

IN THIS ISSUE:

Editorial – EU meets target for MPAs_____1

Mini-grants for CSOs to support functioning of VC
Radhimë_____1

Buoys installation in NMP K-S_____2

Cleaning the seabed in NMP K-S_____3

MPA Gap Analysis_____3

Info & News_____4

Environmental Days_____5

This edition is prepared by

UNDP Project on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas

European Union meets target of conserving 10% of Europe's seas by 2020



Two years before the deadline, with 625.000 s.q. kilometers - 10.8% - of EU marine and coastal waters protected, the European Union meets the target of setting aside 10% of all its waters as marine protected areas by 2020.

This could bring EUR 3.2 billion of potential annual benefits. Nevertheless, more efforts are required to have a coherent and effective network of marine protected areas in Europe that can deliver significant ecological and socio-economic benefits.

At the **Our Ocean** conference in Bali, on October 2018, the European Commissioner for the Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, **Karmenu Vella**, announced that the EU has already achieved its **Aichi** target and the target of **Sustainable Development Goal 14** on the designation of marine protected areas (MPAs), in terms of area coverage.

Speaking at the conference, Karmenu Vella said: *"In Our Ocean 2015, we announced that we would conserve 10% of all EU waters by 2020. We have reached this goal ahead of deadline. I am proud to say that we are on the right track in maintaining the health of our seas. Marine protected areas can deliver both conservation and economic benefits. But they need adequate funding, effective management and robust enforcement if we want those benefits to last."*

The EU has specific legislation in place that calls for MPA designation and management. Between 2012 and 2017, the EU moved from conserving 6% to 10.8% of its waters, thanks primarily to Natura 2000 - the largest coordinated network of protected areas in the world, which presently covers 9.2% of European seas. MPA coverage has improved in nine out of ten European regional seas.

This is complemented by MPAs designated nationally, under the regional seas' conventions or international conventions. Under the **Marine Strategy Framework Directive**, Member States are putting in practice hundreds of measures to tackle the main pressures on the marine environment and to reach good environmental status; some of those measures are MPAs.



While many European marine protected areas are implementing their management plans, challenges remain:

- ✚ sufficient and adequate marine protected areas still need to be designated to protect marine life and biodiversity from the major pressures;
- ✚ management plans and the conservation measures need to be created and strengthened;
- ✚ ecological coherence and effectiveness of MPA networks in each sea basin needs to be ensured.

© UNDP Project Team

MINIGRANTS FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS TO SUPPORT THE FUNCTIONING OF RADHIMA VISITORS CENTER



It is on-going the work in the frame of "Implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Citizen Visitors Center" activity. The Civil Society Organization (CSO), Milieukontakt Albania, contracted by UNDP for the implementation of this

activity, continued with the next meeting between the respective staffs of Milieukontakt, Regional Administration of Protected Areas Vlorë, the MCPA2 project and the CSOs community in Vlora, the latter being the key stakeholder for the successful implementation of the respective activity and achievement of the expected results.

The main focus of the meeting was to familiarize the CSOs community with the activity in general and priorities & specific orientations, in particular, as well as the presentation of the mechanisms foreseen for CSOs involvement in the implementation process through the provision of mini-grants. In this context, the CSOs at the meeting were also provided with specific guidelines and orientations on the application process (themes, format, deadlines, budget, etc.).



The next step was the announcement of the first round of applications.

© UNDP Project Team

BUOYS INSTALLATION IN NATIONAL MARINE PARK KARABURUN-SAZAN

On June 9th an important development in the National Marine Park Karaburun – Sazan was the installation of 10 buoys, 5 anchoring and 5 signaling buoys. The figure shows the location of signaling buoys marking the marine park.



This activity marked a quite positive development for the management of the site, conservation of marine habitats keeping pace with sustainable tourism development approach.



The process steered an inter-institutional coordination between the Inter-institutional Maritime Operational Centre (IMOC), Albanian Hydrographic Marine Service (AHMS), National Agency of Protected Areas (NAPA), the Regional Administration of Protected Areas (AdZM) Vlorë, and Ministry of Tourism and Environment (MoTE).

