

Sustainable Development of Coastal Communities through Blue Upskilling of Local Population

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How to improve Local Communities near coastal lagoons through sustainable tourism and spatial planning - Introduction

Actual Situation

Tourism



Population



Climate Change and Urbanization



Coastal lagoons

- One of the areas where freshwater and marine water are intertwined
 - Usually near urban centers and villages
 - Local community involved in several activities near the lagoon
 - Fishery and extensive aquaculture
 - Fishery inside lagoons & outside lagoons
 - High Biodiversity values and often protected areas
 - Touristic pressure is increasing
 - Climate Change has a very large impact into them
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- Very sensitive areas with high biodiversity, involved local communities and with human and environmental pressure increasing

Capacity-building Education, training and technical and financial support are all required to support small-scale fishing communities in diversifying their activities, increasing their incomes and improving their prospects, particularly in the case of women and young people. –

RPOA - SSF



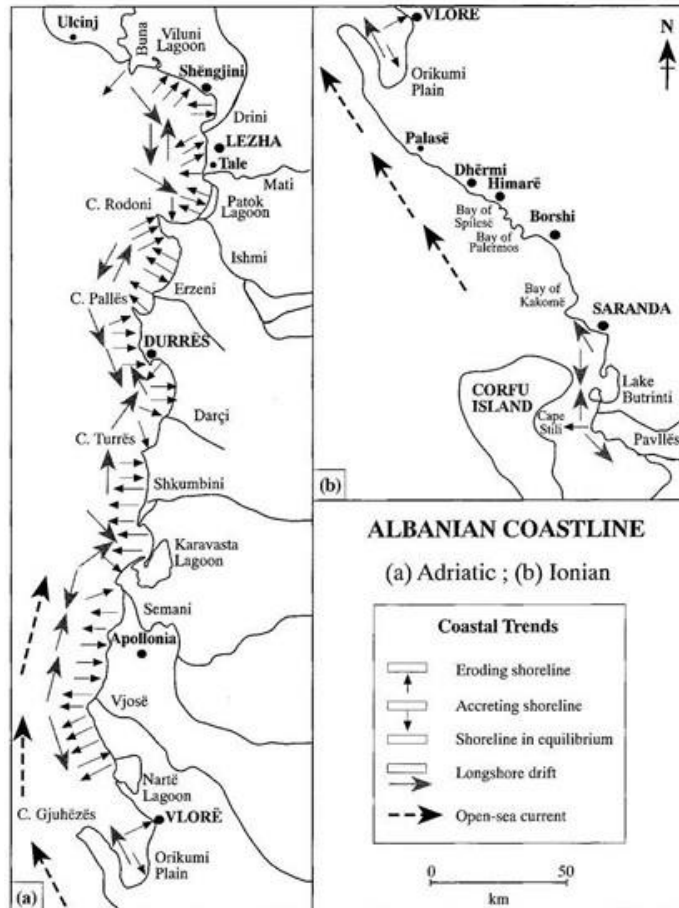
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How to improve Local Communities near coastal lagoons through sustainable tourism and spatial planning – Introduction – Albania

Coastal lagoons

- The main Albanian coastal lagoons are the Karavasta, Butrinti, Narta, Kune-Vaini, Orikumi, Patoku, and Viluni covering 10900 ha.
- In all of them fishery is an important activity
- Butrinti and Orikum are near to intensive touristic activities
- Narta is “near” the newly constructed Vlora airport
- All of the mentioned lagoons have some degree of Protection in terms of Natural Protected Areas (including National Parks)
- Butrinti has also a site of archaeological importance
- All of them are impacted by Climate Change and also the majority from erosion activities





How to improve Local Communities near coastal lagoons through sustainable tourism and spatial planning – Tourism (Sustainable)

A-I lagoons and tourism

- Usually for lagoons the focus has been always the non-intensive tourism being sensitive areas although, especially for the sandy marine part, it has not always been the case
- Fishery local communities not always benefit from touristic activities
- Local community are benefiting mainly from the small-scale tourism (renting houses, small restaurants etc.)

