Final Report

Implementation of the Rapid Assessment and Prioritization of Protected Areas Management methodology for assessing protected area system in Albania

Protected area management effectiveness in Albania
Final report of the RAPPAM analysis

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1. Background

WWF's Forests for Life Programme promotes the concept of viable networks of protected areas (PA) worldwide, representing a significant percentage of each of the world's forest types. The Rapid Assessment and Prioritization of Protected Area Management (RAPPAM) Methodology offers policy makers a tool for achieving that goal by enabling a rapid assessment of the overall management effectiveness of protected areas within a particular country or region. WWF's RAPPAM Methodology draws on an evaluation framework developed by the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA). In 1995, the WCPA established a task force to explore issues related to the management effectiveness of protected areas. Based on the results of the task force's findings, the WCPA has developed an overall assessment framework (Hockings et al. 2000) in order to provide a consistent approach to assessing protected area management effectiveness. WWF's RAPPAM Methodology is one of several ongoing efforts to develop specific assessment tools that are consistent with the WCPA Framework.

The RAPPAM Methodology can:

- identify management strengths and weaknesses,
- analyze the scope, severity, prevalence, and distribution of a variety of threats and pressures,
- identify areas of high ecological and social importance and vulnerability,
- indicate the urgency and conservation priority for individual protected areas,
- help to develop and prioritize appropriate policy interventions and follow-up steps to improve protected area management effectiveness.

The most thorough and effective approach to implementing this methodology is to hold interactive workshop or series of workshops in which protected area managers, policy makers, and other stakeholders participate fully in evaluating the protected areas, analyzing the results, and identifying subsequent next steps and priorities.

In general, the RAPPAM Methodology is designed for broad-level comparisons among many protected areas. It can answer a number of important questions like, what are the threats facing a number of protected areas and how serious are they? How do protected areas compare with one another in terms of infrastructure and management capacity? What is the urgency for taking actions in each protected area? What is the overall level of integrity and degradation of each protected area? How well do national and local policies support the effective management of protected areas? What are the most strategic interventions to improve the entire system?

Although it can be applied to a single protected area, the RAPPAM Methodology is not designed to provide detailed, site-level adaptive management guidance to protected area managers. An in-depth field assessment can answer detailed site-specific

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questions, such as the following. What specific steps are needed to prevent or mitigate existing threats within each protected area? What are the specific needs for each protected area regarding training, capacity building, and infrastructure support? How well is the protected area managing its specific biodiversity assets?

However, the RAPPAM Methodology can be used as a framework for developing a site-level monitoring tool. To do so would require the identification of specific, site-level management criteria and indicators, using the questions in the Rapid Assessment Questionnaire as a guideline. A broad-level assessment, such as WWF's RAPPAM Methodology, can also complement more detailed site-level assessments by serving as a "trip-wire" for identifying individual protected areas that may require more in-depth study, and by identifying broad programme areas or issues that may warrant a more thorough analysis and review.

1.1. Actual situation of PA

The first attempt for establishing a protected area in Albania is made in 1940 with the establishment of the first Game Reserve in Kune-Vain, Lezhe. In 1960 was established the first National Park "Mali i Dajtit" and 6 years later the number of national Parks was raised to six (Thethi, Lura, Llogaraja, Divjaka and Drenova). National parks were established in areas of significant scientific, natural and recreation values in order to preserve untouched natural ecosystem for the protection of important flora and fauna species.

The protected areas include some of the most important natural values of the country from both the ecologic and economic point of view. Their actual overall size is 238,322 ha, or 8.3 % of Albanian's territory. Restructuring and enlargement of the protected areas system, development of zoning concepts and management plans and building and strengthening management capacities are part of the policy and strategy of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration to improve protected areas management and achieve European Union standard and Government commitments on nature protection. Actually protected areas cover 11,42 % of Albania's territory. The law on protected areas (June 2002) introduced a new concept on the management of protected areas. The protected areas system is based on IUCN categories for the management of PA.

The administration and management of protected areas is based on Law No. 8906 dated 6 June 2002 "On Protected Areas". The object of this law is the declaration, preservation, administration, management and use of protected areas and their natural and biological resources; the facilitation of conditions for the development of environmental tourism, for the information and education of the general public and for direct or indirect economic profits, by the local population, by the public and private sector.

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1.2. Actual system of protected areas

Table 1. An overview of basic information on protected areas, (Source MMPAU, October 2008)

No.	Management categories	No of PA	Area (ha)	%
1	Strict Nature Reserve	2	4.800	1.46
2	National Park	14	143.523	43.70
3	Managed Nature Reserve	22	62.530	19.04
4	Protected Landscape	5	95.864	29.19
5	Protected area of managed resorces	4	18.245	7.65
6	Nature Monuments	750	3.490	1.06
	TOTAL	**797**	**328.408**	**100**

Environment protection and sustainable use of nature resources is one of the priorities of Albanian Government. The strengthening and enlargement of the protected areas system, as the basis of the Ecologic Network of the country, is considered as one of the most important objectives of the Program of Work and Action plans of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Water Administration. In this framework it is aimed, as a short term objectives that the protected areas will cover 15 % of the territory (doubling their actual size) and a long term objectives (year 2015) about 20 % of the overall country's surface, in line with EU standards. During this period the Albanian Government has approved the enlargement and establishment of the following protected areas "Butrinti's National park, Nature Managed Reserve "Shkodra Lake" the Protected Landscape "Buna River -Velipojë", National park "Mali i Dajtit", Protected Landscape "Mali me Gropa-Bize-Martanesh", National Park "Divjake-Karavasta" and National Park "Shebenik-Jabllanice". Preparation of the management plans for the Protected Areas of Albania is considered as a high priority; so far, only 3-5 Protected Areas have new management plans or plans under preparation. This should be a high priority activity not only for the responsible authorities such as the MoEFWA and the administration of protected areas, but also for the scientific and research institutions and specialized NGOs in the country which have the necessary expertise for the preparation of the management plans. MEFWA has developed and is implementing special programs for the functioning of PA administration, staff training and improving their curricula. Several training modules are implemented with representatives of PA administrations. These programs aim to build capacities of the personnel, develop the necessary infrastructure and logistic equipments, improving working conditions and information and education of visitors as well as planning necessary funds to develop these activities in accordance with the objectives of the management plans or other planning documents.

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Independently form the progress made so far on the management of PA there is still much to be done regarding their real protection and preservation and enlargement of their size and categorization. Some of them need to review their protection status and in some cases it is necessary to join some of them together in a single area. In other cases they need to be integrated into larger and broader landscape units or a better management and conservation. On this regard are very helpful studies carried out on the framework of the international donors, especially the Emerald process.

