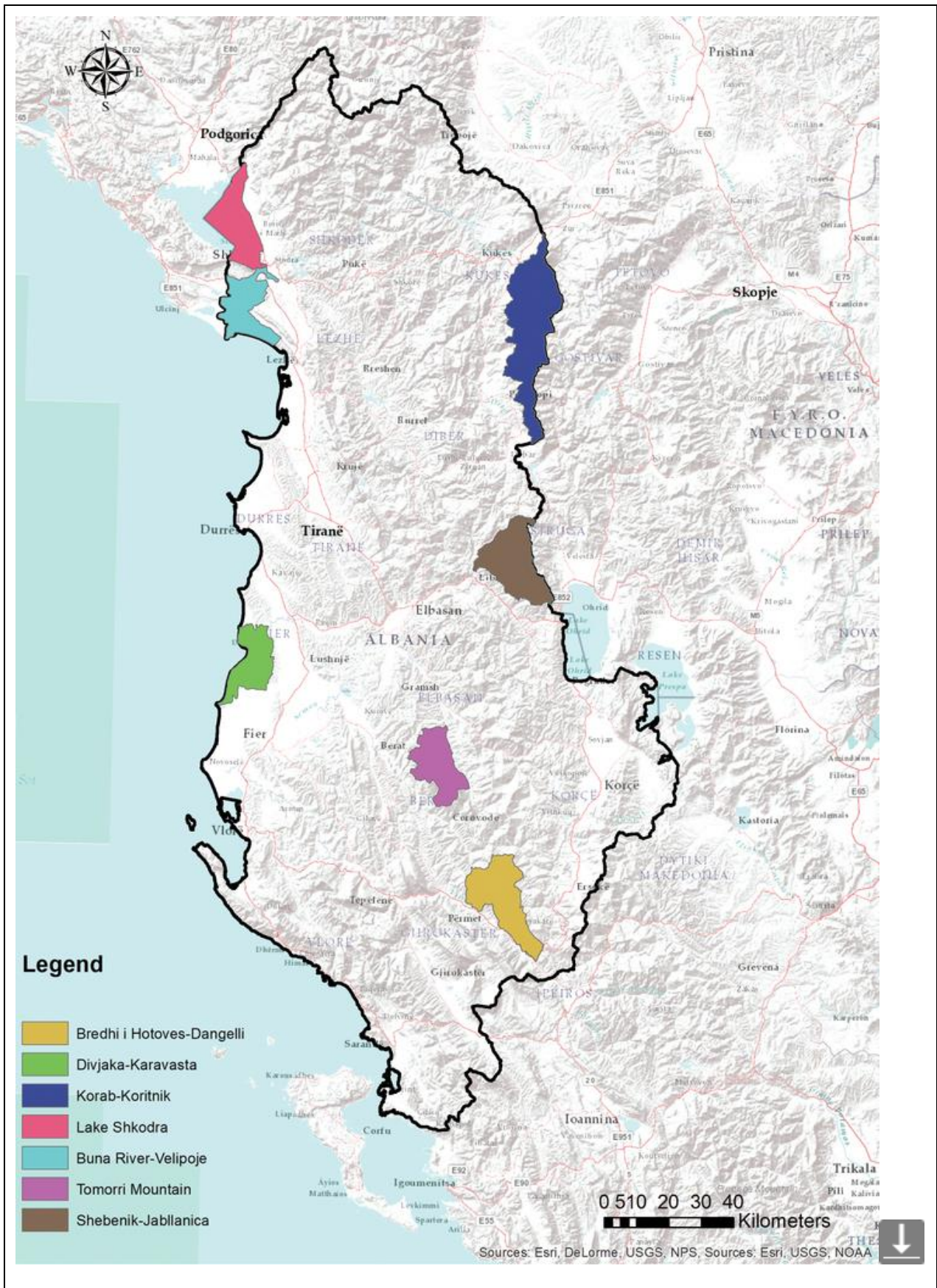
but also of several other taxa and potentially of all those which are known to occur in the country. This is of pivotal importance for Albania, since the data aggregated in BioNNA could provide evidence of the need for protection of some endemic/rare taxa or highlight areas of high biodiversity or relevance, deserving some degree of protection.

### **Using BioNNA**

The web portal of BioNNA ([www.bionna.al](http://www.bionna.al)) provides users with several ways to access the data. The query system hosts two tools, one for plants and one for animals. In the ‘Species data’ section, in addition to the data sheets, users can visualise a data table with all the occurrence records for a species. For each occurrence, ID number, latitude and longitude, as well as the optional details are reported (when available: date of data entry, number of individuals, type of data collected, references, vegetation community (only for plants) and locality in which the individual has been found; Fig. 2). In this section, the user can also create a spatial reference file (.shp) for each selected species and visualise it by using the WebGIS viewer, which is one of the most relevant features of BioNNA. It displays occurrence points on a satellite map of Albania, evidencing protected areas, as well as counties borders (Fig. 3). From the ‘Species data’ page, it is possible, using the button “Add Species to Map”, to load the occurrences of a taxon into the Web-GIS Viewer. This can be done for a single taxon or for a selection of taxa. The viewer displays the points on the map, hence allowing a preliminary analysis of the spatial distribution of the taxa. Furthermore, it is possible to access the metadata associated with the shapefile of each taxon. From the ‘Species data section’ it is also possible to download a data table of occurrence records in Excel format (.xls), which was chosen since it can be imported into several modelling and analysis tools (e.g. MaxEnt (Elith et al. 2011) and GeoCAT (Bachman et al. 2011)).

Biodiversity monitoring, with the focus on threatened species and winter bird census is being consolidated in order to provide reliable data for the policy makers.

Hunting ban is showing significant effects in wild fauna populations.



**Aichi target 11** By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascapes.

Albania has contributed to the Aichi target 11, namely the increase of Protected Areas coverage in the country to 18,5 % of the territory or 526 thousand hectares, as well as to increase their management effectiveness.

Selected case studies are listed below as successful examples of protected areas management in terms of effectiveness:

**The assessment of 51 protected areas of Albania** was conducted using the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) in the frame of the project NaturAL. This assessment is a show case of the ways management effectiveness of protected areas can be improved which is the main topic of the IUCN WCC Workshop on ‘The Benefits of Protected Area Partnerships: Fostering Innovative Solutions for a Planet at the Crossroads’.

The highest percentage of poor effectiveness was observed with respect to financial management and budget security, and availability and maintenance of equipment. The highest percentage of excellent scores was reported on the legal status of protected areas and condition of values.

Wildfires were reported as the most common threat to protected areas in Albania, whereas logging and wood harvesting as the most serious threat that causes degradation of the natural values in protected areas. In general, the threats related to the use of biological resources in protected areas were present in the vast majority of protected areas in Albania. The findings of the assessment are intended to assist the National Agency for Protected Areas (NAPA) in identifying the priorities in improving the management effectiveness of the protected areas in the country.

The METT, developed by WWF and the World Bank, follows the IUCN Framework for assessing Protected Area Management Effectiveness (IUCN PAME Framework), mostly focusing on context, planning, inputs and process.

**Priority areas for MCPA** network protection characterized, including location, size and distribution of sites based on species life history factors and habitat types, to increase coverage of the coastal and marine protected areas of Albania through the engagement and contribution of experts and user groups/stakeholders.

The Management Committee of the Karaburuni-Sazani MPA, the National Park Llogara and the Natural Complex Karaburuni-Rreza e Kanalit-Orikum-Tragjas-Dukat is operative and addressing immediate and unanticipated needs to natural resource management on an on-going basis.

An inter- and intra-government agency decision-making model (set of protocols and procedures) is developed to collaboratively address management issues concerning the MCPA network throughout Albania, both for long-term planning purposes and immediate and unanticipated needs to natural resource management, on an on-going basis.

Development Scorecard for MCPAs shows an increased systematic, institutional and

individual capacity by at least 20% in each category.

A Strategic Plan for the Information Centre of Karaburuni-Sazani MPA, including an environmental education and awareness raising plan and a financial plan developed and made operative by implementing identified priority actions; the current Sustainable Tourism Plan implemented; at least 2 hotel owners in Vlora Bay engaged in a certification process; An assessment completed contributing to transition to Sustainable Fisheries as by EU Maritime and fisheries policies 2014-2020

So far concrete results include: Mobilization and engagement of relevant stakeholders locally and nationally and establishing cooperation and collaboration between them from municipality to the national level ministries; reviving of the Management Committee of the Karaburuni-Sazani MPA, while guidance, support and facilitation is provided to the Regional Administration of Protected Areas (RAPA) of Vlora for accomplishing several management actions, both for long-term planning purposes, as well as for addressing immediate needs to site management and achieving active participation of all relevant local and central agencies, stakeholder groups and economic sectors.

Synergies and liaison is also focused with international organizations /donors to collaborate with key project partners and aligning funding opportunities with the demanding management activities at Karaburun-Sazani MPA (MedPAN, EU, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), Conservatoire du Littoral, etc.)

