

CEPF Final Project Completion Report

Organization Legal Name	Institute for Nature Conservation in Albania- INCA
Project Title	Sustainable Economic Activities in Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (SEA- Med)- Field Project Albania
CEPF GEM No.	63090
Date of Report	20 February 2017

CEPF Hotspot:

Mediterranean Basin

Strategic Direction:

CEPF's funds are addressed to the project activities implemented in Vlora Bay, Karaburun Peninsula and Cika Mountain, under Strategic Direction 1: *Promote civil society involvement in Integrated Coastal Zone Management to minimize the negative effects of coastal development in three priority corridors (Southwest Balkan, Cyrenaican Peninsula; and Mountains, Plateaus and Wetlands of Algerian Tell and Tunisia), and in 20 coastal and marine priority key biodiversity areas in other corridors*¹

Grant Amount: 236,628\$

Project Dates: Start date 01.06.2013, End date 31.05.2016;

Grand Amendment: Start date 31.05.2016, End date 31.01.2017

1. Implementation Partners for this Project (list each partner and explain how they were involved in the project)

WWF- One of the most important international partners who provided guidance, technical support to INCA for the project implementation and ensured synergies and collaborations with the other 5 SEA-Med field projects.

Adriatic Center - Since starting the project implementation, was the most important local partner. Adriatic Center based on its experience related with coastal and marine habitats management, assisted the overall project implementation in local level, being part of the core project team as well.

Former Orikum Municipality/Administrative Unit Orikum – Has been one of the key authorities that supported projects activities and delivered some of the outcomes after project finalization. A MoU, signed between INCA and Former Orikum Municipality, since the beginning of the project, enabled an official collaboration between two parties.

¹ <http://www.cepf.net>

During the project implementation representative staff was engaged in capacity building, active participation in stakeholder consultation process and design of the Sustainable Tourism Management Plan, preparation and delivery of promotional and educational visibility tools (materials), participation in promotional and awareness rising campaigns on Karaburun-Sazan MPA, participation in tourism data collection campaigns and research, assisting design of tourism facilities.

Vlora University/Tirana University (Tourism Branch) - Has been one of the important authorities that contributed in design, extraction, education of scientific tourism related data and issues. A MoU was signed between INCA and Vlora University, since the beginning of the project. During the project implementation representatives (professors and promising students) from Biology and Tourism Branches (Vlora University) and Tourism Branch (Tirana University) participated in capacity building trainings, site visits, socio-economic and tourism campaigns, stakeholder participatory process of developing the Sustainable Tourism Management Plan.

AULEDA, SEEP - Local NGOs active in Vlora Region. In the region, they are operating in a broad field of sustainable social and economic development and environmental education. During the project implementation together with their volunteers, they are mostly engaged in wide public participation campaigns (awareness rising, education, tourism data extraction etc). Additionally, they have participated in capacity building training, and have played a very import role with their active participation in stakeholder consultation process of developing the Sustainable Tourism Management Plan.

The National Tourism Agency – Has been one of the most important institutions in national level. During the life of the project a MoU was signed between parties to enable an official collaboration in long term. In collaboration with the National Tourism Agency some promotional and awareness rising campaigns on sustainable tourism development are organized in regional, national and international level. Representatives from this institution participated in different capacity building trainings and sometimes participated in the stakeholder consultation process of developing the Sustainable Tourism Management Plan.

