



Steering Committee Meeting

3 March 2026





Progress Report

March 2025 - February 2026

Project Objective

To contribute to the protection and conservation of at least 25 per cent of the Albanian territory (at land and at sea) by 2030 through the establishment and the effective management of a system of Protected Areas (PA), including NATURA 2000 sites and other effective area-based conservation measures

Project Outputs

Strengthened Institutional capacities (UNDP)

Revised and new mangement plans (UNDP)

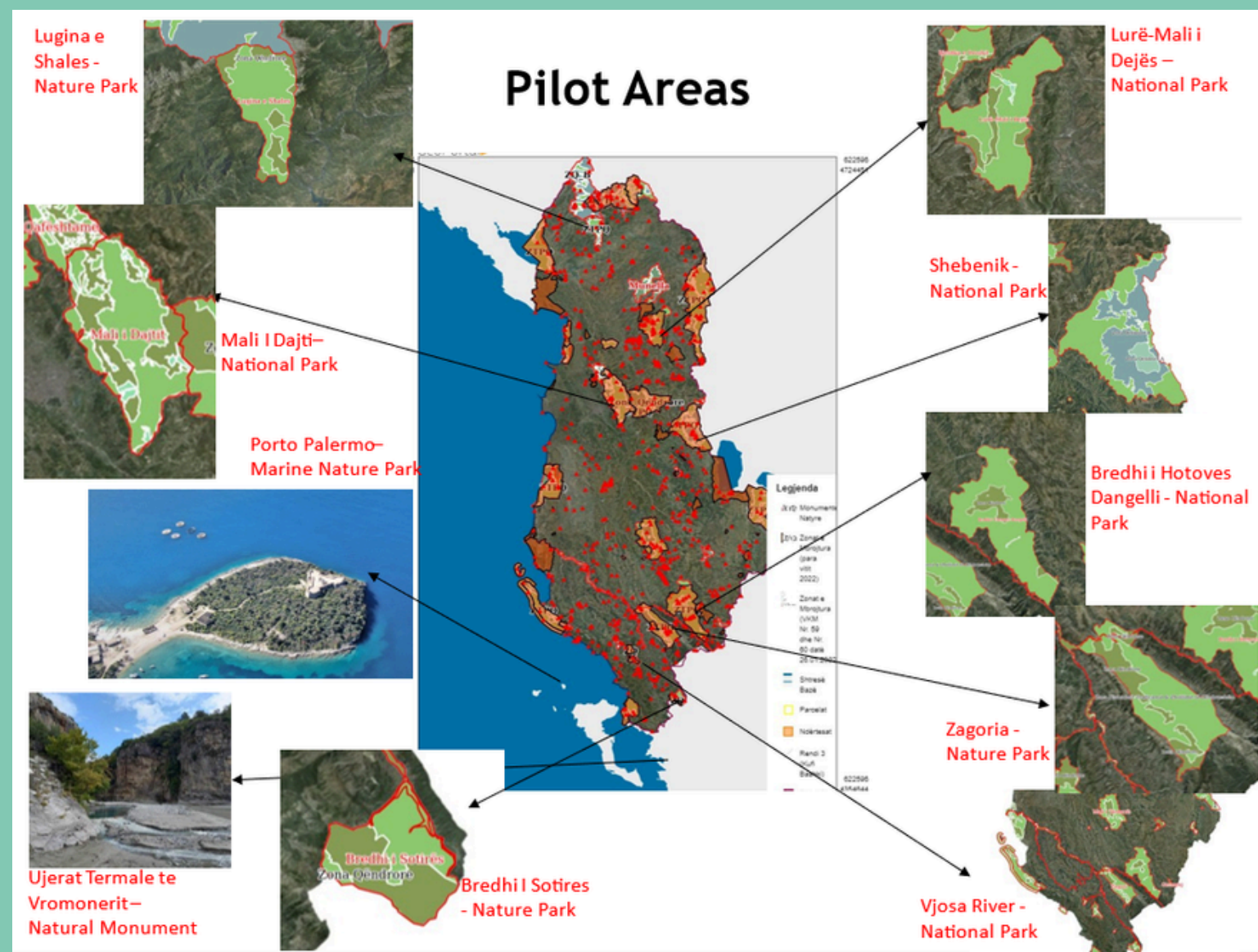
Performance monitoring system (UNDP)