Implementation of priority activities with the local partners to ensure the long-term in-situ survival and conservation of the globally rare, endangered or threatened species found in - Karaburuni - Sazani at their natural densities. A sea turtle rehabilitation center is established as minimum support and initial reception center, emergency care and their release upon recovery. Educational activities with local schools are being organized in the center, particularly the application of turtle reporting protocols from the administration of the Marine Park and involved research groups (and internships students) including also instructions on how to handle and treat turtle species while in rehabilitation center (record of turtle species data, morphometric measurements, medical treatment practices, etc.).

Identifying the touristic operators for implementation of best practices and eco-labelling certification

Initiate the process for reducing of the negative impacts from the mismanaged waste streams generated from economic operators and other subjects along the Vlore bay and introduce sustainable approaches that improve waste collection and disposal systems, namely for used oil and plastics, their separation, collection, treatment and disposal, and costs to introduce such standards. Assistance and facilitation of the waste recycling pilot actions (plastic and used cooking oil) along the coastline and branding and awareness among the targeted stakeholders and communities in respect to waste recycling activities.

Appraisal of fishing resources and its management scope including existing fishing techniques and tool (fishing gears); in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, it was estimated fishing vessel's coordinates for Vlora and Himara areas.

### **Protecting Albania's Marine and Coastal Biodiversity *project (GEF-UNDP)***

In cooperation with Ministry of Environment and Local Authorities in Oriskumi has continuously steered-up synergies and efforts from all stakeholders to accomplish one main objective: improved management and conservation of marine ecosystems in the piloted area of Sazan-Karaburuni, but countrywide as well.

The Management Plan for Karaburun-Sazan Marine Protected Area has been developed through a participatory approach, including four stakeholders' workshops, consultative meetings, opinion polls, etc.

The structure of the Management Plan follows the "Standard Structure of Protected Areas Management Plans in Albania" approved by the Ministry on Environment on 21 February 2013. It deals with description of the National Marine Park (NMP), followed by an analysis of stakeholders and description of PA natural ecosystems, of existing PA and visitor facilities, current and foreseen governance structure, cultural landscape and heritage, as well as studies and scientific research related to the marine protected area (MPA). The plan also addresses management aspects, stating the vision of the MPA, the management themes and management zones of the NMP.

The MCPA Sazan Karaburuni is actually management subject to prioritized activities whose performance is monitored through METT assessment tool;

In 2015, the Minister of Environment approved the Management Plan. For the first time in Albania, a Management Plan is accompanied by a Business Plan. Priority actions outlined in the Management Plan are currently under implementation.

Enforcement and control mechanisms such as surveillance /patrolling in the target area of Sazan-Karaburuni, are ensuring mitigation and prevention of all kind of damages and environment pressures.

A number of Memorandums of Understandings have been implemented involving stakeholders in the process of surveillance, monitoring and law enforcements in protected areas.

Six rangers work together with local structures based on an operational plan for controlling illegal fishing and hunting, grazing, fires.

Socio-economic assessment of Sazan - Karaburuni marine and coastal protected area is guiding the development of ecotourism thus creating synergies with other ongoing initiatives in the marine area.

Strategic Plan on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas assists a coordinated decision making for an ecosystem-based spatial management, ensuring sustainable development while conserving and managing natural biodiversity and resources. It is incorporated in the Strategic Document of the Biodiversity Protection and Action Plan recently approved by the Government of Albania. In line with this, there are two new potential MPA under assessment namely Porto – Palermo and Rodoni Cape.

For both areas, an ecological assessment is carried out including completion of the biodiversity survey, desk studies of the existing data, field data gathering on marine biodiversity and ecology, zoning and demarcation of sensitive areas, drafting the set of

regulatory instruments to proclaim the area. The management plan is under preparation for Porto Palermo.

A global performance management tool called Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) has been introduced in Marine Protected Areas. More than half of the local administration are trained how to use METT tools. The tool has established the baseline for further monitoring of the situation in the protected areas across the country in compliance with Conventions on Protected Areas and European Union requirements.

Training Needs Assessment has been done and training modules for Marine and Coastal Protected Areas have been developed targeting the main stakeholders and personnel.

A comprehensive public awareness and communications campaign have been implemented throughout the project implementation targeting national counterparts, students, civil society and the media. The campaign helped raise awareness about the need to conserve the marine coastal protected areas.

**Aichi target 16:** By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.

Albania has acceded to the Nagoya Protocol of ABS and is working hard on the Protocols' implementation and enforcement through the development of the national legal framework and the introduction of the PIC and MAT system in the country. The amendment of the law on biodiversity protection is drafted and is planned to be approved by the end of 2019. This will introduce the PIC and MAT procedures in place in Albania for the first time.

Current UNDP-GEF ABS project activities: Global ABS Project in Albania was launched through a national inception workshop held in December 2017 and other bilateral meetings held with key stakeholders.

In consultation with stakeholders, the project is addressing priority issues identified during the inception workshop, such as awareness-raising and advocacy for mutual support for ABS, strengthening agrobiodiversity efforts in the context of ABS, including options for farmers' rights, and developing inventories of crop wild relatives and local varieties of crops and animal breeds as an important preliminary assessment of the national genetic heritage in Albania. This is in addition to establishing an inclusive legal framework, strengthening coordination, integrating ABS regulation across sectors, monitoring legal export of endemic species through enhanced border control, and clarifying the roles of relevant government and nongovernment agencies and institutions in ABS regulation.

Capacity building is also continuing with the support of the project with relevant stakeholders.



**Based on the description of your country's contributions to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, please describe how and to what extent these contributions support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals:**

Albanian government has affirmed its full commitment to Agenda 2030. The coordination and leadership of the process is provided by the Inter-Ministerial Committee on the SDGs, chaired by the deputy prime minister of Albania and comprising key government institutions, as well as other stakeholders from the business community, civil society, academia and international organizations, including the technical support provided by the Department of Development and Good Governance in the Prime Minister's Office, the SDG Inter-Ministerial Technical Working Group where Institute of Statistics is part of it and the contribution of the United Nations (UN) agencies

Achievement of the SDGs in Albania would require further and substantial commitment and cooperation among all relevant stakeholders in the country. Key challenges in this process include

the efforts for establishing a national vision for the year 2030, particularly in the most relevant policy areas for Albania, the identification of policy gaps and acceleration of action in priority areas, prioritization of the SDGs in a local context, data availability and reliability, and strengthening of the institutional capacities of all key stakeholders engaged in the process, including the monitoring.

The Institute of Statistics of Albania, (INSTAT) volunteered to prepare the statistical annex, a document that was part of the Voluntary National Report 2018, which contained a set of 30 indicators monitoring Albania's progress towards the SDGs, as part of the first attempt to gain an overall SDG picture for the country.

The Government has been regularly monitoring progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

A slightly different assessment is contained in the NSDI-II, adopted in 2016:

- **Albania reached five goals** (health – MDG 5, education – MDG 2, infant mortality – MDG 4, poverty – MDG 1 and gender equality – MDG 3), and is close to achieving the other four.
- **Albania has, overall, reached all the environment-related targets under MDG 7**
- **The current challenge** for the process of nationalization of the SDGs is to propose the vision for 2030, since the current planning documents in the country have the horizon of 2020 or, in a few cases, 2025.
- In July 2016 a stocktaking exercise was carried out, using the United Nations Rapid Integrated Assessment tool, to assess the level of integration of all goals and targets into the NSDI-II and sectoral programmes. The analysis involved the assessment at the goal, target and indicator levels of the NSDI-II and over 50 other national strategies, plans and policy documents.
- In 2015–2016, the country implemented a pilot project to develop and test SDG 16 targets and indicators
- in July 2016, only 12 of the 50 indicators in the NSDI-II and 14 additional indicators included in other national strategic documents are also part of the global SDGs indicators framework.
- **July 2018 GoA presented the VNR in the frame of SDGs implementation**



**SECTION VII.**  
**UPDATED BIODIVERSITY COUNTRY PROFILES**

Please review and update your country's biodiversity profile currently displayed on the clearing-house mechanism. Biodiversity country profiles provide an overview of information relevant to your country's implementation of the Convention.

**VII. Updated biodiversity country profile** (Please review and update the text currently displayed at <https://www.cbd.int/countries><sup>1</sup>)

**Biodiversity facts**

**Status and trends of biodiversity, including benefits from biodiversity and ecosystem services and functions:**

**Main pressures on and drivers of change to biodiversity (direct and indirect):**

**Measures to enhance implementation of the Convention**

**Implementation of the NBSAP:**

**Overall actions taken to contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020:**

**Support mechanisms for national implementation (legislation, funding, capacity-building, coordination, mainstreaming, etc.):**

**Mechanisms for monitoring and reviewing implementation:**

**Biodiversity facts and measures to enhance implementation of the Convention**

**COUNTRY PROFILE**

Albania is recognised as an important biodiversity hotspot in Europe with high diversity of ecosystems and habitats with a large number of steno endemic, endemic, rare and globally threatened species present in the country. Albania's diverse ecosystems include maritime ecosystems, coastal zones, lakes, rivers, and forests, alpine and subalpine areas.