The National Agency of Protected Areas/ Vlora Administrate do Protected Areas- Have been a great partner in national and local level. This institution was established during the life of the project, but very soon engaged into the project as one of the key stakeholders and fully responsible authority for the management of the Karaburun-Sazan MPA. Considering that the administration was a very new institution, responsible staff was engaged in capacity building trainings; rangers are trained on interpretation of natural values and assisted in education activities organized with local schools. The administration participated in stakeholder consultation process as one of the most important institutions, by hosting the last one as well. The Vlora Administrate of Protected Areas delivered the project outcomes and committed to maintain them after the project finalization

The tourism private sector (Hotel owners, restaurant owners, travel agencies, investors, tour boat operators, divers, hikers) -Tourism operators are engaged since the beginning of the project as a key stakeholder to address and encourage nature based touristic activities in the region. Operators are engaged in capacity building trainings, exchange visits, promotional and awareness rising campaigns, stakeholder participatory approach of developing the Sustainable Tourism Management Plan. The active participation of tourism operators was crucial in this process, as very few meetings between operators were organized so far. Additionally they are especially engaged to address the needs for nature based activities, design and potential development in the site.

UNDP – Although was not directly involved in the project initiative, it was active in the site with the implementation of the project “Improvement of coverage and management of MCPA in Albania”, started since 2010. UNDP was one of the partners who supported project implementation with complementary actions and enabled a collaborative environment with INCA and engaged stakeholders. During the life of the project INCA was successful on raising a matching amount from UNDP (Small grant) to implement small supporting touristic infrastructure, additionally to the Small Grant provided by WWF for the same goal.

Conservation Impacts

2. Describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF investment strategy set out in the ecosystem profile

The scope and objective of the project respond to CEPF Strategic Direction 1. In relation with **Investment Priorities 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3**, under Strategic Direction 1, this project has contributed on involvement of civil society in development and implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management, with focus on Karaburun-Sazan Marine National Park and Vlora Bay.

Hereto, within this project, a diversity of local actors: local NGOs, universities, public institutions (local and national level), private tourism sector, are engaged by INCA for the development of the Sustainable Tourism Management Plan of the Karaburun-Sazan Marine National Park and surrounding area, through participatory approach. Through this step-by-step participatory planning process, INCA provided capacity building activities on nature conservation, sustainable use of marine and coastal resources, sustainable tourism management, marine spatial planning, etc. By providing tools and opportunities, the role of Albanian environmental NGOs will be empowered to successfully participate in the integration of nature conservation with coastal tourism development and sustainable coastal development.

INCA, in close collaboration with WWF, developed a series of communications, education, outreach and awareness raising activities targeting a diversity of audiences (the general public, local schools, tourists and the tourism sector) to increase awareness and promote

good management practices, benefits of developing sustainable tourism practices, to increase tourists demand for sustainable and nature-based tourism, and to influence the tourism market adopting sustainable approaches bridging development and conservation.

During the life of the project establishment of nature-based tourism initiatives for the wider public and tourism operators is encouraged with establishment of best nature-friendly practices.

3. Summarize the overall results/impact of your project

- An empowered conservation community, actively contributing to the planning and management of sustainable economic activities in Karaburun-Sazan Marine National Park and its surrounding coastal and marine area;
- A standardized, integrated sustainable tourism management planning process - adapted to the local context – contributing to inter-sectorial conflicts resolution and laying the foundations for the long term financial and operational sustainability of Karaburun-Sazan Marine National Park;
- Pilot nature-based tourism initiatives associated to the Karaburun-Sazan Marine National Park effectively contributing both to local development and MPA financial sustainability;
- Networking, cross-border cooperation and partnerships established between environmental NGOs and between tourism businesses within the Western Balkans and across the Mediterranean;
- Increased general public (including tourists) understanding of the benefits of an MPA and its offer in terms of sustainable tourism.

Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal)

List each long-term impact from Grant Writer proposal

Conservation communities, including MPA practitioners, civil society organizations (CSOs), NGOs and public administrations, in Albania have the capacity, tools and support to promote sustainable coastal tourism development and ensure that MPAs have the resources and political support to effectively protect marine and coastal resources and provide socio-economic benefits to local communities.

4. Actual progress toward long-term impacts at completion

The project started with an institutional uncertainty for the management of PA in the county. Actually, after 4 years the institutional situation is improved and favorable politics for the sustainable management of natural resources are promoted by the actual government.

