

Process Framework for Involuntary Restrictions

Date: 9th November 2018

CEPF Grant: Grant 108695

Grantee: *Institute for Nature Conservation in Albania*

Project Title: *From mountains to the sea*

Project Location

Mediterranean Key Biodiversity Hotspot- Albania- ALB05

(Gjiri i Vlorës – Gadishulli i Karaburunit – Ishulli i Sazanit – Mali i Çikës)

Grant Summary

1. Grantee organization

Institute for Nature Conservation in Albania

2. Grant title

From mountains to the sea

3. Grant number

Grant 108695

4. Grant amount (US dollars)

244,805.00\$

5. Proposed dates of grant

02/01/2019-01/31/2022

6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken.

Albania- Gjiri i Vlorës – Gadishulli i Karaburunit – Ishulli i Sazanit – Mali i Çikës (Llogara National Park, Karaburun Natural Managed Reserve, Karaburun-Sazan Marine National Park)

7. Date of preparation of this document.

11/09/2019

The Process Framework will describe the project and how restrictions of access to natural resources and measures to assist affected communities. Affected communities should have the opportunity to participate in the drafting of the Process Framework. Typically, the Applicant will prepare a draft Framework that will then be shared and discussed with local communities and other relevant stakeholders. Based on the consultations, a final Framework will be prepared. CEPF may provide guidance on development of the Framework and will review and approve the final Framework prior to approving the final project proposal application. The Process Framework should include the following elements:

A. Project background

Albanian coastal and marine ecosystems are under considerable pressure. The risks are linked to the loss of the intrinsic value of ecosystems, and biodiversity and habitats that provide both economic and ecosystem services to the people of Albania. The impacts of coastal development, particularly from tourism and urbanization have intensified over the last few years. This coastal demographic growth contributes to degraded landscapes, soil erosion, increased waste discharges into the sea, loss and fragmentation of natural habitats and deteriorating the state of vulnerable or endangered species.

The project will be implemented in the Vlora Bay, including the Karaburun Peninsula and the Island of Sazan. Located in the southern part of the Adriatic Sea, the area is one of the biodiversity hotspots of the Mediterranean Sea, featuring a variety of habitats with a high level of biodiversity.

The area is home of three protected areas: Llogara National Park, Karaburun Nature Managed Reserve and Karaburun-Sazan National Park. Karaburuni-Sazani National Marine Park is the

first marine protected area in Albania, It has a surface of 12428ha including marine waters around Karaburun peninsula and Sazani island. It is home to a vast array of landforms as for instance mountains, caves, bays, cliffs, canyons and rocky coasts which in turn contribute to an exceptionally rich biological diversity. It is designed to provide a pragmatic approach aiming at establishing equilibrium between sustainable economic development and natural resource conservation ensuring long term protection and maintenance of biological diversity, while providing at the same time a sustainable flow of natural products and services.

Containing ecosystems and habitats that are specific to the Mediterranean Basin, the Convention of Barcelona has classified the marine park as a Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI).

Llogara National Park has a size of about 1,010 ha. The area has a high and important biodiversity in the Mediterranean such as: alpine and sub-alpine meadows, forest pine (*Pinus nigra*) and pine (*Pinus leucodermis*), Macedonian fir (*Abies borisii - regis*), oak (*Quercus coccifera*), typical Mediterranean maquis, typical vegetation and rocks, etc. It is an area with a rich marine and terrestrial flora and fauna. Sub-endemic and endemic species and also many other rare species in threat of extinction (*Taxus bacata*, *Ceratonia siliqua*, etc) are found in the area. Area has a large potential for tourism and ecotourism development.

Karaburun Managed Reserve covers an area of 20000ha. It is an Important Bird Area (IBA) especially for migratory species. Important habitats are rocky coasts with Mediterranean vegetation of endemic species *Limonium spp*; Mixed oak forests with *Quercus cerris*, *Q. frainetto* and *Q. petraea*; Coastal rocks and rocky or pebble beaches; Alpine and sub alpine meadows on limestone and Mediterranean mountain pine forests.

The waters of the Vlora bay are home to a number of globally, regionally as well as nationally rare, endangered and threatened species of fauna. At least 36 marine species, which are of international concern and belong to the lists of endangered and/or protected species of several conventions, are present in area. The marine and littoral habitats are frequently visited by the so-called “charismatic species”. In the Karaburun-Sazan the following large charismatic species have been recorded: common dolphin, bottlenose dolphin, loggerhead turtle, but also the monk seal. This area is considered as a potential monk seal habitat.

The project will contribute in improving knowledge on the threats and distribution of species *Chondrula lugorensis*, *Posidonia oceanica*, *Hypericum haplophylloides* and *Sesleria albanica*.

The people of this area are dependent on the natural resources and ecosystems to support the production of goods and services in which their life and livelihoods depend. Whether they are using the area for grazing, fishing, aquaculture, and transport or even for recreation and tourism development purposes, healthy coastal and marine environments are important to the future of this area. The demand for natural resources in the project area continues to grow creating conflict amongst uses along with loss of important biodiversity. The Vlora bay is developing into an important tourist hub. Destruction and/or degradation of habitats, overgrazing, fires, boating, fishing, intensive aquaculture and pollution are some of the most important threats.