Protected areas, during the difficult transition period, as other natural resources, are under continuous pressure and threat as result of weak management and intensive use. Protected areas have several problems during the transition period, but the most important are:

- Bad road infrastructure, prohibiting the flow of tourist, especially on national parks as Lure, Qafe Shtame, Bredhi i Drenoves, Mali i Tomorrit, Kuturman, Balloll, Berzane, Qarishte, Sopot, Dardhe-Xhyre,
- Damaging and degradation of habitats;
- Coastal erosion, especially on Nature Managed Reserves as Kune-Vainit, Patok-Fushe Kuqe, Rrushkull e Pishe Poro, and protected landscapes as Velipoje, Vjose-Narte, etj;
- Illegal logging within protected areas;
- Fires, especially during summer season on areas like Karaburun, Pishe-Poro, Germenj-Shelegur, Qafe Shtame, Llogara, Valbone, etc;
- animal persecution especially on coastal areas and lagoons
- ineffective management of wetlands especially for wintering birds
- ineffective management of recreation activities, especially in national parks as Dajt, Divjake e Llogara, and nature reserves of Kune-Vain, Patok, Velipoje, etj, from local government units ;
- uncontrolled grazing;
- illegal construction and occupation of territory by private persons for housing or other activities especially in some parks like Dajt, Llogara, Prespe, Divjake, Lure, Theth, Bredhi i Drenoves and coastal managed reserves as Kune-Vain, Patok, Rrushkull, Pishe-Poro, Levan, Velipoje, etc.;
- illegal hunting and fishing activities and use of illegal devices;
- lack of fond for necessary technical and biological interventions;
- lack of visitor management and waste management form tourist activities which dame the landscape and its ecological values
- uncontrolled human activities and management of recreation activities within the protected areas
- mining and quarries within protected areas are a continuous threat to natural ecosystem and habitats causing disturbances to wildlife. These problem is more evident in areas like Dajt, Llogara, Tomorr, etc;
- collection of non timber forest products as well as soil layers within protected areas territory by private persons which cause disturbance to wildlife
- worsen hydrological situation of lagoons and water quality as result of waste water management and water exchange between lagoons and the sea, as in

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Velipoje, Kune-Vain, Pishe-Poro, Karavasta, etc,.

2. The RAPPAM process

RAPPAM assessment was organized under the scope of WWF Mediterranean Program Office's "Protected Areas for a Living Planet (PA4LP)" in collaboration with MEFWA and Institute for Nature Conservation in Albania. Funding for the workshop was provided by WWF Mediterranean Programme (through MAVA foundation's support for PA4LP project) and co-funded by The Nature Conservancy.

The RAPPAM Methodology includes five steps:

- STEP 1 Determining the scope of the assessment
- STEP 2 Assessing existing information for each protected area
- STEP 3 Administering the Rapid Assessment Questionnaire
- STEP 4 Analyzing the findings
- STEP 5 Identifying next steps and recommendations.

In order to administer and manage the entire process of the implementation of the RAPPAM methodology for assessing the protected area system in Albania, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration (MEFWA) has established a working group consisting of:

- Prof. Dr. Pellumb Abeshi, General Secretary to the MEFWA
- Dr. Sajmir Hoxha, Director to the Directory of Nature Protection Policies, (MEFWA)
- Mr. Nihat Dragoti, Head of the Protected Areas Management department (MEFWA)
- Mrs. Arjana Koça, expert at the Protected Areas Management department
- Mr. Abdulla Diku, National Coordinator, WWF Protected Areas for a living planet project, (MEFWA)
- Msc. Genti Kromidha, National Scientific Coordinator WWF Protected Areas for a living planet project, (Institute for Nature Conservation in Albania).

Dr. Deni Porej, Conservation Director WWF Mediterranean Program Office, provided technical support in structuring the workshop, data gathering and analysis.

The working group was responsible for determining the scope of the assessment, selection of protected areas that will participate in the assessment process, collecting and assessing existing data on protected areas, facilitate the organization of the workshop and administer the questionnaire, analyze results and prepare recommendations for next steps.

After several productive discussions the working group agreed that the scope of the RAPPAM methodology for assessing the management of protected area system in Albania will mainly be to:

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- analyze the scope, severity, prevalence, and distribution of a variety of threats and pressures
- identify management strengths and weaknesses
- help to develop and prioritize appropriate policy interventions and follow-up steps to improve protected area management effectiveness.

In accordance to the scope of the assessment, the working group made the selection of protected areas that will participate to the process giving priority to new established areas and areas of high national and regional importance (see list attached). Considering the scope and the expected results of this assessment process as well as the existing organizational structure of the protected areas administration in Albania, it was decided to invite to the workshop directors (chiefs) of the selected protected areas. In order to assure accuracy and triangulation of data it was decided to invite also representative of NGO and other specialized bodies working on the field of nature conservation (see list attached).

The other important step was the assessment of existing information for each protected area selected. The assessment was based on data and information from the annual reports for the protected areas administration and several independent studies conducted by specialized bodies (universities, state agency for environment and forests, NGOs etc), maps and other documents. A summary of the assessment of the actual situation is given above.

The third step is administering the Rapid Assessment Questionnaire. For this reason it was decided to hold a participatory workshop involving protected area managers, administrators, and stakeholders. Depending on the circumstances of the assessment the working group decided to adapt some minor changes to the questionnaire. Also the wording and interpretation of the questions was carefully checked.

In the efforts of preparing the workshop the working group elaborated the agenda of the workshop (see attached), list of participants, translated questionnaire and supporting notes for each participant. All these documents were sent to the participant two weeks in advance.

An important issue was the selection of the workshop venue since it had to be a quite, comfortable and spacious place suitable for accommodating plenary and working groups as well as offering important services like accommodation and food.

3. The workshop

The workshop was held on November 6-8 at hotel London, Shëngjin, Lezhë. The number of participants was 28 persons in total, representing 18 protected areas. The workshop started on Thursday, November 6, 2008, at 14:00. Since Prof. Abeshi could not attend the meeting at this time due to other engagement, the workshop was opened by Mr. A. Diku, National Coordinator, WWF project, who welcomed the participants and explained very shortly the scope of the workshop. After that, Mr. Nihat Dragoti from the MEFWA, provided a presentation on the situation of protected areas system in Albania and the

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scope and expected results of the workshop. He made clear to the participants that any information they will provide during the workshop will neither be used for judging them or their personal performance nor will affect future support and financing of their particular protected area. Mr. Diku presented the RAPPAM methodology and assessment process emphasizing the importance accurate and reliable answers and interactive discussions among participants.