The project in larger scale displayed and encouraged participatory sustainable management of natural resources (MPAs), as alternative option for the local economies,

which is in line as well with the national political context. But, due to political and institutional transitions of the last two years more should be done to empower the new conservation community, which is not drastically different from the one of 2013, but new more important actors are in place (government). Private sector and ECSOs have improved know-how but more should be done by parties to engage them in decision making and joint management of natural resources.

Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal)

List each short-term impact from Grant Writer proposal

The main short-term impact of the proposed project will be the creation and networking of an empowered Albanian conservation community (including nature conservation practitioners, civil society organizations (CSOs), NGOs, universities and public administrations) that is capable to raise awareness, influence decision-making processes and actively contribute and support a more sustainable development of the Albanian coastal areas. The project also aims to advance nature-based tourism development in association with the first Albanian MPA of Karaburun-Sazan Marine National Park.

5. Actual progress toward short-term impacts at completion

A planning team established since the beginning of the project with multi stakeholder participants; Stakeholder engagement exercised based on preliminary Stakeholder Analysis ensured engagement of parties working on nature conservation, sustainable development and tourism sector. The conservation community established since the beginning and updated along the way, was actively engaged in capacity building trainings in Albania and abroad, development of Sustainable Tourism Management plan of Karaburun-Sazan MPA and other related activities. Today, after project implementation, actors have better understanding of their role and contribution in nature conservation, sustainable use of natural resources, integrated management practices, implementation of best nature-based tourism practices, and participation in decision making and use of natural resources. The conservation community is still active, operating in their fields of expertise with improved knowledge and more familiar with the global, national and local nature conservation terms and trends.

Engagement of the young generation and females especially, was considered of high priority because they own a great potential to influence changing of the local mentality. Engaging in education, awareness raising campaigns, development and design of tourism plans (familiarization tours, exchange visits, national and regional trainings, consultation meetings etc), offered them a great opportunity to learn by doing on best examples of the region, and make them think out of the box.

Today they have in place basic tools and knowledge how to influence decision-making processes and ensure that legal and institutional frameworks are favorable to ICZM and sustainable MPA management, and that sustainable tourism development is promoted in coastal and marine areas.

6. Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impacts

- Promotion of the site as a nature-based tourism potential and contribute on improving local touristic packages and services;
- Stakeholder engagement process for development of the Sustainable Tourism Management Plan of Karabaurun-Sazna MPA, despite institutional obstacles;
- Initiate supporting the design, development and implementation of Marine Spatial Planning Process for Albania. Awakening institutional interests.

7. Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

- Establishment of the National Agency of Protected Areas (positive)
- Territorial reform and establishment of new institutions, responsible for management of natural resources
- Bureaucratic delays in approving and making operational national strategic development documents, to be consulted with the Sustainable Tourism Management Plan and updated. The new National Strategy of Tourism Development (2014-2020) and new Local Development Plans are still not approved; anyway the plan is based on existing documents and strategies.

Project Components and Products/Deliverables

Component 1 (as stated in the approved proposal):

By 2017, a sustainable tourism management plan - including a monitoring plan, a communications and education plan and marketing/outreach plan – produced through a step-by-step, multi-stakeholder approach for Karaburun-Sazan Marine National Park (Albania).

Deliverables:

*A Planning team established and operative in the project area (Orikum Municipality, Vlora region)

*The sustainable tourist management plan of the Karaburun-Sazani MPA in Albania completed and officially endorsed by the relevant authority and all local stakeholders (including the private sector)

*Project kick-off and restitution workshops organized

Component 2 (as stated in the approved proposal):

By 2017, at least one nature-based tourism initiative implemented to promote community development within the Karaburun-Sazan Marine National Park (Albania).

Deliverables:

*Identify the most promising pilot nature based tourism initiative and assist them in applying for a small grant.