The SeaLite satellite GPS system provides the control platform for the buoys and it is accessible from all main concerned Albanian authorities, indicating data regarding the positions and conditions of the buoys. The above mentioned institutions have login details to



SeaLite webpage to access it every moment and check buoys data available also they can monitor it with on time information using different levels of monitoring. The figures enclosed illustrate the installation works, operation of the system and buoys coordinates sent from satellite.

You currently have 5 products registered

Phone	Name	Type	Source	Flash Code	Volts	Alarms	Reports	
355676132510	Lat56	SLPCB1608_Rev2	GSM	78	3.80	OFF	OFF	<input type="button" value="EDIT"/>
355676132537	Lat52	SLPCB1608_Rev2	GSM	78	3.80	OFF	OFF	<input type="button" value="EDIT"/>
355676132538	Lat53	SLPCB1608_Rev2	GSM	78	3.80	OFF	OFF	<input type="button" value="EDIT"/>
355676132539	Lat54	SLPCB1608_Rev2	GSM	78	3.80	OFF	OFF	<input type="button" value="EDIT"/>
355676132540	Lat55	SLPCB1608_Rev2	GSM	78	3.80	OFF	OFF	<input type="button" value="EDIT"/>

© UNDP Project Team

CLEANING THE SEABED IN NATIONAL MARINE PARK KARABURUN-SAZAN



This year visitors and tourists will find safer beaches in Karaburun. A diving group from the Diving Center of Naval Forces has conducted a cleaning operation in Shën Vasili beach, for searching, identifying and removing World War II ammunitions.

Divers and sappers of Military Force removed from the sea 12 artillery shells and 1 aviation bomb, which jeopardized the visitors' lives. After extraction, these ammunitions were handed over to the EOD Group of the Sappers Regiment.



Appreciation and respect for the Naval Force team and Commander Artur Meçollari for their immediate reaction after referral of the ammunition presence from UNDP's MCPA2 project office.



Thanks to them, the NMP Karaburun-Sazan is now cleaner and safer for visitors.



This activity was carried out as part of the services for cleaning the seabed within Marine Park Karaburun-Sazan, by the Albanian Diving Foundation in the framework of MCPA2 project. So far, in addition to the above-mentioned

ammunition, been collected and removed about 80 kg of other wastes in Grama Bay, 6 kg of wastes in Haxhi Aliu Cave, as well as 50 car tires, which were sunk into Shën Vasili Bay.



Such an activity demonstrates how emergent is the situation related to marine and coastal wastes, but also how thanks to devotion and education this phenomenon can be reduced up to elimination.



dump site.

A special acknowledgement goes to Orikum Administrative Unit for the cooperation on tires collection and disposal at the designated

© UNDP Project Team

GAP ANALYSIS AND CONSECUTIVE DATA COLLECTION ON HABITATS, SPECIES AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA THROUGHOUT THE COASTAL AND MARINE AREAS

One of the MCPA2 project goals is to provide support for the establishment of the MCPA network by replicating the K-S



MPA model and experiences gain so far. The project aims to assess the feasibility of establishing additional MPAs as separate MPAs or as add-ons to the existing coastal PAs,

supporting the establishment of a network of MCPAs for Albania. This will be conducted through a transparent and science-based process. A series of particular workshops will be conducted in order to support the proposal on the vision of the MCPA network.

Therefore, UNDP has commenced a process for Marine Protected Areas (MPA) assessment, providing a more in-depth insight as per Strategic Plan for Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs) recommendations for additional sensitive marine and coastal areas, based on sound scientific knowledge.

Part of this process is the provision of consultancy services: **“Gap analysis and consecutive data collection on habitats, species and socio-economic data throughout the coastal and marine areas”**, which are under implementation.



With this activity, general principle in designating and establishing a new MPA, will be applied. The process will refer to issues such as gap analysis of the existing information, obtaining necessary data for developing a dedicated database with specific records from key locations throughout the marine sites of Albania, MCPAs networking with priority areas for protection and key coastal community representatives (stakeholders) to engage in the MCPA network establishment process.