The first assessment session was dedicated to pressures and threats. Dr. Zamir Dedej, biodiversity expert from the Institute for Nature Conservation in Albania, provided a presentation on possible threats and pressures to protected areas in Albania, giving examples of the effects of these pressures to biodiversity and other important elements of the protected areas. Then participants were divided into three groups in order to facilitate discussions.

The groups were divided according to the size and main ecosystem of the protected area. Group 1 consisted of mainly new established protected areas large areas with a variety of ecosystems and land use categories. Group 2 consisted of relatively small protected areas (mostly national parks) covering mainly forest areas. Group 3 consisted of protected areas where the main ecosystem was related to water (lagoons, wetlands, lakes). The groups were respectively facilitated by Genti Kromidha, Abdulla Diku and Zamir Dedej. On each group participants discussed about the pressures and threats affecting their protected area and filled out the questionnaire. At the end of the day the resource person entered the data onto the questionnaire excel format.

The second day started on Friday, November 7, at 8:00 with the presentation of results of day 1. Participants were shown graphs summarizing their answers and this triggered a very fruitful discussion between participants and some of them agreed to change some of the answers which did not present the real situation.

The rest of the day was dedicated to filing the questions 6-16 of the questionnaire. Prior to start working on their groups participants had a short presentation by Mr. A. Diku, on this part of the questionnaire explaining the questions and how they should be answered. After that the participant continued with the working groups were each question was carefully read discussed and then answered individually by each participant. Facilitators were attending each working group helping discussions and taking notes.

At the end of the day results of the questionnaire were shown to participant in graphs and this also triggered a long discussion between participants arguing on their answers. This discussion took so long that it continued also on the third day.

The third day of the workshop started on Saturday, November 8 2008, at 8:00 with rest of the discussion on the results of the questionnaire for questions 6-16. After the first coffee break, Prof. Dr. Arsen Proko, from the Faculty of Forestry Sciences, Agricultural University of Tirana, showed a presentation on the biological importance of protected areas, in order to help participants fill the question 3-5 of the questionnaire. Then, participants were asked to fill also the questions 17-19 regarding the protected area system in Albania. At the end there was a discussion on main findings, recommendations and next steps for strengthening and improving protected areas management in Albania.

Participants were asked to fill out an evaluation form for the workshop. Participants were awarded certificates for participating to the National Workshop on Rapid Assessment and Prioritization of Protected Area Management.

Closing remarks on the workshop were given by Prof. P. Abeshi who once more emphasized the importance of this assessment and ensured the engagement of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Water Administration, on addressing issues regarding protected areas management.

The workshop was closed on Saturday, November 8, at 14:00.

We would like to thank the Institute for Nature Conservation in Albania for playing an important role in the organization and facilitation of this workshop providing both expertise and resource persons and arranging all the logistics of the workshop.

4. Results

4.1. Pressures and threats

The list of pressures and threat as elaborated during the workshop from discussions of participants include forest harvesting, illegal building or occupying of area, grazing, hunting, NTFP collection, tourism and recreation activities, waste disposal, semi natural processes (including mainly insects and diseases but also fires), costal erosion, waste water treatment, fires and mining.
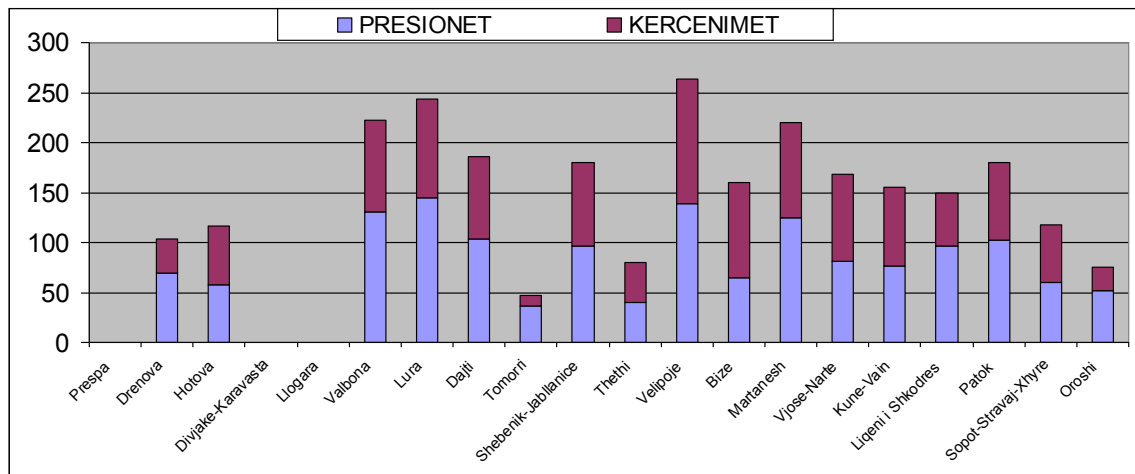

