

“Karaburun-Sazan” Marine National Park – MSP process

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National targets

- By 2020, ensure full approximation and implementation of the EU *acquis* in the field of nature protection;
- By 2015, have a strategic document for the biodiversity (NBSAP) revised and approved – in line with Aichi target 17;
- By 2020 establish a conservation target of 17 % of terrestrial & inland water areas and 5 % of marine & coastal areas. Establishment of the National Ecological Network of Albania as an integral part of the Pan-European Ecological Network (PEEN) – in line with Aichi target 11.
- Restore at least 15 % of degraded areas through conservation and restoration activities – in line with Aichi targets 11, and 5.
- Improve sustainable agriculture and forestry – in line with Aichi target 7 and 5;
- Implement the Nagoya protocol on access and benefit sharing of genetic resources and benefits that arise from their use – in line with Aichi target 16.

Nature protection and protected areas

The document of strategic policies itself is of great importance as it represents the vision and objectives of national priorities in relation with and in the frame of global objectives '*aichi targets*' of Biodiversity Convention for the time frame up to 2020.

Objective up to 2020:

- ensuring the complete approximation and implementation of *EU acquis* related to nature protection.
- 17 % of terrestrial territory and of internal waters, as well as 5-6 % of coastal area to be designated and declared as protected areas
- At least, 15% of degraded areas to be rehabilitated through conservation and rehabilitation measures.

Moreover, in the field of ***nature protection***, policies are prepared to guarantee:(i) the protection of protected areas;(ii) the implementation of regulations adopted in 2011 on establishing special protected areas under the framework Nature 2000;(iii) measures to ban illegal activities such as hunting, logging and construction in protected areas without a permit;(iv)strengthening the administrative capacity of the inspectorate in order to suppress these phenomena.

- The law on protection and conservation wild fauna and flora is just approved
- New draft law on hunting is under preparation
- Additional protected areas are being designated and extended – **actually the terrestrial protected areas cover 18.5% of the Albania.**
- A new package of bylaws coming from the law on protected areas are in the process of preparation.

Issues & Challenges on protected areas management

- Habitat loss and fragmentation
- Illegal logging and hunting
- Very low income from activities taking place within PAs
- Lack of financial mechanisms that allow the return of income from PAs to be allocated for rehabilitation and other investments on PAs....
- Human and financial resources limitations

Challenges and priority needs

- Review and update the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.
- Urgent measures for the implementation of legislation.
- Consolidate and increase the performance of central and local actors. for the good management of Nature, PA and Biodiversity.
- Establishment of administrations, capacity building and training of control and enforcement staff for legislation and for nature and biodiversity management staff.
- Increase interaction and take responsibility between actors at central, local and individual level.
- Infrastructure and financial support for control and management measures.

Albania commitment with international instruments

Table 2: **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, Montego Bay, 10 December 1982.** In force 6 November 1994, ratified on 23 June 2003

Convention of Biological Diversity, Rio de Janeiro, 5 June 1992, entry into force: 29 December 1993 Albania is a party to the CBD since 5 January 1994 and ratified it on 10.11.1996

Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar) Came into force for Albania on 29 February 1996
The World Heritage Convention Ratified by Albania on 1979