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

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<sup>1</sup> Note: If the online reporting tool is being used, the text of the current biodiversity profile will be displayed. A time stamp will be added to indicate the date when the update was published.

dunes, lakes, rivers, Mediterranean shrubs, broadleaf, conifers and mixed forests, alpine and subalpine pastures and meadows, and high mountain ecosystems) offers rich habitats for a variety of plants and animals. Albania is famous for a high diversity of genetic resources, species and ecosystems.

In Albania there are approximately 7233 plant groups (including ferns, fungi, lichens, mosses and algae) and 5438 wildlife species (including birds, mammals, fish, insects, decapods, etc.). Albania accounts for approximately 32 % of the European flora, while high forests of Albania are important habitats for mammals such as: brown bear, the wild boar, wild goat etc., and many bird species. The rich marine fauna community is an indicator of the high rates of preservation and quality of these communities in Albania. For years are encountered approximately 70 water bird species with a population of approximately 180.000 individuals during winter. Albania is also an important cross-section for the migration of birds and insects. In Albania there are approximately 91 globally endangered species, including *Crispus crispus*, *Pelophylax shqipericus*, and *Acipenser sturio*, for which Albania is a location of special importance.

There are 47 invasive species registered so far. They belong mainly to: nematodes (round worms) (1), molluscs (1), insects (21), decapods (2), fish (18) and mammals (5).

Meanwhile, regarding the flora the situation is more concerning. There are 196 invasive species that have been adopted and cultivated in our circumstances, as well as 81 fully naturalised species and 16 partially naturalised weeds, 11 remnants from former cultivation, nine old species and 38 new cases, where 41 foreign species that were previously registered are supposed to be extinct.

At the sea flora there are 186 registered species. In addition, the list of threatened plant species at the national level is quite extensive, including 319 species, of which 76 species are under critical threat, 123 species under threat and 120 species under worse conditions, all at high risk at the national level. In Albania there are about 32 endemic plant species and approximately 110 other sub-endemic species sharing their habitats between Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, Croatia and Greece.

Albania is signatory party of most important international conventions on biodiversity such as: CBD, Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Bonn Convention/Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution.

### **Measures taken for the implementation of the Convention**

**Since 2014 a hunting ban is in place and being enforced in Albania until 2021.** Reports for the impact of the ban implementation show encouraging results. So from the information on the

status of wild fauna species in application of the hunting moratorium – Law Nr. 7/2014 “On the hunting ban in the Republic of Albania”, 2014-2016, initially.

The moratorium on hunting, initially set for the period 2014-2016, followed by the second moratorium for the period 2016-2021, have shown a noticeable progress in the emergence and the number of populations of wild fauna species.

From last year's surveys and monitoring, the following findings are reported:

- The presence of migratory birds in the vicinity of the coast has been observed, which shows that there is peace and is eliminated to a large extent illegal hunting conditioned the approach of the swarms of these species on the shore;
- The presence of some species such as the Great Eagle of the Ducks in Divjake, or Pelicans in Velipoja has been observed, species that had not been reported for years in these areas;
- Numerous presence of migratory bird species has been added as a result of settling in the wetlands in application of the hunting moratorium - this finding has already been verified by the performance of two census of winter migratory species in February 2016 and January 2017;
- In addition to migratory birds, other types of wild fauna such as large mammals have an increasing trend of their presence confirmed by their presence in trapping cameras set up to identify rare threatened species such as rays or observations specialized environmental associations in the framework of donor's funded projects.

**The International Birdwatching Census (IWC)** is an international program, that has been launched in Albania since 1993 (with a limited number of top experts and areas in the survey).

In the last three years, 2016, 2017 and 2018, the Census was carried out with the support of the Natural Project (EU IPA Program) and with the participation of NGOs and field experts and ARZM staff.

The number of wetlands subject to the Census has been increasing over three years (16 wetlands in 2016, 19 in 2017, 21 in 2018), as well as number of participants (respectively 64/2017 and around 90/2018).

From the data collected in the period 2017 and 2018, the total number of birds identified is about 50% higher compared to 2016 (*Source: Natural Project - EU IPA Program*):

- 98,564 individuals in 2016
- 165 268 individuals in 2017
- 139 069 individuals in 2018

2. The Divjaka-Karavasta National Park is the wetland area that has the highest number of waterfowl, where there are a number of water bird individuals growing over three years - with 15 653 individuals in 2016, 39 999 in 2017 and 46,165 individuals in 2018.

3. Also the Divjaka-Karavasta National Park is the area with the highest number of species compared to other wetlands - respectively in the three years: 41; 51 and 46 species / species (of about 60 species recorded on average annually).

4. For a number of birds, the trend of the number of individuals in these three years has also been increasing:

- Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*): 1354/2016, 2365/2017 and 3776/2018;
- Large oak (*Mareca Penelope*): 4671/2016, 16712/2017 and 15979/2018;
- Sorghum (*Aythya ferina*): 906/2016, 10645/2017 and 7286/2018;
- Rose hare (*Anas crecca*): 3460/2016, 7595/2017 and 12214/2018;

- Spittle (Spatula clypeata): 574/2016, 1 329/2017 and 3 289/2018;
- Blueberry (Vanellus vanellus): 3881/2016, 762/2017 and 6453/2018.

#### Regulating services

Forests and grassland sequester carbon; as other Adriatic countries, Albania has low carbon emissions from traffic, industries and other sources, while the land cover is dominated by nature, resulting in a relatively large proportion of the countries' emission captured by the ecosystem (Schulp et al., 2012).

Albania's Adriatic coast has a good potential for protection against erosion risk; this area combines a high level of erosion protection with a high sensitivity for erosion due to the slopes, sensitive soils and erosive rainfall combined with intensive use of the region by humans (Schulp et al., 2012). Similarly coastal areas, wetlands and floodplains represent a good opportunity for flood protection along Albania's coastline and multiple rivers.

#### Provision of services

Albania's high diversity of ecosystems and species provide a wide range of natural products that have a significant nutritional and/or economic value. The mountainous areas are particularly important for wild food collection (Schulp et al., 2012). Amongst the species of high economic value, one can find 300 medicinal and aromatic plant species, 40 fodder plant species, 50 recognised plants for the production of honey, 70 food plants, and various species of fish, sea food and mollusc (Ministry of Environment of Albania, 2015).

### **Extension of the Protected Areas network in Albania**

Increase of the protected areas with 18,5 % of the total surface of the country (or 526 thousand hectares) through new designation of protected areas or the extension of the existing ones, namely:

- Extension of National Park of Tomorri Mountain,
- Proclamation of Kraste – Verion as Protected Landscape, and
- Designation of Zagori area as Nature Park, **all of them during the 2018.**

The Ministry of Tourism and Environment is working on the extension of Nature Monument of "Syri i Kaltër" and its designation as Nature Park of "Syri i Kaltër".

The map of the current network of Protected Areas in Albania and the database is attached in the Annex of this report.

### **Management plans of protected areas**

Approval of management plans of protected areas: 5 management plans are approved in April 2018 for National Park of Shebenik-Jabllanice, Protected landscape of Buna-Velipoje river, Nature monuments of Syri i Kalter, Palase and mixed forest of Maliqi.

Actions plans approved for threatened/protected species: action plan for Pelecanus Crispus (2017) and the action plan for Balkan Lynx is in the process of being approval.

There has been a process of revision of the inventory and monitoring methodologies for species of wild fauna, as well as monitoring and inventory particularly for birds (winter census for migratory birds 2016 - 2018) together with respective reports on their status.

There is a progress towards the implementation of Nagoya Protocol for which the report of legal framework is conducted and also the identification of legal acts needed in order to fulfill the obligations towards this Protocol.

Through the assistance of GEF/UNDP projects, Albania has established the integrated system and related platform. Contribution is also provided for integrated management of pilot protected areas.

Updating of the Strategic Policy Document on Biodiversity Protection” (SPDBP), which includes the Action Plan, as the key policy document on nature and biodiversity protection domain has taken into account these issues, as part of the National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI) for the period until 2020, was completed in 2015. The next revision will be scheduled in the course of this year.

For the implementation of the Convention the undertaken measures from responsible institutions were:

- Research and studies related to biodiversity, in particular in some project areas through the monitoring program.
- Legal framework, where the law on Protected Areas, and the law On biodiversity protection are the main achievements.
- Republic of Albania has adhered into two Protocols of the Conventions of the Biological Diversity:
  - ✓ The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits through Law no. 113/2012, 22.11.2012;
  - ✓ The Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, adhered to by Law no. 112/2013, of 22.11.2012;
- Action plans for protection of habitats and species.
- Reporting at the CBD, its Protocols and work programs. Albania has report in:
  - ✓ Fifth National Report of Albania for CBD was finalized in June 2014;
  - ✓ Third National Report of Albania to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was submitted in December 2015 and
  - ✓ The National Work Program for Protected areas to CBD was revised and updated for the period 2018-2020 in cooperation with the National Agency of Protected Areas in the beginning of 2018.