*At least one exchange visit organized and partnership established between the identified pilot nature-based tourism initiative and a similar, but more advanced, tourism business in the Mediterranean.

*At least two tourism businesses apply for the certification of their operations.

Component 3: By 2017, public understanding of the benefits of MPAs and their potential for sustainable tourism enhanced, decision-makers engagement and investments in MPAs improved.

Deliverables:

*A communication platform developed and several communication materials produced to inform decision-makers and the public in general on the role and values of MPAs and the benefits of a more sustainable coastal tourism development in Albania

*At least 2 TV program and 2 radio program organized to promote the Karaburun-Sazan Marine National Park and sustainable coastal tourism development in Albania

Component 4: A conservation community (including nature conservation practitioners, CSOs, NGOs and public administrations) has the knowledge, skills and capacity and is actively engaged in the development of integrated and participatory coastal and marine areas management plans and in addressing gaps in governance and environmental policy frameworks.

Deliverables:

The project Planning Team trained and equipped to successfully implement a participatory sustainable tourism management planning process

*At least 1 environmental NGO set operative in the Vlora region

*A Civil Society Organization (CSO) network established in Albania

*At least 30 people (from NGOs, CSOs, public administrations, private sector) trained on sustainable tourism planning in coastal areas, communications and marketing, etc.

*At least 30 students informed about MPAs and their role in promoting a more sustainable coastal development in the Vlora region

8. Describe the results from Component 1 and each product/deliverable

Component 1

* A fully active planning team is established with 7 members from different institutions of Vlora Region. Members from University (lecturers from Tourism and Biology sector), members from two different local NGO-s, Former Orikum Municipality/Orikum Administrative Unit (tourism branch) and Vlora-Regional Administrative of Protected Areas, the local and national coordinator were part of this group. This group was especially engaged in the project activities and is still active in the region.

* The Sustainable Tourism Management Plan of Karaburun-Sazan MPA is finalized and is fully integrated with the Management Plan of Karaburun Sazan and other national strategic documents (Draft National Cross Sectorial Plan for the Coast, Tourism Strategy of Albania). The plan is submitted to the National Agency of Protected Areas as the responsible authority for the management of the site.

*On 8-th October 2013, in Vlora, INCA organized the kick-off meeting of the project. In the meeting participated different stakeholders of different levels (head of the SEA-Med

MPA Project (WWF-MedPO), representatives from the Ministry of Environment, UNDP, Vlora Municipality, Orikum Municipality, "Ismail Qemali" University, local Civil Society Organizations and other actors interested in MPA and tourism sector. A strong willingness for collaboration between parties is shown during the session and after. The event had been part of the local media coverage.

9. Repeat point 8 above for each Component in your approved proposal

Component 2

*During 2014 was developed the "Assessment of Nature-Based Tourism Businesses operative in Vlora and Orikum Municipalities", to identify and set up a simple database of nature-based touristic activities operating in Vlora Bay. Given that according to the study the number of nature based inactivates operating in the bay was limited, also due to the limited infrastructural facilities, Small Grants (UNDP and WWF) are used to improve infrastructure of nature based touristic activities in order to encourage their establishment in the site. Before starting Small Grants investments a series of consultation meetings are organized with tourism operators, experts and the Administrate of Protected Areas to address the most crucial and urgent needs.

*On 3-6 June 2015, was organized the Exchange Visit in Tavloara - Punta Coda Cavallo, MPA Sardinia. The aim of this visit was to learn on the best management practices of this MPA, as one of the most successful in Mediterranean, and replicate them in Karaburun-Sazan MPA. The Albanian delegation was composed by representatives of different institutions including National Agency for Protected Areas, UNDP, Ministry of Tourism, Orikum Municipality, Vlora Chamber of Commerce and the project core team. The visit generated great interest for continues future cooperation from both parties.