Figure 1. The overall degree of pressures and threats in protected areas, group 1
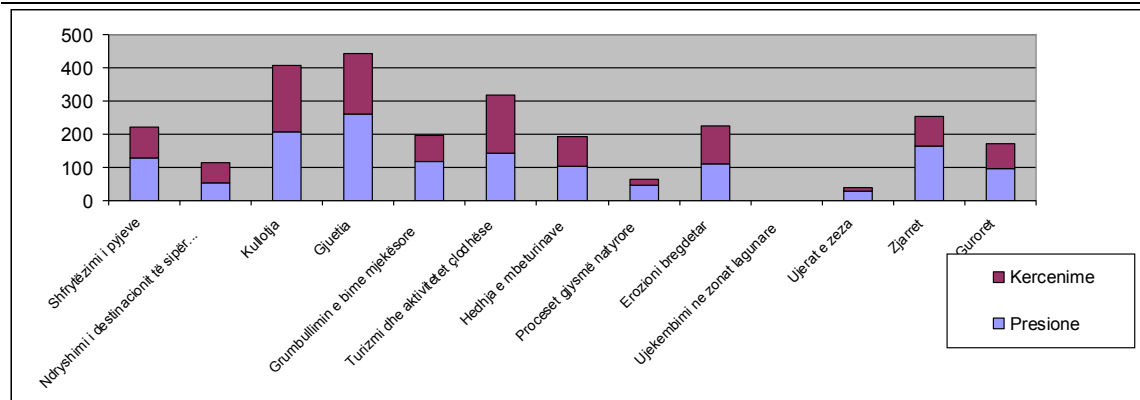
Figure 2. The overall degree of pressures and threats in protected areas, group 1
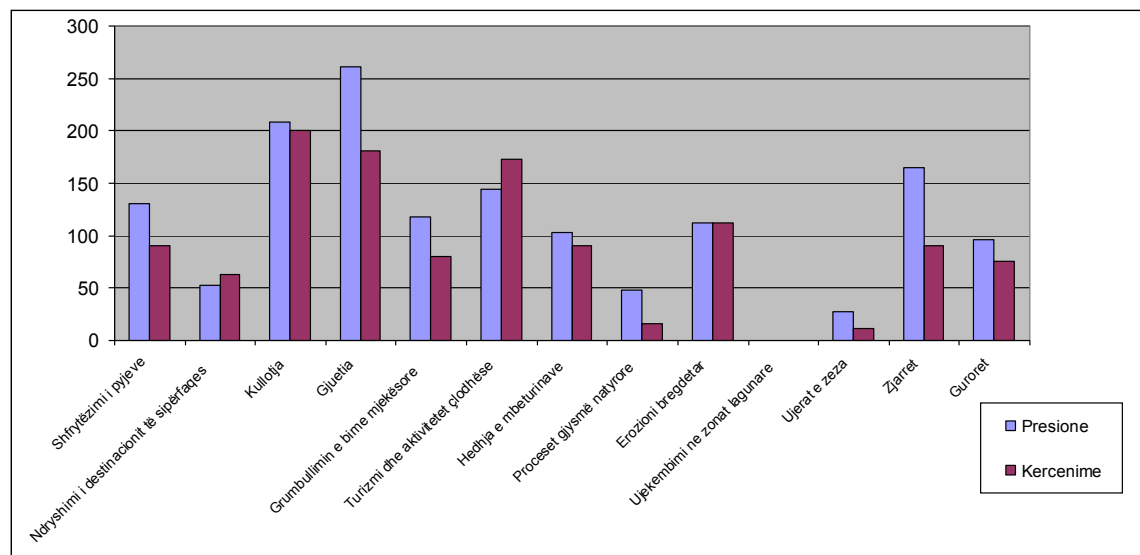

Figure 3. The overall degree of pressures and threats in protected areas, group 1

As shown on the graphs the majority of protected areas is suffering from pressures and is under continuous threats in the future. The most problematic are Valbona NP, Lura NP, Velipoja PL, Martanesh PL. The situation looks better in some areas like Tomori NP, Oroshi MR and Thethi NP but in general this situation is because these areas, mostly forest areas, are located in very remote areas difficult to access. Also the graph shows that the main threats are hunting and grazing followed by tourism activities and fires. Coastal erosion appears to be a severe threat for protected areas along the coast.

There was a general consensus in the discussions that some of the actual pressures (illegal harvesting, hunting, grazing, fires, etc) can be reduced in the future (threats) as result of a better performance of the protected area administration in controlling activities within protected areas and improving communication with local communities. But some other pressures (tourism and recreational activities, illegal building) will continue to threat the protected areas in the future since they could not be properly controlled.

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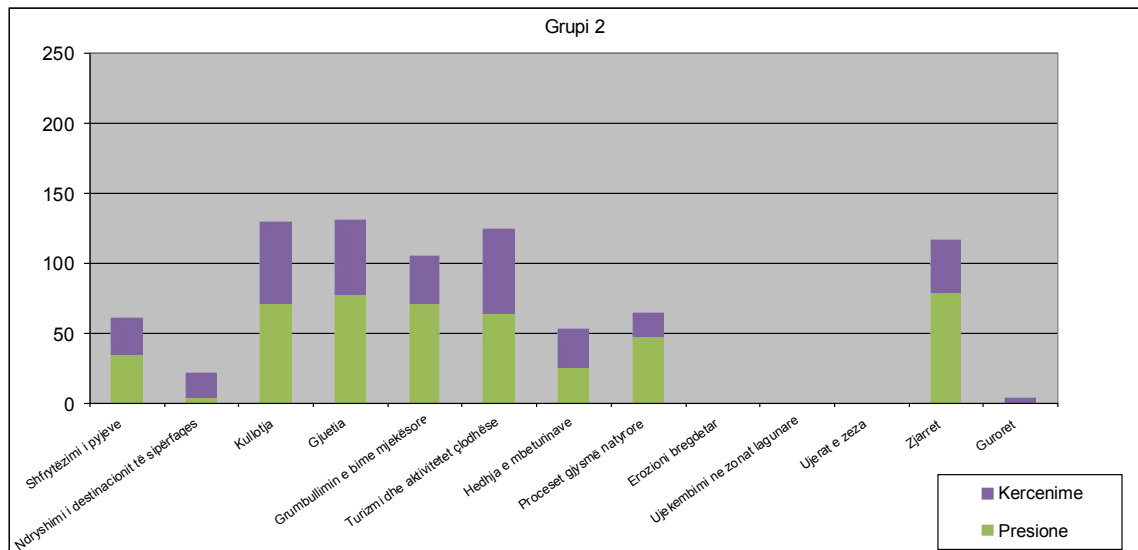
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Figure 4. The overall degree of pressures and threats in protected areas, group 2

Analyzing results of the different groups we see some little difference in the severity and importance of pressures and threats. Group 1, consisting of relatively large areas covering different type of ecosystems, has huge problems with hunting and grazing. Group 2, consisting of relatively small forest protected areas, has problems not only with hunting and grazing but also with tourism activities and fires that are damaging their natural resources. For this group, the collection of NTFP appears to be an important pressure and threat. Group 3, consisting mainly of wetland ecosystems, apart having severe problems with coastal erosion, are suffering also from hunting, tourism activities (which in this case are not directly related to the protected area but to the beaches) and waste disposal.
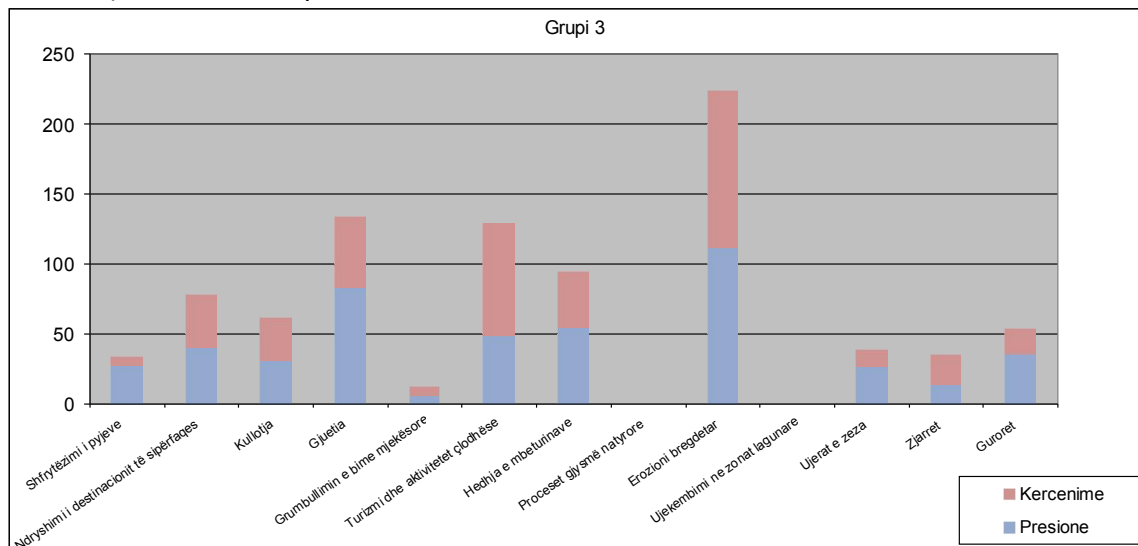