Conservation and restoration measures (UNDP & AICS)

New MPs for forest and non-timber forest products (AICS)

Support to civil society (AICS)

Nature-based solutions implemented (AICS)



Assistance for approximation with European legislation related to nature protection



- Assisting the MoE on the approximation of nature protection framework:
 - Albania's legislation is largely aligned with BHD. Full alignment is accomplished through amendments of Laws on Biodiversity and Wild Fauna.
 - Amendments on legislation covering FLEGT and EUDR Regulations are soon finalized by-laws governing permits, registries, and enforcement
 - Several key procedural and institutional instruments like standard permit formats, data management tools, and rules for inter-agency coordination, are also attended and considered by the experts
 - Law on Protected Areas to be reviewed and Nature Restoration Law to be considered
- Cooperation with the Faculty of Natural Sciences (National Center for Flora and Fauna) for the habitat and species as per the Annexes of the BHD.



Meeting with Prefects -
December 12, 2025



Management Committee
Meeting of Vlora Region -
October 8, 2025



Management Committee Meeting of
Shoder Region -
November 5, 2025

Management Committee of PAs

- A national consultant was engaged to assess the Management Committees (MCs) of PAs, with focus on the existing practices and challenges
 - Order for the Establishment of MCs addressing inconsistencies in committee formation
 - Regulation of the MC and Communication Protocol Template
 - Standard Notification Template for MC meetings to ensure timely and transparent communication
 - Standard Agenda for MC meetings, guiding the structure
 - Standard Minutes of Meetings to strengthen documentation practices by ensuring decisions, assigned responsibilities, and follow-up actions.

- A consultative round table with 12 Prefects and representatives of Management Committees held on 17 December 2025

- Dedicated presentation on BHD are delivered along with MC meetings



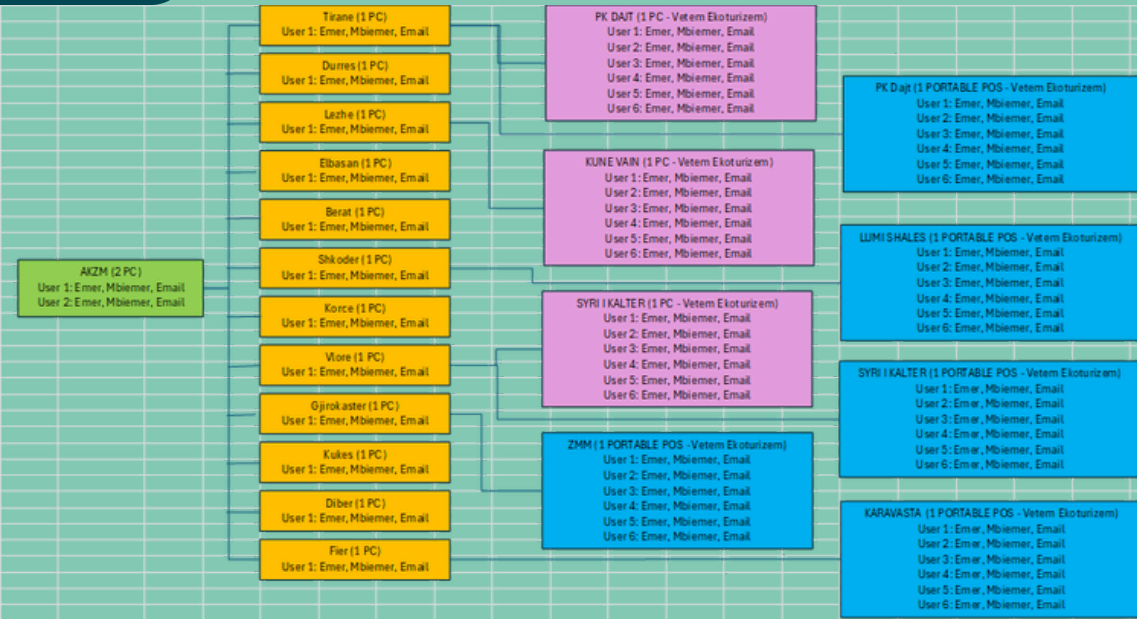
Revenue Generation from Ecosystem Services – NAPA Revenue Fund