In this framework, on June 6, 2019, it was organized in Vlora a workshop with the participation of all interested partners and stakeholders (including relevant government stakeholders) in order to address issues of stakeholder and planning process, geographic units for the planning process (whole

coastline or sub-regions) overall budget requirements, technical support, timelines, data needs, etc.

Participants in the workshop were representatives of UNDP MCPA2 project, Regional Administration of Protected Areas (RAPA) Vlorë and Fier, respectively; Vlora municipality, Vlora University, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), biology and socio-economic experts, etc.

This workshop was the first in a series of several workshops to be organized in different regions along the coastal area of



Albania. This activity will comprise the socialization process with stakeholders throughout the coastal range of Albania in order to provide them with the opportunity to recognize the need and value of

MCPAs. The stakeholders' workshops will identify the community expectations from their MCPA (characterization and mapping of natural resource and social targets specific to their management area).

During the workshop were delivered presentations regarding the following topics:

- ✚ Position of Albania towards the International (UN), European (EU) and Mediterranean Policies on MCPAs, in terms of adherence and approximation with the relevant national legislation.
- ✚ Policies framework on protected areas in Albania.
- ✚ Development of a preliminary list of the potential areas along the Albanian coast, which are proposed to receive the status of Protected Areas according to the relevant IUCN categories.
- ✚ Current trend in identifying the biodiversity values in the coastal area of Albania.
- ✚ Priority matrix with regard to the new proposed MCPAs. These included the gap analysis on the existing information through the Gap Analysis Program (GAP), identification and selection of priority “target” species and habitats, as well as matrix of the abundance of target species and habitats at the newly proposed MCPAs.

Following the presentations, a questionnaire was distributed to all participants and adequate time was allocated for their completion. The questionnaire was referring the status of PAs and included generic informative questions, as well as specific ones, such as target endangered species, threats, main habitats and species, etc. A specific section on the questionnaire was dedicated to the management structures, processes and facilities for the relevant PAs. The information and data collected from the questionnaires will constitute a good, realistic and concrete basis for the gap analysis and their addressing within the overall objective of the project.



© UNDP Project Team



Significant steps are being taken for consolidating the sustainable management of NMP Karaburun-

Sazan and for making it a model to be followed for other marine areas in Albania. RAPA Vlorë is working on assessing the financial needs for the area management and on defining the methodology for monitoring its management effectiveness. This approach is being implemented by M2PA (Association pour le financement durable des AMP de Méditerranée) for 10 protected areas in the Mediterranean Sea. The proposed areas of Porto Palermo-Llamani and Cape of Rodoni are included in the study.



In the framework of Earth Day, together with Vlorë University students of Master Program on Environmental

Biology, second cycle, was conducted a cleaning activity aiming the removal of waste from the seashore. During this activity, students contributed to the waste removal, as well as became acquainted with the method for assessing and monitoring the wastes. This activity was carried out with the support of the project "Operational support for the management of the NMP Karaburun-Sazan", implemented by Flag Pine Association and funded by M2PA (Association pour le financement durable des AMP de Méditerranée) Project.



It was successfully completed the trail blazing of the environmental path called "The Environmental Path

of Three Parks". This trail comes as an additional activity to the tourist offer at NP Llogara, focused in promoting the environmental tourism. Visitors of this trail will closely touch the rare natural values present in three Protected Areas (NP Llogara, MNR Karaburun, NMP Karaburun-Sazan). This initiative is funded by the ACAP Project, with the support of the Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development, implemented by Flag Pine Association, in the framework of the project "Tourist Journey through the Path of Three Parks".



In the framework of the twinning agreement between RAPA Vlorë and Torre Guaceto, the staff of RAPA Vlorë shared with

their counterparts the recent developments regarding the management of NMP K-S, as well as the cooperation and challenges in relation to aspects closely related to the well-being of this area, such as artisanal fisheries in Vlorë, projects that are currently under implementation in the area, etc. A special meeting was also held with the prefect of Vlorë Region in the capacity of management committee chairman of the protected areas in Vlorë.