## Funding biodiversity activities in Albania

### Project related to biodiversity

Following project and activities related to biodiversity are undertaken in Albania last years:

- Albania signed the UNCCD in 2000 and during 2014-2016 Albanian MoE was assisted in reporting to UNCCD through a GEF project entitled "Elaboration of the action plan harmonized with the Strategic Plan of the UNCCD and the preparation of the National Report for the Convention". Another project related to land degradation is being implemented in Albania GEF-UNEP, for the period 2018-2021.
- During the period 2014-2016 and ongoing there are several other initiatives aiming establishment of information systems related to biodiversity and environmental data. Biodiversity National Network of Albania (BIONNA) database has been finalized in 2018 within the Natura 2000 project. The project's full title is: "Strengthening national capacity in nature protection - preparation for Natura 2000 network". The goal of the project is to implement management plans in at least five protected areas, and prepare a preliminary list of Natura 2000 sites in Albania.
- The UNDP's "Establishing Albania's Environmental Information Management and Monitoring System Aligned with the Global Reporting" (EIMMS) project (2015-2019) will cover indicators from three groups: 1. Climate Change, 2. Land Degradation and 3. Biodiversity with a special focus on climate change and land degradation. This project is evaluating previous environmental information systems in Albania aiming creation of new integrated Environmental Information Management and Monitoring System. Within this project the aim is also to develop and plan the application of standard indicators encompassing UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD conventions. The project also aims at focusing on capacities needed for data collection and processing, data interpretation and reporting towards international obligations of the country. This project does not plan to create its own biodiversity information system but will integrate or relate with the BIONNA database.
- The ALFIS (Albanian Information Forestry Information system) is being developed within the Albanian Forest Information System Design and Quality Assurance project (2015-2018) jointly financed by GEF, EBRD and Swedish Development Agency through the World Bank. The project will establish the Albanian Forest Information System (ALFIS) at the forestry sector. The system will capture information on forests and pastures under all types of ownership. The goal is to create a permanent (not a project based) system for recording and reporting forest and pasture information and avoiding duplication of work. The overall objective of

the consultancy is to support the forestry sector to complete the planning and design stage as well as monitor the implementation phase and quality assurance of the System.

- ANFI Project, financed by World Bank is implemented for the period 2015-2019. The specific objective of this project was:  
Build MoE/NEA capacities to design and implement a National Forest and Pastures Monitoring System that will provide the required information on forest condition, cover and dynamics while at the same time generating new relevant data on parameter such as forest carbon and biodiversity.
- GEF Drin Project “Enabling Transboundary Cooperation and Integrated Water Resources Management in the extended Drin River Basin” is also planning to create Water Information Database for Drin basins in riparian economies (Kosovo, Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro and Greece) related to the management of water resources in Drin basin. The database will contain information related to water quality, water quantity and other environmental indicators impacting this basin. This database is planned to be GIS based. The project is still in its initial phase.
- In the framework of the global project on Nagoya Protocol implementation, Albania is participating, in cooperation with UNDP, as one of the countries of the Eastern Europe, to complete the national legal framework and build capacities for the ABS Protocol enforcement in the country.

Data collection about environment in Albania are performed by Universities and from Non Governmental Organization (NGO). There are several fields covered well by data collection from academic institutions but there are several other taxonomic groups which are still not covered at all. Also biodiversity data collections from NGO are sporadic and mainly conducted within internationally funded projects but with considerably limited scope compared to universities. An important role in data production in Albania has played investigations carried out by foreign scientist. Data provisions remain one of the weakest points in management of biodiversity data in all institutions in Albania. Thus EIMMS project and Natura 2000 project develop together the list of biodiversity indicators which are important step towards meeting standards of international conventions related to environment and biodiversity.

Major laws and regulations about biodiversity in the Republic of Albania are as follows:

Albania has adopted several legal acts regarding environment, biodiversity, forests and nature protection. The main laws and regulations related to biodiversity are presented above. Further, some other laws and regulations are presented as follow:

- Law on Hunting (Law no. 10253, date 11.3.2010),
- Law on Wild Fauna Protection (Law No.10006, dated 23.10.2008, amended in 2012),
- Law on the rules and procedures governing the international trade of endangered species of wild fauna and flora (Law No.9867, dated 31.1.2008, amended in 2012),
- Law on Biodiversity Protection (Law No. 9587, dated 20.07.2006, amended in 2012),
- The Law 81/2017 “on Protected Areas” completes nature protection legal framework in terms of the management of information.
- Law on Environment Protection no. 10 431 (2011).
- Law no. 10440, date 07.07.2011. For the assessment of impact on the environment, as amended by the law no. 12/2015, date 26.02.2015.
- Law No 7/2014 for Moratorium on Hunting in Republic of Albania restricted the hunting in Albania for a period of two years.
- Law No 61/2016 for Moratorium on Hunting in Republic of Albania restricts the hunting in Albania for a period of five years.
- Law N. 7623, date 13 October 1992, on Forests and Forestry Police, amended by law N. 7838, dt. 10.06.1994 and law N. 8906, dt. 06.06.2002

Albania does not have a separate law on nature conservation but it has a law on Biodiversity Protection No 9587 (2006) and the amendment to this law done on 2014. There is a by-law of this law related to the establishment of inventory and monitoring network related to biodiversity DCM no. 84 of 27.1.2009 “On the determination of the criteria for the establishment of the inventory and monitoring network for biodiversity”.

- **Law No. 9587, dated 20.07.2006**, “On Biodiversity Conservation” and **DCM No. 31, dated 20.01.2016**, “On the Approval of the Strategic Policy Document on Biodiversity Protection” (SPDBP), established the legal basis for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and for achieving the targets set by the Convention on Biological Diversity. The law and DCM are based on the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other biodiversity-related conventions which Albania is a Party to, as well as of related EU directives (e.g. Habitat and Wild Bird Directive). The law identifies the instruments for biodiversity planning (Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, biodiversity inventorying and monitoring



network, emergency plans and trans-boundary impact assessments), as well as three protection categories: protected, specially protected and degraded ecosystems, habitats and landscapes.

- The updated National Biodiversity Strategy and an Action Plan for the Period 2014-2020 was developed through facilitated participative stocktaking exercise on biodiversity planning and development of national biodiversity targets in response to the global Aichi Targets. Further to the revision itself and update of NBSAP was aiming at fully integration with new aspects of the CBD strategic plan including mainstreaming the plan, and anchoring it, during implementation, into national development frameworks; also evaluating ecosystem services and promoting ecosystem-based adaptation and resilience. The NBSAP secured strengthening of the national frameworks in terms of for resource mobilization, convention reporting and exchange mechanisms.
- **Law no. 9868 of 04.02.2008** “On some changes and amendments to Law no. 8906, of 06.06.2002 “On protected areas” established the criteria for proclamation of protected areas, as well as recognised particular protected areas of interest for the European Community. In addition, the law provides for internal sub-zones for each protected area or area in conservation.
- **Law no. 81/2017**, “On protected areas”. This law is partially approximated, with the European directive no. 92/43/CEE, “On the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora”. The objective of this law is: promulgation, preservation, management, sustainable use of protected areas and their natural and biological resources based on the principle of sustainable development. The aim of this law is to provide special protection for environmental protected areas and important components of biodiversity.

Another crucial moment with an important contribution to nature and biodiversity coincides with the start of the process of European integration of Albania in 2006, following signature of the Stabilization-Association Agreement (SAA) with the European Union, and its effectiveness in 2008. Further on Albania received the status of a candidate country to the EU in June 2014. The main cross-sectoral strategy after the Stabilization and Association Agreement signature was **National Environment Strategy 2007- 2013**.