Albania commitment with ICZM Protocol and MSP Directive

- Since 1995, Albania embraced the Coastal Zone Management Planning Initiative in cooperation with the World Bank, the EU, EIB, UNDP, and UNEP through the METAP and the UNEP's MAP PAP and prepared its CZM Plan, providing a framework for implementation of relevant institutional capacity building and investment programs. This plan was approved by DCM no.364, dated 18.07.2002.
- Albania became Party to the ICZM protocol since 2010, but did not adopt any specific legislation dedicated to ICZM. Directive 2014/89/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 **establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning** has not been transposed yet Consultation n°08-2019-SPA/RAC 2nd Draft Report 33 into national legislation. An effort is being done to fully transpose The Marine Strategy Framework Directive in a draft DCM (2014), through the drafting of the law on Integrated Water Resources.
- Nevertheless, there is a number of acts and policy documents, such as those on nature and biodiversity, protected areas, water, fisheries and aquaculture, environment impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment, spatial planning, etc., supporting and in line with the ICZM principles and goals. They have transposed EU and/or have responded to the requirements of Multilateral Environmental Agreements where Albania is a party.
- Numerous institutions are in place to implement, monitor and report on the status of implementation and achievements. A number of line ministries, implementing agencies and inspectorates are given responsibilities in different areas of activities covered under ICZM. National Territory and Water Councils are in place, Local Government has been given responsibilities, advisory commissions are in place, do's and don'ts, activities permitted and those prohibited are made clear in each legislation, criminal offenses in ICZM and marine areas relevant activities are identified. It is a well-known that implementation and enforcement of the law in Albania are not yet at the desired levels from lack of proper financing and of proper dedicated human capacities.
- Lack of a framework legislation on MSP.
- **ICZM Protocol and the Marine Spatial Planning Directive may need to be considered (short to medium run) for transposition into specific dedicated national legislation, as a framework legislation, so to ensure the integrity and the synergy of the implementation of the existing thematic legislation, described in this report, as well as their proper monitoring and reporting. Such framework law needs to provide the arrangements for the coordination at the national and local level of all activities carried out under specific legislation, so that the overall potential of the coastal zone and marine area are not exceeded and their resilience is not compromised. On the other hand, financial, human capacities and training needs assessment is to be carried for the proper**

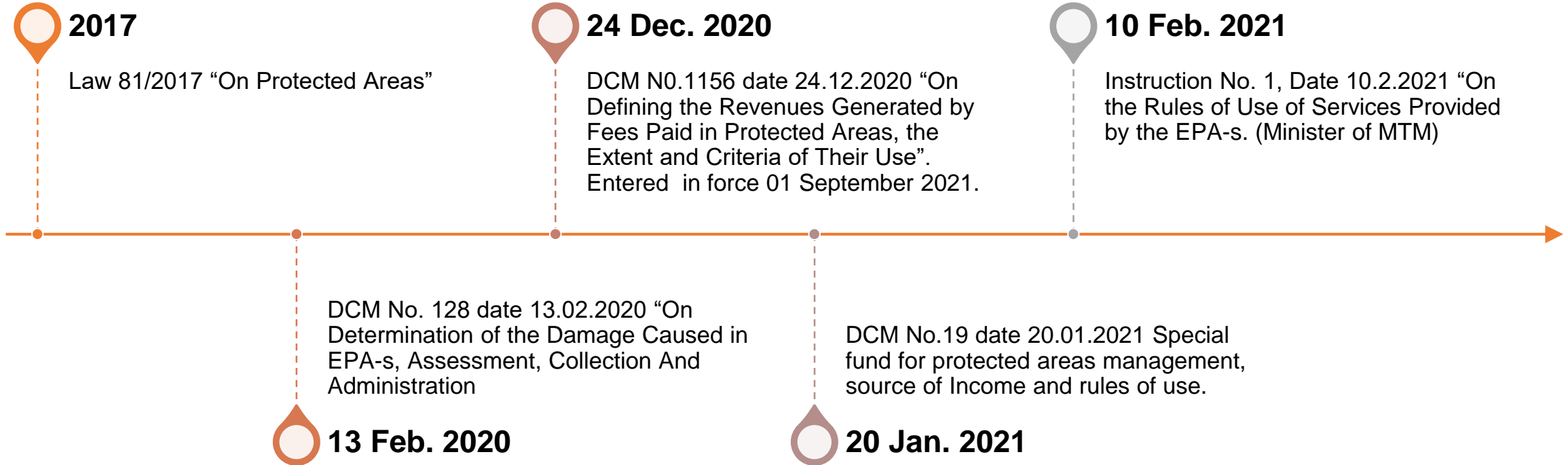
ICZM RELEVANT POLICY IN ALBANIA

National Strategy for Development and Integration 2015-2020 It emphasizes the need to:

- establish the Natural 2000 ecological network for Albania and the European Community;
- restructure and empower the protected areas management structures; and
- ensure more effective implementation of management plans for protected areas and action plans for species and habitats.
- Strategic Policies for the Protection of Biodiversity The **Document of Strategic Policies for the Protection of Biodiversity** (DSPPB) identifies its goals:
- By 2020, ensure full approximation and implementation of the EU acquis in the field of nature protection;
- By 2015, have a strategic document for the biodiversity (NBSAP) revised and approved – in line with Aichi target 12;
- By 2020 establish a conservation target of 17 % of terrestrial & inland water areas and 5 % of marine & coastal areas.
- Establishment of the National Ecological Network of Albania as an integral part of the Pan-European Ecological Network (PEEN) – in line with Aichi target 11;
- Restore at least 15 % of degraded areas through conservation and restoration activities – in line with Aichi targets – this action will be achieved through the implementation of management plans for Protected Areas and through the implementation of single species action plans for species and habitats; More sustainable agriculture and forestry – in line with Aichi targets;
- Implement the Nagoya protocol on access and benefit sharing of genetic resources and benefits that arise from their use – in line with Aichi target Strategic Plan for Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (draft)
- Development 2018 – 2022 The National Strategy on Sustainable Tourism Development 2018–2022 (NSSTD) is a policy instrument looking at protection, conservation and management of natural and cultural resources and in particular the development of natural protected areas, sites with cultural and historical values, and natural landscapes.
- Fisheries Strategy 2016–2021 This strategy presents an overall strategic vision for the medium term development of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors in Albania.
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- Rural and agricultural development cross-cutting strategy 2014-2020” The Cross-Sector Strategy for Rural and Agricultural Development (CSSRAD) was approved by DCM No. 709, dated 29.10.2014. It was developed under Europe 2020 strategy for fast, sustainable and inclusive growth and Albania’s overall strategic objective of EU membership.
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Legal framework on protected areas - Albania

2017 -2021



Challenges / Future task



Measure and
ensure
management
effectiveness



Successful
implementation
of the new Law/
bylaws on
Protected Areas



Marine Spatial
Planning for
Vlora Bay



Small scale
fisheries
management



Visitor control in
the marine and
coastal areas



Regulation of
touristic
activities
(permitted
marine vessels)



Creating a
financial
mechanism for
sustainability

Existing structures that are in charge of administration and management of the coastal area



At the national level main structures are:

National Territory Council headed by the Prime Minister as defined in the provisions of the Law On territory Planning;

At local level most important structures related to ICZM are:

MoTE - General Directorate of Environmental Policies, General Directorate of Tourism development Policies as well as its line agencies such as NAPA and its branches in districts (RAPAs /Protected Areas administrations)

National Agency of Territory Planning as an authority responsible for planning, subordinate to the MoE responsible for territorial planning and development issues; it ensures the implementation of relevant territorial planning framework and coordination between territorial planning authorities, administers and maintains the territorial planning database (National Registry of Territorial Planning);

Ministry of Economy that is in charge of economic

Local government authorities namely: municipalities (inc former communes' structures) with their respective municipal Councils of Territories Planning that deal with small scale developments of regional importance;

Management Committees of Protected Areas for territories that are designated as Protected Areas in

Preliminary remarks on changes, impacts and risks (study on MSP at Vlora)

There has been identified identify both apparent current trends, and project what future trends might look like in areas such as:

- Increased demand in fresh water for local population, tourism, agriculture, industry, etc. • Increased demands for energy in Albania, the Adriatic and globally and the trends in both non-renewable (oil and gas development) and renewable energy sources found in the marine environment (offshore wind, wave or current energy)
- Increased shipping and marine transport in the Adriatic, both increase in shipping and the size of vessels
- Increased demand for tourism development and recreational uses as Albania is recognized as an emerging tourism destination because of its pristine environment and cultural attractions
- Increased demand for fish and seafood with average per capita increase in consumption predicted globally, a similar trend is likely in the Adriatic
- Increased demand for agriculture which is expanding and becoming increasingly focused on efficiency and output resulting in discharges of phosphorous, nitrogen and other pollutant causing eutrophication of marine ecosystems
- Increased demand for infrastructure development including the building of ports and harbours, bridges and roads, solid waste and waste water systems, for both resident and tourists – all to meet the growing influx and uses of the coastal and marine environment

Focus of the MSP process

At the present stage, with an incomplete set of data for evaluating properly the status of the Vlorë area, some of the orientations for the future planning and management of the marine environment.

Considering the existing pressures and demands for this coastal region, its development will increase these pressures, and in particular concerning the needs for fresh water, energy, infrastructures (in particular for transport, industry and tourism) and food supply (from agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture).

On the marine side, the MSP process will need to focus in particular on five main domains of activities that can generate impacts, risks or reduction of the equality of the marine environment: - **Fisheries - Aquaculture - Maritime transport and ports - Tourism and recreation - Conservation areas, cultural and historical sites**



Thank you