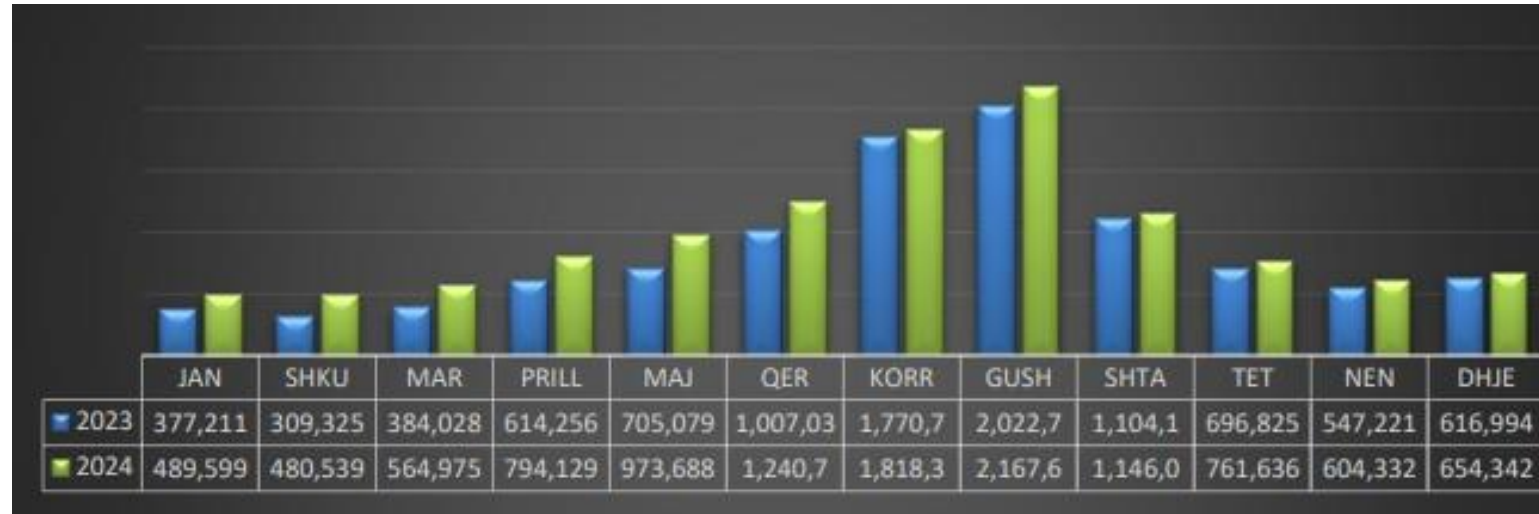
How can fishery dependent groups benefit from tourism in coastal by upskilling

- E-Literacy skills (*making yourself known in the touristic offer is now easier through the digital world, - small boat tours, local food preparations, pesca turismo, boat tours, fish sale can now be promoted without having to have very large IT knowledge*)
- Improving sea knowledge (*not all fishers working on lagoons are constantly dealing with the marine waters – a need to improve the collaboration with the “SSF - sea farers”, marine regulations and environment is needed*)
- Improve the environmental knowledge (*tourist that usually visit the coastal lagoons are people that are keen to learn about the environmental values of the area, learning some environmental information and skills – next slide – helps to improve the offer for the tourists and to be involved in the sector*)
- Improve the skills on leisure/recreational fishery (*knowledge of existing regulations, use of techniques that are tourist friendly and environmental sound*)
- Gastronomy upskilling with local products (*one of the main attractions of the tourists is to taste local products – some skills of making local dishes with local products including new species improves greatly the attractivity of the local community*)
- Language basics (*English as lingua franca*)

How to improve Local Communities near coastal lagoons through sustainable tourism and spatial planning – Tourism (Albania)

Tourism in General

- Has Increased at a fast pace in the last 4 years



Tourism in Natural Protected Areas

- 22% increase in 2024 compared with 2023 (5.56 million domestic and foreign visitors)
- Two coastal lagoons (Karavasta and Butrint) are respectively 2nd and 4th of the most visited National Parks
- 67% increase in the income in relation to the visitors that have visited the protected areas



How to improve Local Communities near coastal lagoons through sustainable tourism and spatial planning – Spatial Planning (Lagoons as an environmental hotspot)

Spatial Planning

- Coastal lagoons are areas that are affected by several planning instruments (ICZM, MSP-LSI, Sectoral Plans (Nature Protection – Water Management – Fishery etc.)
- Usually there are several management and protection special measures that are related to the coastal lagoons that affect also the local community (including fishers)

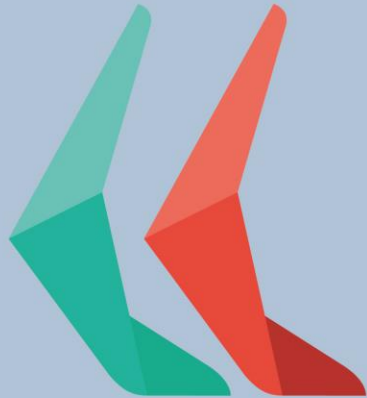
How can fishery dependent groups benefit from the specific status that coastal lagoons has

- Improving skills in environmental monitoring (*e.g. marine litter regular monitoring, IAS identification*)
- Improving their skills for the environmental interventions (*collaborate with stakeholders in the implementation of NbS, Nature Restoration Law will affect the majority of the lagoons and fishers' local community will be sites of interventions*)
- Working in nearby areas will require new skills (*wind farms, solar panels, landing sites as touristic marinas etc.*)
- Financial upskilling (*new opportunities are available from different sources to improve the livelihood and start-ups*)
- New spatial planning and environmental measures should be seen as an opportunity and not as restrictions.

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Thank you