Furthermore, the Strategic Policy Document on Biodiversity Protection” (SPDBP) clearly identifies the main areas of work, in particular:

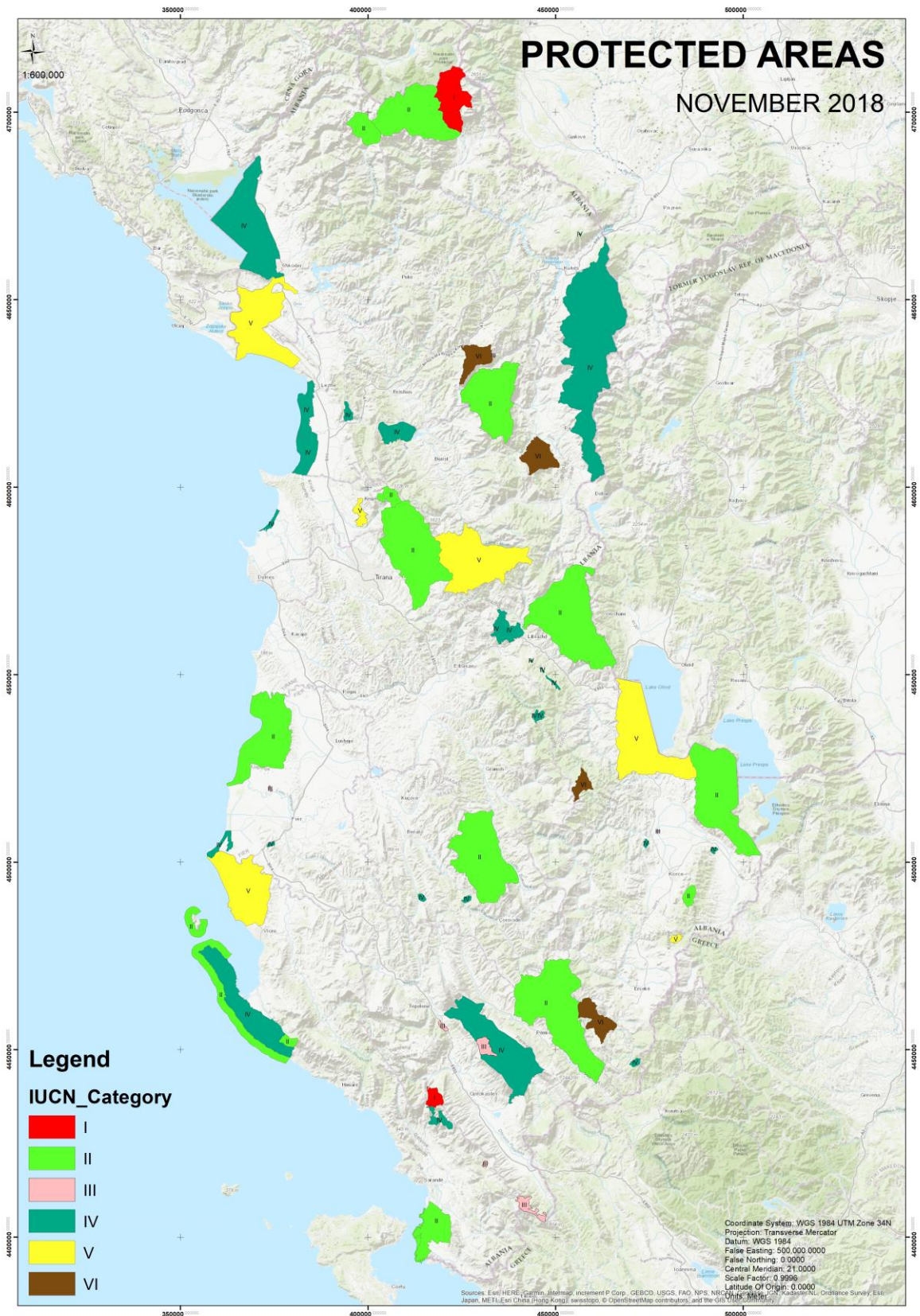
- (i) The increase of the Protected Areas (PAs) coverage up to 17 % on terrestrial PAs and 10% on marine and inland water’s PAs;
- (ii) The elaboration of Management Plans and their implementation in the field;
- (iii) The completion of the legal framework in line with the EU *acquires* for nature and environment in accordance with the Birds and Habitats Directive;
- (iv) The elimination of illegal logging and hunting;
- (v) Implementation of action plans for threatened species and habitats.

Thus, since the approval of SPDBP from 2016 up to now at national level the following measures are undertaken:

- DCM No. 354, date 2.5.2018 “For the extension and designation of Zagori Regional to Natural Park”.
- DCM No. 467, date 26.7.2018 “On the the extension of “Mali i Tomorrit” National Park”.
- DCM No. 468, date 26.7.2018 “For designation of Kraste-Verjon nature ecosystem as “Protected landscape”
- DCM No. 661, date 31.10.2018 “On the extension of Lura National Park and creation of “Lure-Mali i Dejes” National Park
- DCM No. 593, date 9.10.2018 “On composition, functions, duties and responsibilities of Management Committee of the Environmental protected Areas
- Order of the Minister “On the approval of the Management Plan for the protection of the Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) in Albania.
- Order of the Minister for the protection of the Balkan Lynx (*Lynx lynx*) in Albania.