Figure 5. The overall degree of pressures and threats in protected areas, group 3

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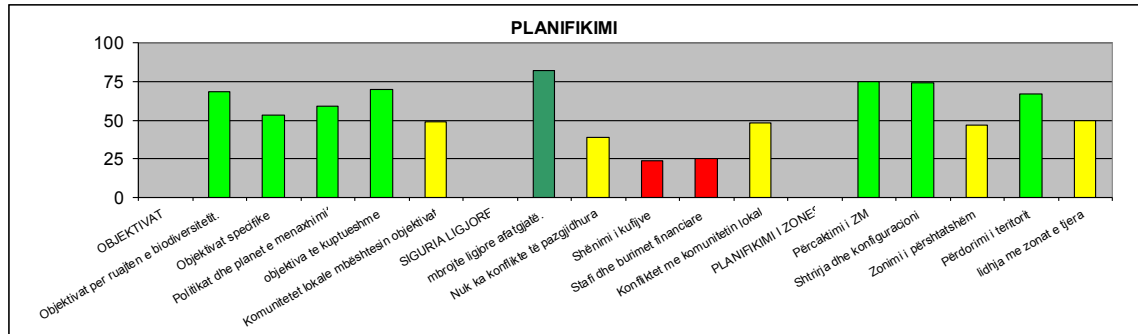
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4.2. Planning

Figure 6. The overview of planning in protected areas

The graph summarizing results of the questionnaires about planning of protected areas shows that in general there is a secure legal protection for protected areas and the PA objectives, siting, layout and design of protected areas optimizes the conservation of biodiversity. Analyzing the results of answers given regarding planning in protected areas it is evident that there are severe problems with boundary demarcation and staffing of protected areas. Other problematic issues include support from local communities, disputes regarding land tenure and user rights, conflicts with local communities, zoning of protected areas and links with other protected areas.

4.3. Inputs
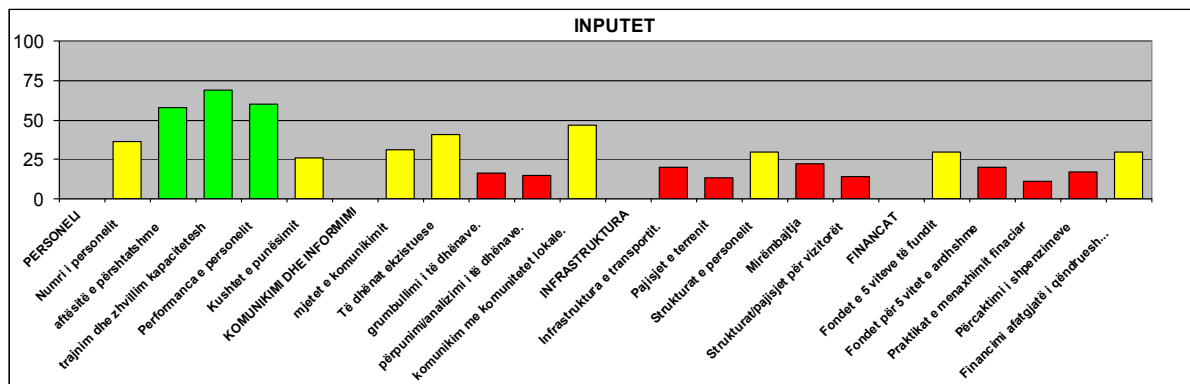
Figure 7. The overview of inputs in protected areas

The situation of inputs to protected area management seems really critical especially to infrastructure and finance inputs. Although the level of personnel is not adequate, their skills and performance are good and there are attempts to improve their capacities. There is a general lack of any kind of infrastructure including transportation and personnel facilities and equipments. Also, financing to protected areas seem to be an enormous problem since there are no secure funding for the future and proper financial practices are not in place. Last but not least, protected area personnel lack

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communication and information infrastructure, especially the means and tools necessary for data collection and processing.
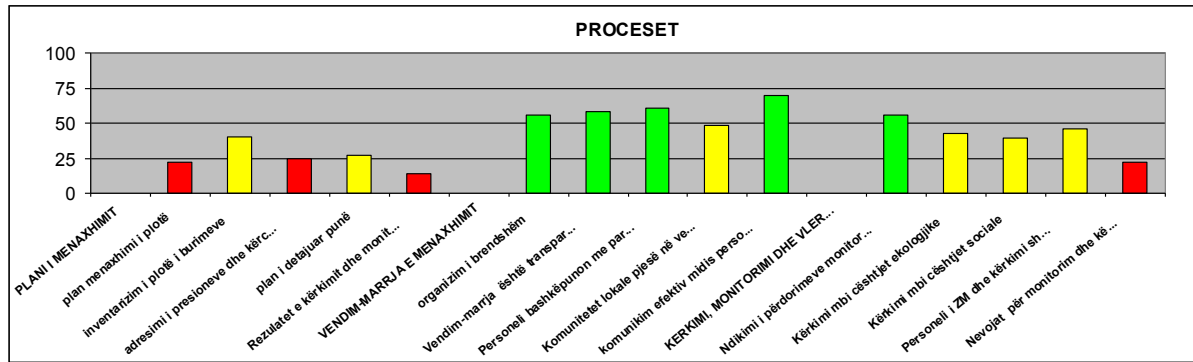
4.4. Processes

Figure 8. The overview of processes in protected areas

The graph on processes shows a huge gap in management planning. From the discussions (reflected on the graph) it was made clear that only 3 PA have a management plan and other 2 are working on it. The others have no management document. Also an analysis of, and strategy for addressing, PA threats and pressures is missing. Likewise there is no full inventory of natural and cultural resources in all protected areas. Protected areas administration units do not have a well detailed yearly working plan for reaching management objectives.