The main objectives are:

- Increasing the knowledge base on key priority species and ecosystem services in Vlora bay and surrounding protected areas and adopt the relevant conservation measures in the existing management documents in collaboration with CSOs, community members and local decision makers
- Raise awareness and improve education among key stakeholders, students, CSOs and wider public on the integrated management of fragile species, habitats and ecosystem services in protected areas of Vlora bay and the surrounding territories
- Improve management and development of the coastal and marine protected areas in the surrounding area by applying innovative conservation programs and creating touristic infrastructure models, to ensure an easy access to selected sites of protected areas and to agree on regulations preserving the natural and cultural values of the area.
- Enable a multi-stakeholder governance mechanism to address the key threats and support knowledge transfer and joint planning for a broader understanding of Vlora bay and its protected areas as a sustainable tourism destination



Fig.1 Map of the Bay of Vlora Bay and the three protected areas: Llogara National Park, Karaburun Nature Managed Reserve and Karaburun-Sazan National Park. Karaburuni-Sazani National Marine Park

B. Participatory implementation

INCA has a long story of collaborations on the site. Especially the last experience, implementation of the project “Sustainable Economic Activities in Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas” was focused on the principle of participatory approach and inclusion of groups

of interest. It was a good practice for the organization but also for stakeholders who felt involved and their voice was heard. We still have this group of people on board, but considering the big gap among the conservation community, the following project will follow the same principle in a wider scope. A wider group of stakeholder will be involved in national and local level and the project will have a wider geographical scope. The local organization Flag Pine, is an old partner and will be involved to assist the project activities. It will be a good experience for the organization and a good chance to raise capacities in stakeholder engagement. Local community members, schools, students and universities will be constantly involved in project activities, to learn from “hands on” experiences. The project will encourage active participation of groups of interest in Management Committee and other decision making organizational bodies, which is key for strong governance and reduced conflicts in the future. The project is in line with objectives of institutions responsible for management of natural resources and for sure their involvement is important to improve their capacities and encourage future better synergies.

C. Criteria for eligibility of affected persons

The project aims to improve the management and development of the coastal and marine protected areas in Vlora Bay, by focusing on raising awareness on better management of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas and promoting joint decision making. No direct negative impacts are intended or anticipated in the proposed project activities.

Anyway project activities might cause unintended negative impacts. The project at the very beginning phase will assess distribution of three key priority species. Important and threaten species might be present in important habitats for fisherman or shepherds. The project is not intended to undertake further management steps; the project team will submit the document to RAPA, as the responsible institution. Even though, the team will monitor the work of RAPA to check if the impacted groups have already an alternative land for use, in case access is denied in any of the important habitats.

D. Measures to assist the affected persons

In case of unintended negative impacts, appropriate mitigation measures will be discussed. The project team will facilitate dialog between RAPA and affected groups of interest until being sure that equal alternative options are offered to the effected groups.

E. Conflict resolution and complaint mechanism

INCA and especially the local organization are already very active on the site. Contact points of INCA and the Regional Implementation Team are already in the information boards produced during the first project experience. Targeted stakeholders and community member groups have the contacts points in national level. However, grievance policy is very important. Just at the beginning of the project, introduction meetings will be organized with larger groups and every group of interest to present the most updated project objectives and potential time schedules. During the presentation meetings stakeholders will be provided with grievance points of contact (Regional Implementation Team, the CEPF Secretariat or the World Bank) and will be informed on the procedure of the grievance policy. It will be written on the project information brochure.

We will share all grievances – and a proposed response – with the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days. If the claimant is not satisfied following the response, they may submit the grievance directly to the CEPF Executive Director at cepfexecutive@conservation.org or by surface mail. If the claimant is not satisfied with the response from the CEPF Executive Director, they may submit the grievance to the World Bank at the local World Bank office

This grievance mechanism must include, at a minimum, the following elements.

- Email and telephone contact information for the grantee organization.
- Email and telephone contact information for the CEPF Regional Implementation Team.
- Email and telephone contact information for the local World Bank office.
- The email of the CEPF Executive Director: cepfexecutive@conservation.org
- A statement describing how you will inform stakeholders of the objectives of the project and the existence of the grievance mechanism (e.g., posters, signboards, public notices, public announcements, use of local languages).
- You should include the following text, exactly, in any grievance mechanism: “We will share all grievances – and a proposed response – with the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days. If the claimant is not satisfied following the response, they may submit the grievance directly to the CEPF Executive Director at cepfexecutive@conservation.org or by surface mail. If the claimant is not satisfied with the response from the CEPF Executive Director, they may submit the grievance to the World Bank at the local World Bank office.”

Following the guidance above, describe the grievance mechanism that you will use.

F. Implementation Arrangements

INCA, with the assistance of the local organization will implement the project and its safeguard mechanisms. Initially the local organization will be informed about the safeguard mechanism and the grievance policy. The information will be shared with other stakeholders during first meetings, especially Management Committee. A form will be prepared and distributed periodically during project activities to track project implementation accordingly, conflicts or complaints.