## Annexes

# Map of current network of Protected Areas in Albania





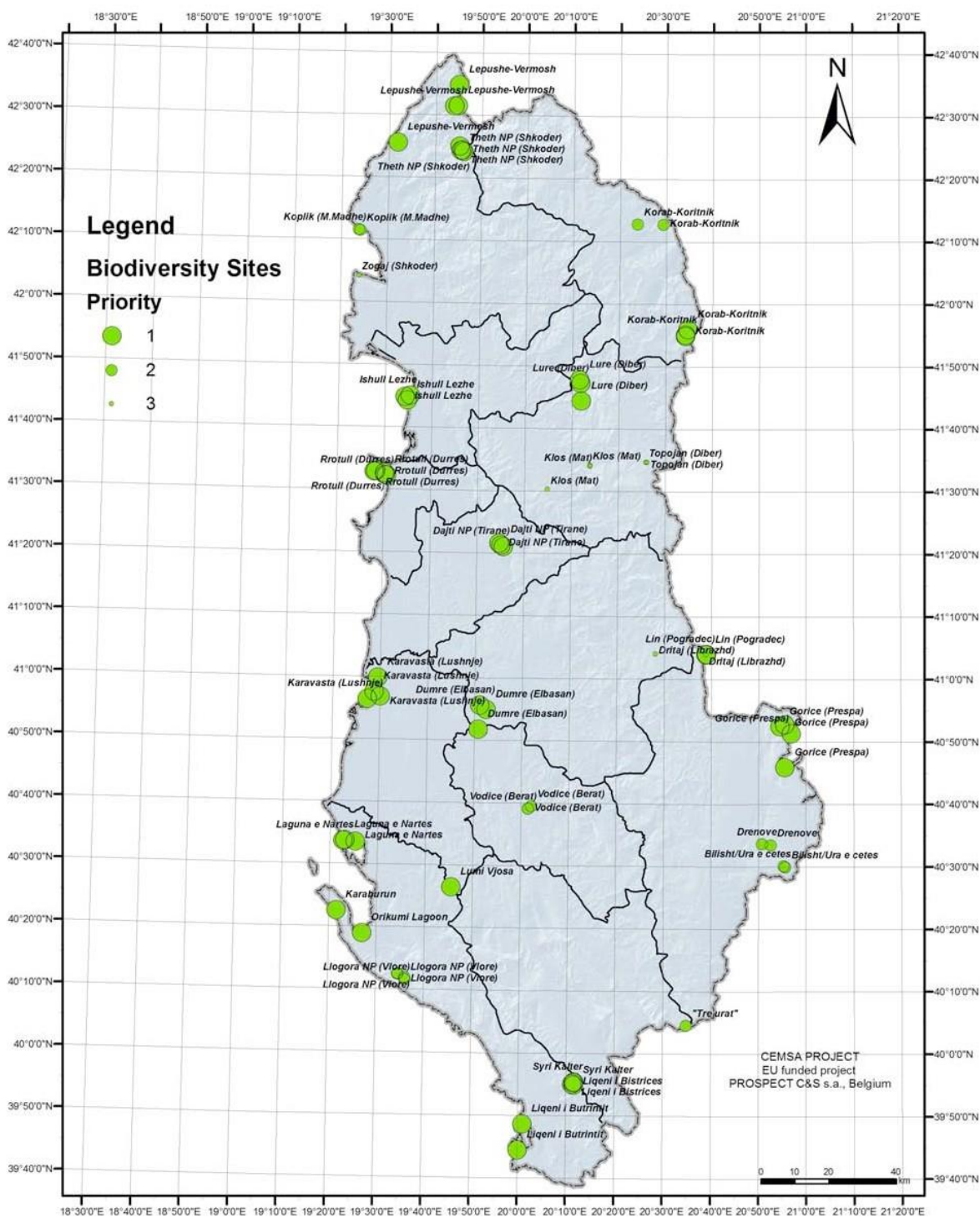


### Summary table of Protected Areas of Albania

IUCN CATEGORY	HECTARES	CATEGORY (Albanian legislation)	NAME	Government Decree of designation
I	10263,33	Strict Nature Reserve	Lumi i Gashit	DCM no.102, of 15.01.1996
I	1798,89	Strict Nature Reserve	Kardhiqi	DCM no.102, of 15.01.1996
II	4782,55	National Park	Thethi	DCM no. 96, of 21.11.1966
II	1379,00	National Park	Bredhi i Drenoves	DCM no. 96, of 21.11.1966
II	1998,65	National Park	Qafe Shtame	DCM no.102, of 15.01.1996
II	34333,32	National Park	Bredhi i Hotoves-Dangelli	DCM no.1631, of 17.12.2008
II	21390,16	National Park	Lugina e Valbones	DCM no.102, of 15.01.1996
II	33894,25	National Park	Shebenik-Jabllanice	DCM no.640, of 21.05.2008
II	1009,27	National Park	Llogara	DCM no. 96, of 21.11.1966
II	12417,89	National Park	Karaburun-Sazan	DCM no.289, of 28.04.2010
II	27727,61	National Park	Prespa	DCM no. 80, of 18.02.1999
II	26106,18	National Park	Mali i Tomorrit	DCM no.432, of 18.07.2012 DCM no. 467, of 26.7.2018
II	29193,27	National Park	Mali i Dajtit	DCM no.402, of 21.06.2006
II	9416,82	National Park	Butrint	DCM no.134, of 20.02.2013
II	21972,10	National Park	Divjake-Karavasta	DCM no.687, of 19.10.2007
II	20242,78	National Park	Lurë-Mali i Dejës	DCM no. 661, of 31.10.2018
III	77,85	Nature Monument	Kurrora	DCM no.102, of 15.01.1996
III	1498,93	Nature Monument	Zhej	DCM no.102, of 15.01.1996
III	180,28	Nature Monument	Syri i Kalter	DCM no.102, of 15.01.1996
III	1738,64	Nature Monument	Bredhi i Sotires	DCM no.102, of 15.01.1996
III	327,93	Nature Monument	Uji i Ftohte	DCM no.676, of 20.12.2002
III	44,60	Nature Monument	Maliq	VKM nr.676, datë 20.12.2002
III	50,02	Nature Monument	Vlashaj	DCM no. 102, of 15.01.1996
IV	24590,32	Nature Park	Zagori	DCM no. 354, of 2.5.2018
IV	249,93	Managed Nature Reserve	Krastafillak	Reg.MA no.1, of 27.7.1977
IV	429,82	Managed Nature Reserve	Germenj-Shelegur	DCM no.102, of 15.01.1996
IV	879,31	Managed Nature Reserve	Berzane	Reg.MA no.1, of 27.7.1977
IV	17102,70	Managed Nature Reserve	Karaburun	Reg.MA no.1, of 27.7.1977
IV	499,73	Managed Nature Reserve	Qafe Bushi	Reg.MA no.1, of 27.7.1977
IV	81,89	Managed Nature Reserve	Dardhe-Xhyre	DCM no.102, of 15.01.1996
IV	250,02	Managed Nature Reserve	Cangonji	Reg.MA no.1, of 27.7.1977
IV	55505,39	Managed Nature Reserve	Korab-Koritnik	DCM no.898, of 21.12.2011
IV	198,24	Managed Nature Reserve	Levan	Reg.MA no.1, of 27.7.1977
IV	330,32	Managed Nature Reserve	Bogove	Reg.MA no.1, of 27.7.1977
IV	45,10	Managed Nature Reserve	Polis	Reg.MA no.1, of 27.7.1977
IV	649,76	Managed Nature Reserve	Rrushkull	Order MA no.2, 26.12.1995

IV	300,27	Managed Nature Reserve	Sopot	DCM no.102, of 15.01.1996
IV	399,86	Managed Nature Reserve	Stravaj	DCM no.102, of 15.01.1996
IV	318,13	Managed Nature Reserve	Dardhe-Xhyre	DCM no.102, of 15.01.1996
IV	329,92	Managed Nature Reserve	Balloll	Reg.MA no.1, of 27.7.1977
IV	26513,81	Managed Nature Reserve	Liqeni i Shkodres	DCM no. 684, of 02.11.2005
IV	1499,11	Managed Nature Reserve	Pishe Poro	Reg.MA no.1, of 27.7.1977
IV	4202,66	Managed Nature Reserve	Liqeni i Ulzes	DDC no. 16, of 03.04.2013
IV	29,98	Managed Nature Reserve	Tej Drini i Bardhe	DCM no.102, of 15.01.1996
IV	4389,65	Managed Nature Reserve	Kune-Vain-Tale	DCM no.432, of 28.04.2010
IV	4996,70	Managed Nature Reserve	Patok-Fushekuqe-Ishem	DCM no.995, of 03.11.2010
IV	3597,52	Managed Nature Reserve	Kuturman	Reg.MA no.1, of 27.7.1977
IV	1612,41	Managed Nature Reserve	Rrezoma	DCM no.102, of 15.01.1996
V	509,63	Protected Landscape	Nikolice	DCM no.102, of 15.01.1996
V	25245,91	Protected Landscape	Mali me Gropa-Bize-Martanesh	DCM no.49, of 31.01.2007
V	23008,53	Protected Landscape	Lumi i Bunes-Velipoje	DCM no.682, of 02.11.2005
V	27301,05	Protected Landscape	Liqeni i Pogradecit	DCM no. 80, of 18.02.1999
V	19722,42	Protected Landscape	Vjose-Narte	DCM no.680, of 22.10.2004
V	1469,24	Protected Landscape	Kraste-Verjon	DCM no. 468, of 26.7.2018
VI	5395,75	Protected Area of Natural Resources	Piskal-Shqeri	DCM no.102, of 15.01.1996
VI	2198,28	Protected Area of Natural Resources	Guri i Nikes	DCM no.102, of 15.01.1996
VI	4741,20	Protected Area of Natural Resources	Bjeshka e Oroshit	DCM no.102, of 15.01.1996
VI	5895,51	Protected Area of Natural Resources	Luzni-Bulac	DCM no.102, of 15.01.1996
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>526334,38</b>			

## Map of Albania's biodiversity monitoring sites



## Annex

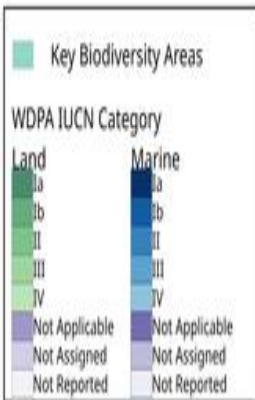
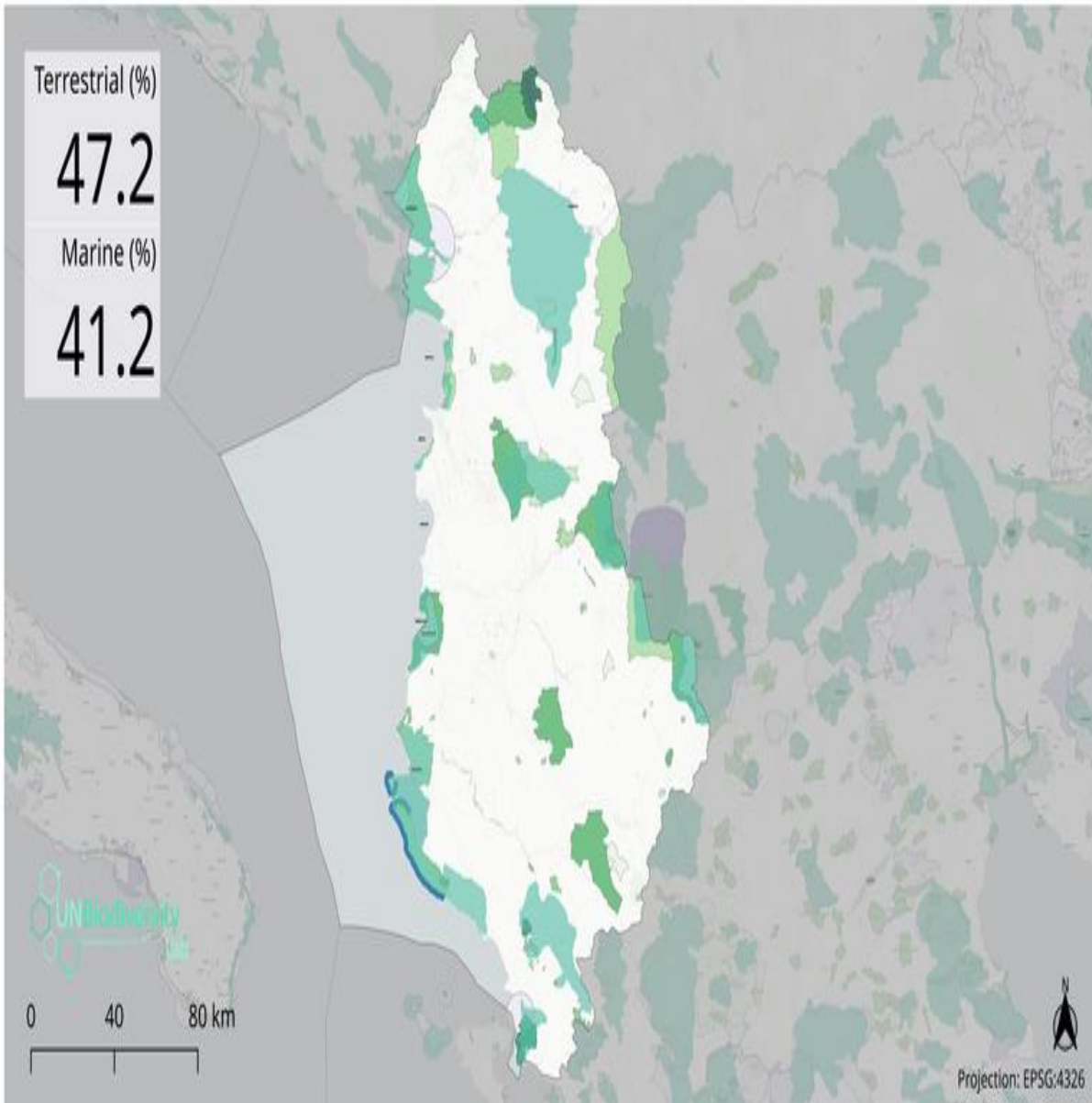
Geographical coordinates of sites selected for biodiversity monitoring in Albania