The decision making process appears to be smooth, but there was a big discussion in the groups about the level of decision makers. The general understanding is that the questionnaire is asking about decisions made by and within the PA administration unit and it does not include decisions made at higher policy making levels. As it is shown by the graph and largely discussed in the groups, there are still difficulties in involving local communities in a participatory decision making process.

Research, monitoring and evaluation is not a priority for the PA managers and it is not in line with the protected area management objectives. Although PA managers dedicate a lot of time and efforts for accurately monitoring and recording the impact of legal and illegal uses of the PA, they feel that critical needs for scientific research and monitoring are not clearly identified and prioritized according to the PA management objectives. Access to scientific research and advice is mostly depending on personal connections. Generally the results of monitoring and scientific research are neither used nor included in the management planning.

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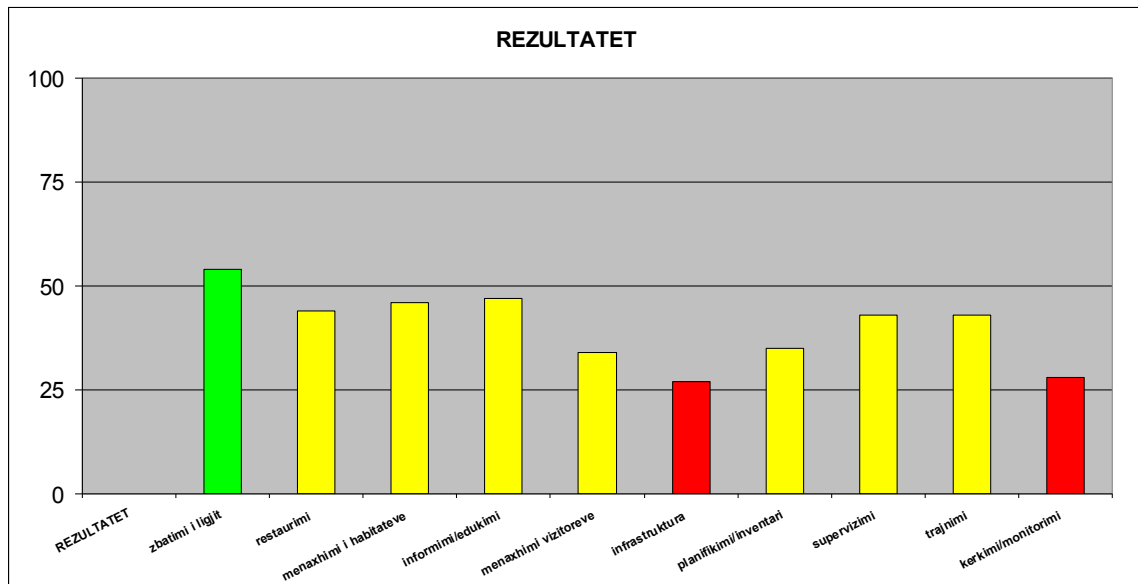
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4.5. Outputs

Figure 9. The overview of results in protected areas

It is our belief that the results of the assessment on outputs accomplished by PA staff is somewhat biased. Although it was made clear that the results of this questionnaire will not be in any case used to judge or evaluate the individual work of any PA mangers, we felt that in this section there was a general attitude to smooth the answers. on our judgment, however, the results shown on the graph demonstrate the real trend of output accomplishment even if the figures are raised by about 30%.

The main task of PA managers is law enforcement and they spent a lot of time and resources in this regard. They also put some efforts on site restoration and provide information on the importance and values of PA natural and cultural resources. It is evident that in general PA managers do not deal with infrastructure development and research and monitoring. Also they have problems with resource inventory and planning as well as visitor management.
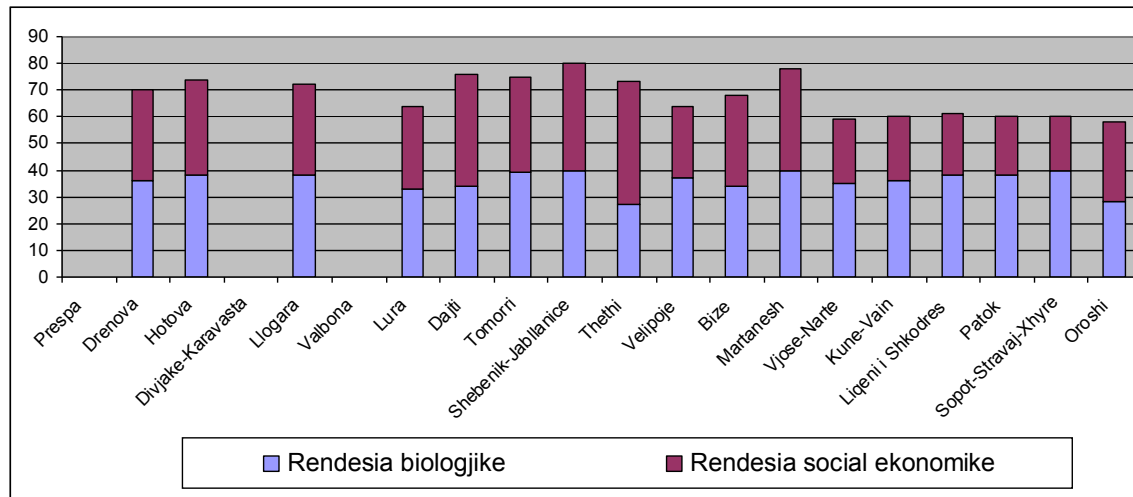
5. Context

Figure 10. The overall degree of biological and socio-ecomnomic importance in protected areas

On our opinion, the assessment of biological and socio-economic importance of PA is a difficult task for PA managers. They do not have neither the appropriate skills and capacities (specific qualifications on biology or economics) nor important reference studies on these issues. As shown in previous questions, there is a lack of appropriate studies on both biological and socio economic issues in PA. All PA managers know that their PA has a biological importance and they also do understand that these areas have a socio-economic importance especially for local communities.

In general, the biological importance is considered slightly higher than the socio-economic importance, and this can be explained with the educational and institutional background of PA managers. PA like Thethi NP and Dajti NP that have an important recreational value show a slightly higher socio-economic importance. In the other areas the socio-economic importance of PA is related to employment and subsistence use of natural resources within protected areas by local communities.