With the support of "Prespa Transboundary Biosphere Reserve" Project, RAPA Korçë visited

NMP Karaburun-Sazan and NP Llogara. The main purpose of the visit was to share the experience of RAPA Vlorë colleagues on the usage and management of new facilities for visitors at both PAs of RAPA Vlorë. The exchanged information will serve to host tourists at Prespa National Park. The visit was also used to share information on daily work at the PAs and to enjoy the natural beauties of the area.



It has started the testing of the methodology for evaluating the

effectiveness of NMP K-S on small-scale (artisanal) fisheries, developed within the framework of FishMPABlue2 project. Data collected from fisheries in the vicinity and far from the marine park will help us to prove the importance of the protected area for supporting the artisanal fisheries.



The Sea Turtle Rescue & Rehabilitation Center in Radhima, part of the NMP K-S structure, currently being the

only active center in Albania and part of the centers network MEDASSET in the Mediterranean, continues to take care for specimen in need of medical assistance. The last one is a Caretta caretta specimen, found by the fishermen of Oriku Fishing Center in Radhima. The specimen presents damages caused from the sailing vessels, and it is under treatment at the center, under the care of the RAPA Vlorë

Over 100 students from the University of Applied Sciences in Bredas, Netherlands, visited the Visitors Center of the NMP K-S. They became acquainted with the experience of managing visitors into the park, the challenges and problems of tourism development in protected areas. Afterwards they conducted an expedition to the area, where they became acquainted with the nature values of the only marine park in Albania.



Following the support that the MCPA2 project has provided to the fishermen of the area, a group of experts has been

conducting meetings and visits in Vlorë, with the main focus on fishing activity in NMP K-S. Specifically, this expertise will be focused on fishing and aquaculture activities in the area, as well as the impact these activities have in Vlorë Bay and particularly in NMP K-S. The experts will cooperate with RAPA Vlorë for identifying and reviewing the aquaculture effects on water quality, benthos and wild flora.

May 10th - World Migratory Birds Day (WMBD)



This day originates in 2006, aiming to raise the global awareness of threats faced by migratory birds, their ecological importance, and the need for conservation of their habitats.

Every year people around the world take action and organize public events such as bird festivals, education programmes, exhibitions and bird-watching excursions to celebrate WMBD.

Albania is an important crossing point of migratory birds' routes. About 70 species of waterfowl, with a total of 180,000 individuals, spend the winter in the coastal lagoons and the great lakes of our country.

May 23rd – World Turtle Day



This day originates back in 2000 and it is created as an annual observance to help people get educated and protect turtles and tortoises and their habitats around the world.

"American Tortoise Rescue" supports the World Turtle Day celebrations annually, aiming to bring to people's attention the respect for turtles and to increase the knowledge about them, through human actions to help turtles' survival and growth.

June 5th – World Environment Day



This is the most important of all environmental days, focused on encouraging worldwide awareness and action to protect our environment.

World Environment Day is considered as "people's day"

for doing something to take care of the Earth and bring about change. That "something" can be local, national or global. It can be a solo action or involve a crowd. Everyone is free to choose.

World Environment Day was celebrated for the first time in 1974, and throughout the years this event has been transformed into a global platform that is widely celebrated in over 100 countries.

May 22nd – World Biodiversity Day



The United Nations has proclaimed this day to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues.

Initially, the World Biodiversity Day was designated the 29 December (1993), the date of entry into force of the Convention of Biodiversity.

In December 2000, the UN General Assembly adopted 22 May as the World Biodiversity Day, to commemorate the adoption of the text of the Convention on 1992.

May 24th – European Day of Parks



This is a commemorative day for Protected Areas across Europe that was launched in 1999 with the initiative of EUROPARC Federation.

The European Day of Parks aims to bring people closer to nature and raise public awareness on the values and importance of the natural beauty through the conservation of Protected Areas and natural parks. This day is celebrated especially in the major cities of Europe, where parks serve as "the city lungs" and as gathering places for residents.

June 8th – World Oceans Day



World Oceans Day is an annual observation to honor, help protect, and conserve the world's oceans. The ocean provides us with many resources and services including oxygen, climate regulation, food sources, medicine, etc.

The concept was originally proposed in 1992 by Canada's International Centre for Ocean Development and the Ocean Institute of Canada at the Earth Summit. This day was officially acknowledged by UN in 2008.