No	Area / Site Codes	Site Name	Site Coordinates		Priority
<b>1</b>	<b><i>Butrint</i></b>		N	E	
	<b>AL010F01</b>	Liqeni i Butrintit	39°48'43.51"N	20°0'51.52"E	<b>1</b>
	<b>AL010F02</b>	Liqeni i Butrintit	39°44'31.45"N	19°59'55.68"E	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b><i>Syri Kalter</i></b>				
	<b>AL025F01</b>	Liqeni i Bistrices	39°55'9.03"N	20°11'7.85"E	<b>1</b>
	<b>AL025F02</b>	Liqeni i Bistrices	39°55'21.66"N	20°11'28.36"E	<b>1</b>
	<b>AL025F03</b>	Syri Kalter	39°55'29.57"N	20°11'36.27"E	<b>1</b>
	<b>AL025F04</b>	Syri Kalter	39°55'0.1"N	20°11'31.2"E	<b>1</b>
<b>3</b>	<b><i>Sirian</i></b>				
	<b>AL040F01</b>	"Tre urat"	40° 4'39.05"N	20°34'52.79"E	<b>2</b>
<b>4</b>	<b><i>Llogara</i></b>				
	<b>AL550F01</b>	Llogora NP (Vlore)	40°12'39.0"N	19°34'41.7"E	<b>2</b>
	<b>AL550F02</b>	Llogora NP (Vlore)	40°12'35.7"N	19°34'32.8"E	<b>2</b>
	<b>AL550F03</b>	Llogora NP (Vlore)	40°12'04.4"N	19°36'05.2"E	<b>2</b>
	<b>AL550F04</b>	Llogora NP (Vlore)	40°11'45.4"N	19°36'04.0"E	<b>2</b>
	<b>AL550F05</b>	Llogora NP (Vlore)	40°11'44.5"N	19°36'07.6"E	<b>2</b>
<b>5</b>	<b><i>Karaburun</i></b>				
	<b>AL080F01</b>	Orikumi Lagoon	40°18'58.87"N	19°26'58.29"E	<b>1</b>
	<b>AL080F02</b>	Karaburun	40°22'34.21"N	19°21'32.04"E	<b>1</b>
<b>6</b>	<b><i>Kute</i></b>				
	<b>AL100F01</b>	Lumi Vjosa	40°26'32.84"N	19°45'28.47"E	<b>1</b>
<b>7</b>	<b><i>Miras</i></b>				
	<b>AL120F01</b>	Bilisht/Ura e cetes	40°30'16.37"N	20°55'18.82"E	<b>2</b>
	<b>AL120F02</b>	Bilisht/Ura e cetes	40°30'5.86"N	20°55'40.93"E	<b>2</b>
<b>8</b>	<b><i>Narte</i></b>				
	<b>AL130F01</b>	Laguna e Nartes	40°33'39.18"N	19°25'15.83"E	<b>1</b>
	<b>AL130F02</b>	Laguna e Nartes	40°33'46.0"N	19°22'38.0"E	<b>1</b>
	<b>AL130F03</b>	Laguna e Nartes	40°33'53.4"N	19°23'06.4"E	<b>1</b>
<b>9</b>	<b><i>Drenove</i></b>				
	<b>AL140F01</b>	Drenove	40°33'47.95"N	20°50'46.52"E	<b>2</b>
	<b>AL140F02</b>	Drenove	40°33'38.10"N	20°52'38.66"E	<b>2</b>
<b>10</b>	<b><i>Vodice</i></b>				
	<b>AL160F01</b>	Vodice (Berat)	40°39'17.24"N	20° 1'33.16"E	<b>2</b>
	<b>AL160F02</b>	Vodice (Berat)	40°39'16.70"N	20° 1'32.63"E	<b>2</b>
	<b>AL160F03</b>	Vodice (Berat)	40°39'42.99"N	20° 2'12.30"E	<b>2</b>



<b>11</b>	<b>Gorice</b>				
	<b>AL220F01</b>	Gorice (Prespa)	40°52'56.77"N	20°55'28.91"E	<b>1</b>
	<b>AL220F02</b>	Gorice (Prespa)	40°51'27.14"N	20°56'49.45"E	<b>1</b>
	<b>AL220F03</b>	Gorice (Prespa)	40°46'1.01"N	20°55'32.11"E	<b>1</b>
	<b>AL220F04</b>	Gorice (Prespa)	40°52'35.03"N	20°54'26.54"E	<b>1</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Dumre</b>				<b>1</b>
	<b>AL240F01</b>	Dumre (Elbasan)	40°55'42.00"N	19°50'59.96"E	<b>1</b>
	<b>AL240F02</b>	Dumre (Elbasan)	40°55'2.49"N	19°52'23.90"E	<b>1</b>
	<b>AL240F03</b>	Dumre (Elbasan)	40°51'52.55"N	19°50'45.01"E	<b>1</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Karavasta</b>				
	<b>AL260F01</b>	Karavasta (Lushnje)	40°56'55.93"N	19°29'59.17"E	<b>1</b>
	<b>AL260F02</b>	Karavasta (Lushnje)	40°56'31.42"N	19°27'14.60"E	<b>1</b>
	<b>AL260F03</b>	Karavasta (Lushnje)	40°57'40.94"N	19°28'43.08"E	<b>1</b>
	<b>AL260F04</b>	Karavasta (Lushnje)	41° 0'0.01"N	19°29'23.70"E	<b>1</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Lin</b>				
	<b>AL290F01</b>	Lin (Pogradec)	41° 4'9.32"N	20°38'49.12"E	<b>1</b>
	<b>AL290F02</b>	Lin (Pogradec)	41° 4'5.74"N	20°38'47.91"E	<b>1</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Dritaj</b>				
	<b>AL300F01</b>	Dritaj (Librazhd)	41° 4'12.47"N	20°28'4.20"E	<b>3</b>
	<b>AL300F02</b>	Dritaj (Librazhd)	41° 4'14.49"N	20°28'7.79"E	<b>3</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Dajti</b>				
	<b>AL370F01</b>	Dajti NP (Tirane)	41°21'43.3"N	19°54' 40,7"E	<b>1</b>
	<b>AL370F02</b>	Dajti NP (Tirane)	41°21'07.8"N	19°55'35"E	<b>1</b>
	<b>AL370F03</b>	Dajti NP (Tirane)	41°21'22.1"N	19°55'05"E	<b>1</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Klosi</b>				
	<b>AL390F01</b>	Klos (Mat)	41°30'23.90"N	20° 4'58.63"E	<b>3</b>
	<b>AL390F02</b>	Klos (Mat)	41°34'7.22"N	20°13'55.84"E	<b>3</b>
	<b>AL390F03</b>	Klos (Mat)	41°34'21.17"N	20°13'56.44"E	<b>3</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Rrotull</b>				
	<b>AL420F01</b>	Rrotull (Durres)	41°32'53.99"N	19°27'52.90"E	<b>1</b>
	<b>AL420F02</b>	Rrotull (Durres)	41°32'17.89"N	19°30'29.26"E	<b>1</b>
	<b>AL420F03</b>	Rrotull (Durres)	41°32'40.34"N	19°30'6.65"E	<b>1</b>
	<b>AL420F04</b>	Rrotull (Durres)	41°32'17.5"N	19°30'34.5"E	<b>1</b>
	<b>AL420F05</b>	Rrotull (Durres)	41°32'21.2"N	19°30'11.7"E	<b>1</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Tropoja</b>				
	<b>AL430F01</b>	Topojan (Diber)	41°34'47.63"N	20°26'5.98"E	<b>3</b>
	<b>AL430F02</b>	Topojan (Diber)	41°34'52.10"N	20°25'50.96"E	<b>3</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>Ishulli Lezhes</b>				
	<b>AL490F01</b>	Ishull Lezhe	41°44'56.85"N	19°34'11.53"E	<b>1</b>
	<b>AL490F02</b>	Ishull Lezhe	41°45'07.6"N	19°35'18.1"E	<b>1</b>
	<b>AL490F03</b>	Ishull Lezhe	41°44'21.57"N	19°34'45.29"E	<b>1</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>Lure</b>				
	<b>AL520F01</b>	Lure (Diber)	41°47'19.81"N	20°11'46.83"E	<b>1</b>