According to PA area managers, protected areas and their natural and cultural resources vulnerability is influenced mostly by the following factors:
- the areas are easily accessible for illegal activities,
- there is a strong demand for vulnerable PA resources (illegal harvesting of valuable trees, poaching, grazing),
- recruitment and retention of employees is difficult considering difficult working conditions and not appropriate remuneration and some time employment is related to political changes.
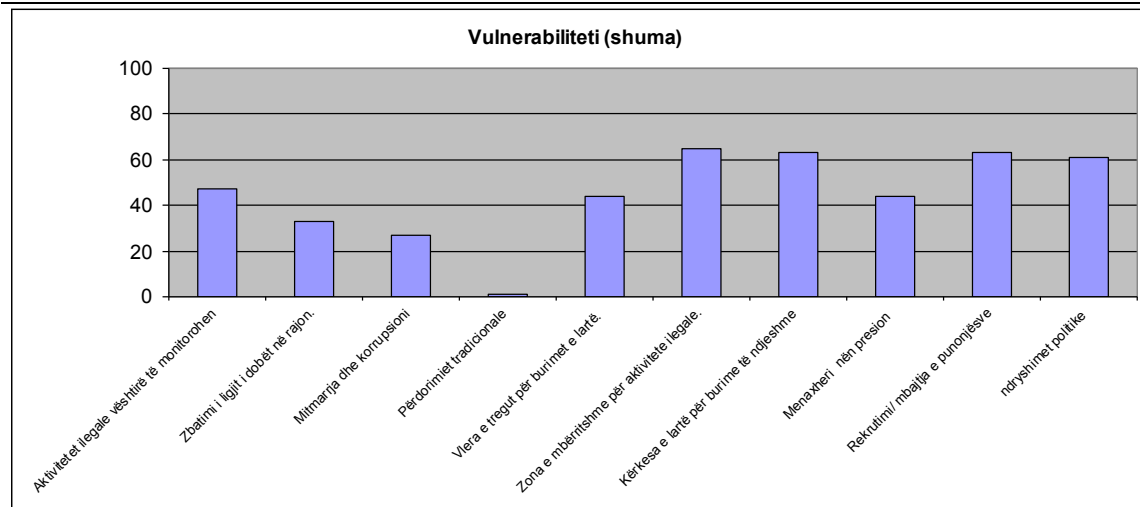
Figure 11. The overview of vulnerability in protected areas

Although the main activity of PA managers is law enforcement, illegal activities within the PA are difficult to monitor since PA managers lack transportation infrastructure, especially in large PA. Generally PA managers are under pressure to unduly exploit PA resources which market value is high (tourism development, mining, grazing). Traditional uses of PA natural resources are not considered as considered as a factor of vulnerability to PA.

6. Protected area system

Figure 12. The overview of protected area system

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On assessing the protected area system level design PA managers generally agree that layout and configuration of the PA system optimize the conservation of biodiversity. The PA system adequately protects against the extinction or extirpation of any species and it adequately represents the full diversity of ecosystems within the region. The PA system consists primarily of exemplary and inta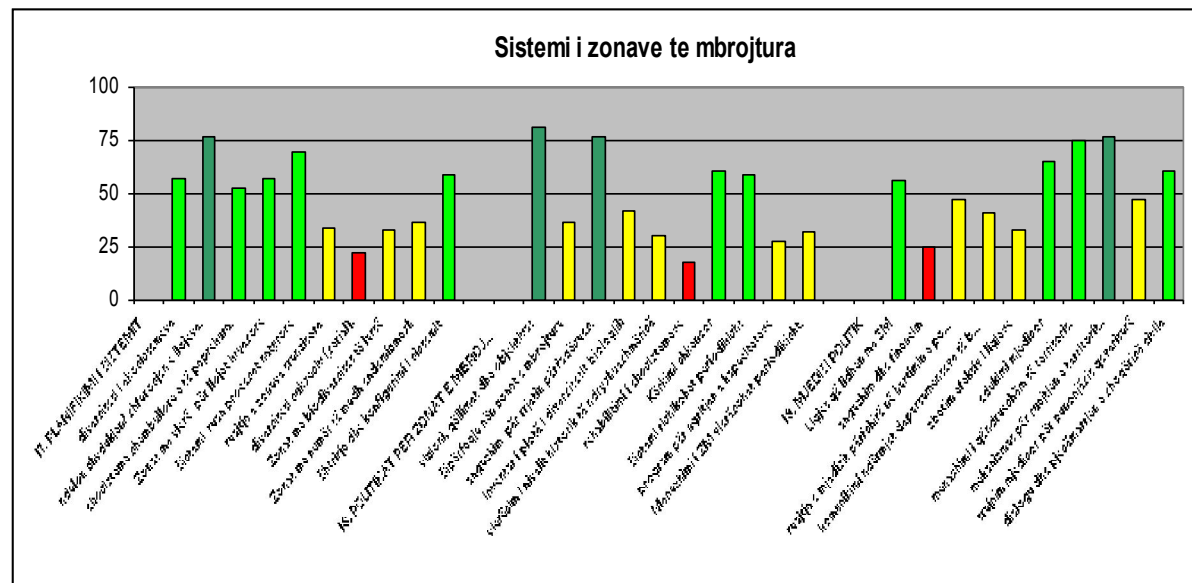ct ecosystems and it maintains natural processes at a landscape level. However, the system design need to be improved in order to address issues related to the protection of transition areas between ecosystems, sites of high biodiversity and high endemism and the full range of succession diversity.

Protected Areas policies clearly articulate a vision, goals, and objectives for the PA system and there is a demonstrated commitment to protecting a viable and representative PA network. PA managers agreed that there is ongoing research on critical PA-related issues and the PA system is periodically reviewed for gaps and weaknesses. However, they consider that there are no restoration targets for underrepresented and/or greatly diminished ecosystems. According to their judgment there is no comprehensive inventory of the biological diversity throughout the region and there is no assessment of the historical range of variability of ecosystem types in the region. Improvements should be made regarding issues like the adequate area of land protected to maintain natural processes at a landscape level, development and implementation of an effective training and capacity building programs for PA staff, and evaluation of PA management, including management effectiveness.

Regarding policy environment there is a general agreement that PA-related laws complement PA objectives and promote management effectiveness and national policies promote sustainable land management. National policies foster dialogue and participation with civic and environmental NGO's as well as a widespread environmental education at all levels. At the other hand, there is insufficient commitment and funding to effectively administer the PA system. Environmental protection goals are not fully incorporated into all aspects of policy development and there is a low level of communication between natural resource departments. Improvements should be made towards effective enforcement of PA-related laws and ordinances at all levels and adequate environmental training for governmental employees at all levels.