*INCA developed two statistical assessments: "Visitor survey in Vlora bay" and "Business Approach on Certification Schemes in Vlora Bay and Karaburun-Sazan Marine Protected Area". Based on the findings of the second report, 73% of respondents (tourism operators) are interested to approach a tourism certification scheme. Tourism operators in Vlora bay are interested to increase the quality of service and set standards in their business, while some tourism operators are contacted and are discussed potential available certification schemes in Albania.

Component 3

*During 2014, a "Communication & Education Strategy" was developed. The goal of the strategy was to set the milestones for raising the knowledge and the awareness of the MPA's values and its potential for sustainable tourism development. Target audiences, road map on communication and education and all other key elements necessary to promote the site and ensure its visibility are addressed in the document. Communication materials are produced like: "Oriku" Brochure, under plate promotional papers (recyclable) with information on the site for local bars and restaurants, Touristic

Guide “A journey to Vlora Bay”, posters and flyers, a short promotional video on the site², touristic information boards etc, are produced during the life of the project.

* More than two TV programs are dedicated to the area. On 14th May 2014, on the daily program “Gjurmët” – NTV was the first program dedicated to the site.³

On 9 July 2015, another TV program was developed in a live talk show "Visioni i Pasdites" a very popular program in Albania, talking about protected areas the potential for sustainable tourism development in the country.⁴

On 15 July 2016, the project coordinator made a public announcement on development of the Sustainable Tourism Management Plan, and sustainable tourism nature base infrastructure deployed in the site, in the morning live tv/radio program “WakeUp”-Top Channel.⁵ (Min 8-15)

On 27 November 2013, Inca in collaboration with Adriatic, lunched the project initiative in the local radio “Vale e Kalter” that covers Vlora Region.

On 6 August 2015 in “Travel Radio” is developed another program on the Karaburun-Sazan MPA.

On 3 October 2015, INCA organized a Press Trip Tour in Karaburun-Sazan MPA with participants from different institutions and different local and national media who contributed with media coverage.

Component 4

*"Adriatiku Center" is the NGO selected as the local partner for supporting implementation of local activities. Adriatiku as a very well known actor in the site, engaged on previous experiences in the field of nature conservation with focus on coastal and marine sustainable development, was a professional representative, more empowered during the life of the project. Today they are an affirmed active actor in the site.

* On February 2015, in Albania is established the network of Civil Society Organization (CSO) “Green Vision” with local representatives of other local ECSOs in Vlora Region. A memorandum of cooperation between the members of the network is signed in this regard and they will be actively involved in activities of the project.

* More than 30 different stakeholders are engaged in capacity building activities during the life of the project.

On 14-18 October 2013, in Vlora was organized a 5 days training workshop “Introduction to Marine Protected Areas”, in collaboration with WWF MedPO and USA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). In the training participated representatives from different institutions like local authorities, local tourism department offices, students and pedagogues of Vlora University (biology, navigation and tourism departments), representatives of Marine District, participants from local Civil Society

² https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s_t_ZBv_L4

³ www.olwebtv.com/ntv-albania-neser-tv

⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XhSvJb2tR5s&feature=youtu.be>

⁵ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_CZf114GZUk&feature=share

Organizations, MPA Karaburun-Sazan staff, etc. About 37 persons are trained on MPAs and their management.

The planning team participated in three other regional trainings, organized in the frame of SEA-Med regional initiative, with the support of WWF-MedPO.

On 22-24 January 2015, in Vlora was organized the national training on sustainable tourism management. This training gathered main institutional stakeholders from national, central and local government operating in tourism sector such as General Directorate of Tourism, National Agency of Tourism (both part of Tourism Agency), Regional Vlora Council, Vlora and Orikum Municipalities representatives, Chamber of Commerce representatives, professors and students of Vlora University, private business operating in tourism, international invited speakers and tourism experts.

During 2015, three other small capacity building trainings are organized in parallel with the consultation process of developing the STMP, by engaging a group of around 25-30 local stakeholders.