	<b>AL520F02</b>	Lure (Diber)	41°44'.33.81"N	20°11'53.94"E	<b>1</b>
	<b>AL520F03</b>	Lure (Diber)	41°47'9.15"N	20°12'1.10"E	<b>1</b>
	<b>AL520F04</b>	Lure (Diber)	41°47'56.53"N	20°11'30.30"E	<b>1</b>
<b>22</b>	<b><i>Shishtaveci</i></b>				
	<b>AL535F01</b>	Korab-Koritnik Protected Area	41°55' 03.0"N	20°34' 61.5"E	<b>1</b>
	<b>AL535F02</b>	Korab-Koritnik Protected Area	41°55' 12.5"N	20°34' 71.1"E	<b>1</b>
	<b>AL535F03</b>	Korab-Koritnik Protected Area	41°56' 72.6"N	20°34' 37.9"E	<b>1</b>
<b>23</b>	<b><i>Zogaj</i></b>				
	<b>AL560F01</b>	Zogaj (Shkoder)	42° 4'16.53"N	19°24'1.39"E	<b>3</b>
<b>24</b>	<b><i>Kopliku</i></b>				
	<b>AL580F01</b>	Koplik (M.Madhe)	42°15'38.31"N	19°22'30.67"E	<b>2</b>
	<b>AL580F02</b>	Koplik (M.Madhe)	42°11'39.80"N	19°23'45.37"E	<b>2</b>
	<b>AL580F03</b>	Koplik (M.Madhe)	42°11'30.17"N	19°24'4.06"E	<b>2</b>
<b>25</b>	<b><i>Pashtriku Mountain</i></b>				
	<b>AL585F01</b>	Korab-Koritnik Protected Area	42°12' 54.0"N	20°29' 17.6"E	<b>2</b>
	<b>AL585F02</b>	Korab-Koritnik Protected Area	42°12' 55.8"N	20°230' 48.3"E	<b>2</b>
<b>26</b>	<b><i>Theth</i></b>				
	<b>AL610F01</b>	Theth NP (Shkoder)	42°24'14.18"N	19°46'0.77"E	<b>1</b>
	<b>AL610F02</b>	Theth NP (Shkoder)	42°24'28.00"N	19°45'23.86"E	<b>1</b>
	<b>AL610F03</b>	Theth NP (Shkoder)	42°24'30.01"N	19°45'46.08"E	<b>1</b>
	<b>AL610F04</b>	Theth NP (Shkoder)	42°25'7.64"N	19°45'7.53"E	<b>1</b>
<b>27</b>	<b><i>Lepusha/Vermosh</i></b>				
	<b>AL630F01</b>	Lepushe-Vermosh	42°31'35.32"N	19°43'51.95"E	<b>1</b>
	<b>AL630F02</b>	Lepushe-Vermosh	42°31'38.12"N	19°44'38.64"E	<b>1</b>
	<b>AL630F03</b>	Lepushe-Vermosh	42°34'58.48"N	19°44'51.04"E	<b>1</b>
	<b>AL630F04</b>	Lepushe-Vermosh	42°25'39.25"N	19°31'47.11"E	<b>1</b>



## Data: Key Biodiversity Area Protection

### Country: Albania

#### Data Sources:

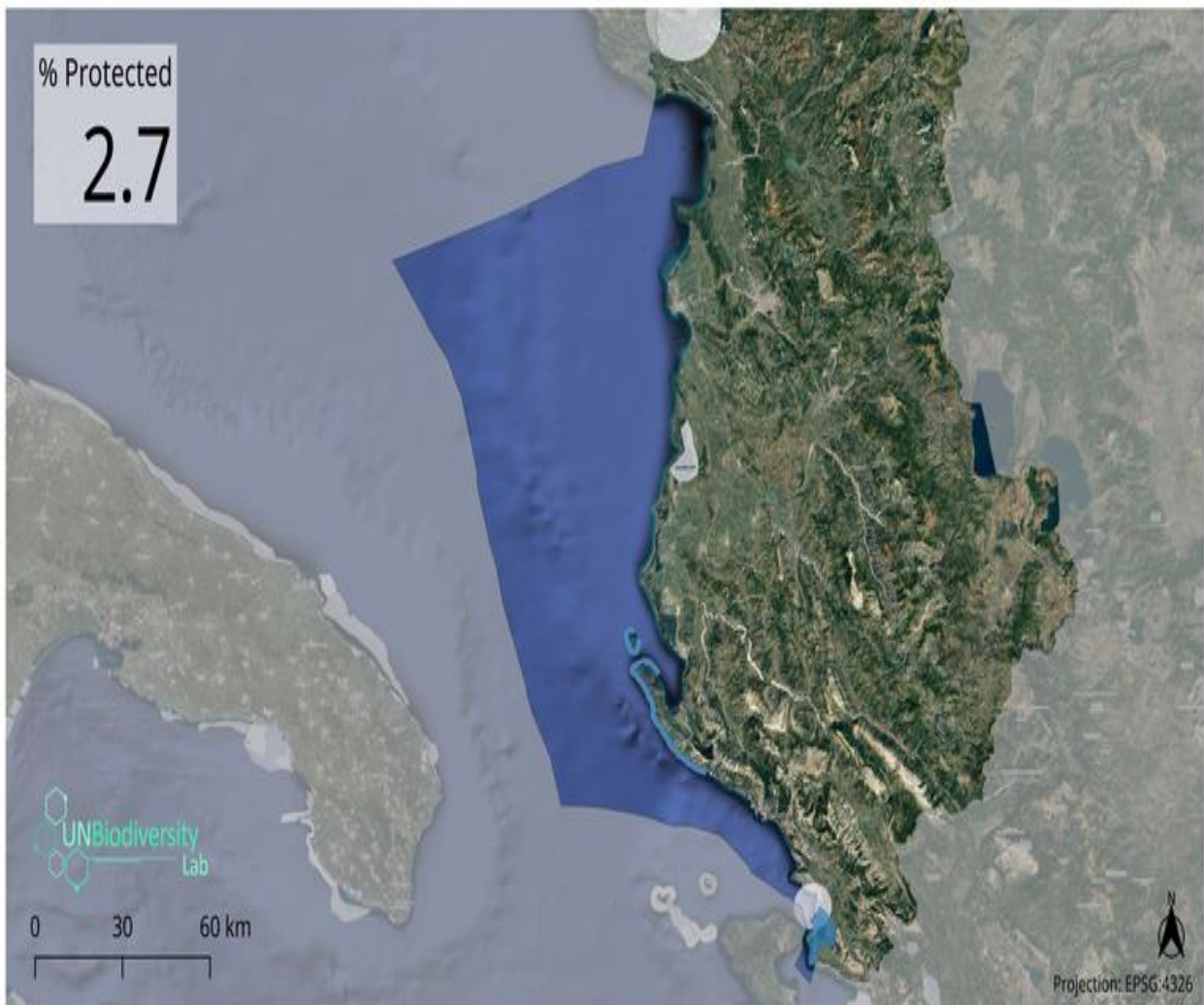
World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas. Developed by the KBA Partnership (BirdLife International, International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Amphibian Survival Alliance, Conservation International, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, Global Environment Facility, Global Wildlife Conservation, NatureServe, Rainforest Trust, Royal Society for the Conservation of Birds, Wildlife Conservation Society and World Wildlife Fund); UNEP-WCMC, IUCN, and NGS, 2018. Protected Planet: The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) [On-line], October 2018. Cambridge, UK: UNEP-WCMC and IUCN; Flanders Marine Institute (2018). Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase: Maritime Boundaries and Exclusive Economic Zones (200NM), version 10; Global Administrative Unit Layers (GAUL), 2015. UN Cartographic Unit






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Biodiversity



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<p>WDPA IUCN Category</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Ia</td> <td></td> <td>Not Applicable</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Ib</td> <td></td> <td>Not Assigned</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>II</td> <td></td> <td>Not Reported</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>III</td> <td></td> <td>V</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>IV</td> <td></td> <td>VI</td> </tr> </table>		Ia		Not Applicable		Ib		Not Assigned		II		Not Reported		III		V		IV		VI	<p>Data: Marine Protected Area Coverage</p> <p>Country: Albania</p> <p>Data Sources:          UNEP-WCMC, IUCN, and NGS, 2018. Protected Planet: The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) [On-line], October 2018. Cambridge, UK: UNEP-WCMC and IUCN.          Flanders Marine Institute (2018). Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase: Maritime Boundaries and Exclusive Economic Zones (200NM), version 10.          Global Administrative Unit Layers (GAUL), 2015. UN Cartographic Unit</p>	 <p>powered by</p> <p>mapx</p>
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