7. Recommendations and next steps

The last session of the workshop was dedicated to discussion on recommendations and next steps. Analyzing the assessment results and discussing the findings the following recommendations were considered:

1. Identify system-wide weaknesses and develop a targeted program to strengthen those areas.
2. Identify and promote governmental policies that can promote improved protected area management.
3. Review existing budget priorities, and reallocate expenditure according to the degree of threat and the conservation priority of each protected area.

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4. Develop a schedule for prioritizing support to protected areas, depending on vulnerability, conservation priority, and management capacity.
5. Identify critical knowledge and data gaps, and develop a focused research program to fill those gaps.
6. Identify broad human resource development and capacity-building needs.
7. Identify and lobby against governmental policies that have negative consequences for protected area effective management.
8. Strengthen threat prevention and mitigation efforts by developing appropriate program and targeting protected areas most at risk.

In order to improve the PA management it is necessary to further improve legal framework and national policies on nature conservation. There is a need to identify and allocate resources for the preparation of management plans for protected areas as well as strengthening the PA administration and building capacities. In order to face increasing challenges and shortcomings in financial resources there is a need to explore and establish economically sustainable models for protected areas management. Continuous efforts should be made to address issues like participatory management, involvement of local communities, environmental information and education and public awareness programs on the importance of PA.

The recommendations given above, as well as all the result of the RAPPAM assessment will be further elaborated in cooperation with the MEFWA in order to prioritize recommendations, develop an action plan, and identify agencies or departments who will be responsible for implementing the changes, and ensuring that the financial, technical, administrative, and political support is sufficient to make these changes. MEFWA has already expressed their commitment to take actions for improving the effectiveness of protected area management.

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ANNEXES

ANNEX 1.

Map of Protected Areas in Albania

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Protected Areas Management methodology for assessing protected areas system in Albania.

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ANNEX 2.

List of participants

VLERËSIMI DHE PRIORITIZIMI I MENAXHIMIT TË ZONAVE TË MBROJTURA

HOTEL LONDON, SHENGJIN, LEZHE
6-8 NËNTOR

LISTA E PJESMARRESVE

Nr.	Emri Mbiemri	Rrethi	Pozicioni	Emri i Zonës se Mbrojtur
1	Pande Vostovski	Korce	Pergjegjes	PK "Prespa"
2	Bajram Kullolli	Librazhd	Pergjegjes-Sek.Menaxh	PK "Shebenik-Jabllanice"
3	Ylli Telhaj	Permet	Pergjegjes	PK "Bredhi i Hotoves"
4	Sefedin Mbrakulli	Berat	Pergjegjes	PK "Mali i Tomorrit"
5	Pjeter Toni	Lezhe	Pergjegjes	RNM "Kune-Vain"
6	Marash Guri	Shkoder	Pergjegjes	PK "Theth"
7	Blerant Lushaj	Tropoje	Pergjegjes	PK "Lugina e Valbones"
8	Agim Tola	Diber	Pergjegjes	PK "Lura"
9	Nikoll Kashnjeti	Lac	Inspektor	RNM "Patok-Fushe Kuqe"
10	Gjergj Dodaj	Mirdite	Pergjegjes	ZNM "Bjeshka e Oroshit
11	Vladimir Baliko	Tirane	Pergjegjes	PK "Mali i Dajtit"
12	Skender Cani	Tirane	Pergjegjes	PM "Mali me Gropa-Bize"
13	Alltun Dignozi	Lushnje	Pergjegjes	PK "Divjake-Karavasta"
14	Llazar Gjonçaj	Vlore	Pergjegjes	PK "Llogara"
15	Koco Luadhi	Korce	Pergjegjes	PK 'Bredhi i Drenoves"
16	Besnik Cukalla	Bulqize	Pergjegjes	PM "Martanesh"
17	Fancesk Cerraj	Shkoder	Pergjegjes	PM "Lumi i Bunes-Velipoje"
18	Ilir Amuli	Shkoder	Pergjegjes	RNM "Liqeni i Shkodres"
19	Xhorxhi Hoxhara	Vlore	Pergjegjes	PM "Vjose-Narte"
20	Dalip Hana	Librazhd	Pergjegjes	RNM "Sopot-Stravaj-Xhyre"
21	Oltion Marko	Tirane	Agjensia e Mjedisit & Pyjeve	
22	Besnik Lleshi	Lezhe		RNM "Kune-Vain"
23	Arsen Proko	Tirana	Fakulteti i Shkencave Pyjore	UBT
24	Nihat Dragoti	MMPAU	Përgjegjës sektori	Sektori i Menaxhimit te ZM
25	Zamir Dedej	INCA	Eksperti i biodiversitetit	
26	Genti Kromidha	INCA	Ekspert i zonave te mbrojtura	
27	Abdulla Diku	MMPAU	Koordinator kombëtar	WWF-DAI
28	Deni Porej	WWF		

ANNEX 3.

Agenda of the workshop

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AGENDA FOR THE RAPPAM WORKSHOPS

**HOTEL LONDON, SHENGJIN, LEZHE
6-8 NËNTOR**

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DAY 1

Participants arrive during the morning

14:00 Welcome by the Ministry (Prof.Dr. Pëllumb Abeshi)

14:10 Welcome by the Ministry (technical) – why are we here and what outcomes we want to achieve (Nihat Dragoti)

14:20 RAPPAM intro presentation (doc #4) with questions (Abdulla Diku)

15:00 Coffee Break

15:30 Introduction to Pressures and Threats section ppt (doc #5) with questions (Dr. Zamir Dedej, INCA)

16:00 Working groups to complete question 2 for each threat/PA

17:30 Coffee Break

19:00 Wrap-up and adjourn

20:00 Dinner

Working group meets to enter and analyze results

DAY 2

8:30 Presentations of day 1 results

9:00 Introduction to answering questions 6-16 ppt (doc #6)

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9:20 Workgroups: Questions 6-8 (Planning)

10:30 Coffee Break

10:50 Workgroups: Questions 9-12 (Inputs)

12:20 Lunch

13:30 Workgroups: Questions 13-16 (Processes and Outputs)

15:00 Coffee break

15:15 Presentation & suggestions from experts on biological importance (Q3)

15:45 Workgroups: Questions 3-5 (Context)

18:00 Wrap up and adjourn

Dinner

**** Working group meets to analyze results***************

DAY 3

8:30 Presentation and discussion of Day 2 results

10:00 Coffee break

10:20 System-level questions (17-19)

12:20 Discussion of next steps

13:00 Workshop closing (evaluation, doc #7)

13:30 Lunch

Participants leave