During November 2016 are organized other capacity building trainings on Marine Spatial Planning with local and national stakeholders.

* More than 30 students from tourism and biology branches are informed about MPAs and their role in promoting a more sustainable coastal development, while participating in capacity building trainings, development of awareness raising and communication campaigns on natural and historical values of the MPA.

10. If you did not complete any component or deliverable, how did this affect the overall impact of the project?

The entire project's components or deliverables are completed. During the life of the project with the consultation with WWF as the project supervisor and approve of CEPF small adjustments in activity level are implemented, in order to fully completed the project components and deliverables.

11. Please describe and submit any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results

Studies and assessments:

*The Sustainable Tourism Management Plan for Karaburun-Sazan Marine Protected Area

*Assessment of nature-based tourism businesses operative in Vlora and Orikum Municipalities

*Assessment of sustainable tourism-related certification schemes available in or appropriate for Albania

*Communication Strategy for Karaburun-Sazan Marine Protected Area, 2014-2016

*Marine Spatial pre-planning process for Albania, with a focus on Vlora Bay

Visibility tools:

- *Video “Sustainable Tourism activities in Karaburun-Sazan Marine Protected Area” (5 min)
- *A journey to Vlora Bay, Touristic Guide
- *Oriku (Touristic guide leaflet)

Benefits to Communities

12. Please describe the communities that have benefited from CEPF support

Please report on the size and characteristics of communities and the benefits that they have received, as a result of CEPF investment. Please provide information for all communities that have benefited **from project start to project completion**.

Community Name	Community Characteristics							Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit												
	Subsistence economy	Small landowners	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists / nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Other*	Size of Community				Increased access to clean water	Increased food security	Increased access to energy	Increased access to public services (e.g. health care, education)	Increased resilience to climate change	Improved land tenure	Improved recognition of traditional knowledge	Improved representation and decision-making in governance forums/structures	Improved access to ecosystem services
								50-250 people	251-500 people	501-1,000 people	Over 1,001 people									
Orikum Community		X								X								X		X
Vlora Community						X					X							X		X

*If you marked "Other" to describe the community characteristic, please explain:

Lessons Learned

13. Describe any lessons learned related to organizational development and capacity building.

- Engaging relevant stakeholders was not difficult at the beginning of the project, but due to political and institutional changes, during 2013-2014, engaging new responsible stakeholders was a challenge. The project team committed to bring the new institutions into the table. Fortunately in local context, persons engaged on the project (government), had no drastic changes. Their institutions had internal organization reforms, or people are appointed in new set up institutions like National Agency of Protected Areas. So there was no significant lost of knowhow during the institutional transition.
- Experience exchanging occurred during the life of the project. Capacity building trainings have been a very good tool to learnt and update the information, on new topics for local stakeholders like: *Management of MPA; Sustainable tourism development inside MPA; Marine Spatial Planning* etc. Beyond that, international expertise contracted for the implementation of different project components, had been a great opportunity for the planning team to exchange professional experience.
- Exchange visits have been a very good back up tool of training sessions, but more *on the field* should be exercised in combination with training sessions.

14. Describe any lessons learned related to project Design Process (*aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)

- Albanian political fragility is anticipated during project proposal. To mitigate potential political transitions, enforcing local structures is considered important to accomplish project objectives.
- Multi stakeholder engagement is one of the most important methodologies used in the project. It successfully taught stakeholders that PA management is a public good, accomplished only through multi stakeholder participation.

15. Describe any lesson learned related to project Implementation (*aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)

- The project offered a visionary opportunity, especially for local stakeholders to start supporting and encouraging alternative nature friendly touristic alternatives in the Marine Protected Area and the surroundings, to ensure improved touristic service and alternative incomes for the local communities.
- Exercising a pilot nature-based tourism initiative associated to the Karaburun-Sazan Marine National Park, preparing a Sustainable Tourism Management Plan for the Karaburun-Sazan MPA and offering capacity building for the conservation community, effectively contributed to both local development and MPA financial sustainability.
- During implementation of project activities, stakeholders had the opportunity to network and start up collaboration and partnerships related with their institutional responsibilities.
- Increased general public (including tourists) understanding of the benefits of an MPA and its offer in terms of sustainable tourism, through implementation of different public awareness rising campaigns.

16. Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community

- The empowered conservation community is capable to capitalize the project results and focus towards more sustainable development of coastal areas in Albania. They already have improved skills and capacities and are able to use all tools and opportunities to successfully achieve the integration of nature conservation with the sustainable coastal tourism development.

Sustainability / Replication

17. Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated

Albanian society is generally younger, but due to political and financial un sustainability, many of them are willing to leave the country. The overall project goal, in larger scale, displayed and encouraged participatory sustainable management of natural resources (MPAs), as alternative option for the local economies. The project managed to engage different stakeholders (government, NGOs, private sector) in a planning process (development of the Sustainable Tourism Management Plan through participatory approach), by showing best management practices, and contributed to empower the conservation community to work on nature conservation. As such:

- (I) This project experience should be replicated to other KBAs in the country
- (II) Should continue in the same KBA, to further support implementation of the Sustainable Financing Mechanisms inside the MPA, in the same time by enforcing capacities of the new local governmental bodies, empowering the role of local ECSOs and private sector as the most vulnerable stakeholders.

18. Summarize any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability

On 2015, during the project implementation, was established the National Agency of Protected Areas. This action was a fundamental step for Protected Areas management in the country. As such, a special focus on capacity building was given to the new staff of the local administrate of protected areas, responsible for the Karaburun-Sazan MPA administration, by engaging them in different capacity building trainings, education programs etc. This action, although not specifically planned, increased project sustainability. However, considering that the new staff has mostly forestry background and they could participate only on 2016 trainings and activities, more should be done to follow-up this process. Actually, they are crucial stakeholders that should have very good know-how on conservation and management of MCPAs.

Safeguards

19. If not listed as a separate Project Component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social and environmental safeguards that your project may have triggered

Environmental safeguards:

The Small Grants funds (WWF and UNDP) are used to improve local nature-based tourism infrastructures. Demarcation mooring buoys are installed in borders of the MPA to avoid anchoring on critical areas (*Posidonia* meadows); development of educational terrestrial and snorkeling trails; establishment of 2 information boards in Vlora and Orikun City.

An EIA is prepared for deployment of sustainable tourism infrastructure in Karaburun Peninsula and Sazani Island in order ensures that natural resources are not damaged and all physical works are done in line with natural conditions of the area. Additionally, the document gives instructions to better deploy the infrastructure and mitigate environmental impacts.

Social safeguards:

Involvement of women is considered of high importance, as they have an important role in improving and changing the local community and are a vulnerable group engaged in conservation, especially in local level.

Young active woman engaged in conservation, NGO sector and tourism entrepreneurship participated in capacity building, socio-economic and awareness rising campaigns in the field, development and design of the Sustainable Tourism Management Plan of Karaburun-Sazan MPA and today they are better known in their local areas, with improved professional conservation skills.

Additional Funding

20. Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of CEPF investment

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
UNDP	B	25.000	Both funds are managed by INCA to address the public needs regarding establishment of nature-based touristic infrastructure in the park and to contribute on establishing financial mechanisms inside the park. Sustainable infrastructure investments are deployed based in the needs addresses in the

			Management Plan and Sustainable Tourism Management Plan.
WWF	B	25.000	

* Categorize the type of funding as:

- A *Project Co-Financing (other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)*
- B *Grantee and Partner Leveraging (other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project)*
- C *Regional/Portfolio Leveraging (other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project)*

Additional Comments/Recommendations

21. Use this space to provide any further comments or recommendations in relation to your project or CEPF

Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

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