More transparency - Less cash - Higher ecotourism revenues

Digitalization of revenue collection through e-invoicing and e-ticketing systems (EasyInvoice / EasyPOS)

NAPA and RAPAs are equipped with the HW/SW infrastructure system and portable billing devices for e-invoicing and entitled fees

Training



Increase revenues from ecotourism fees and reduce informal cash collection

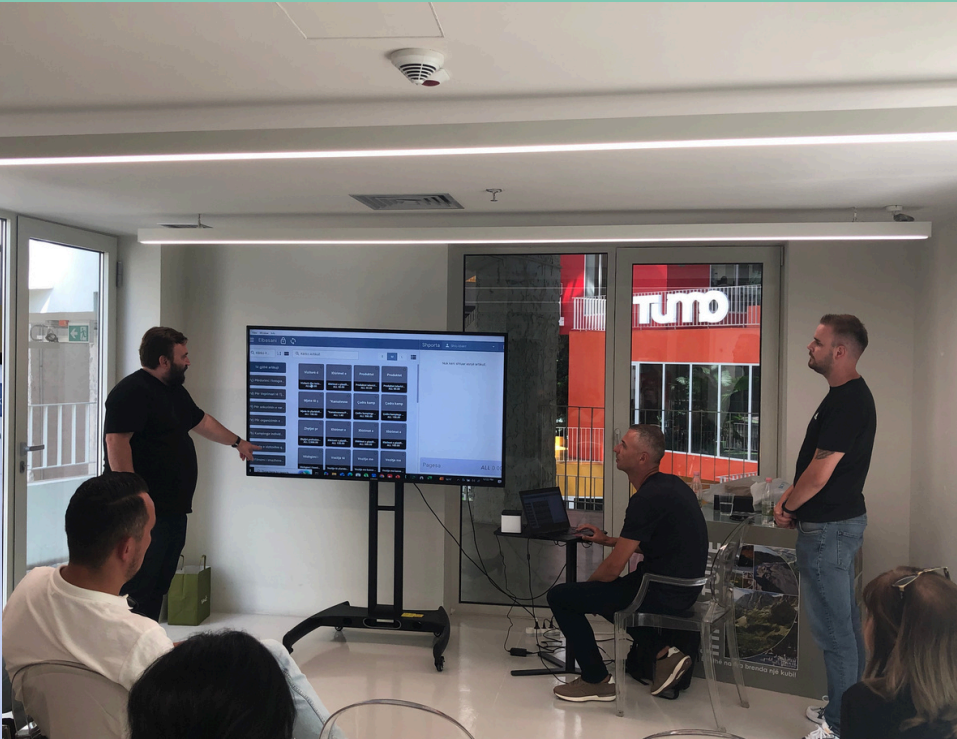
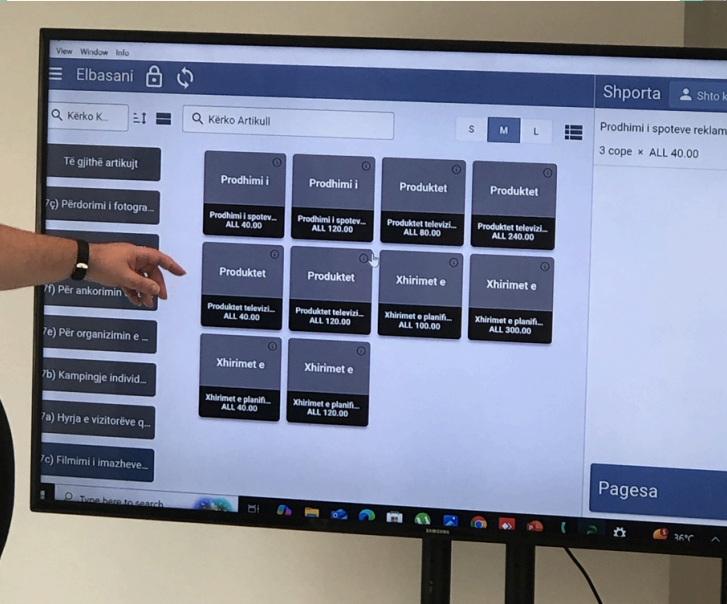
System design, tariff configuration, definition of user access levels (NAPA central, RAPA back-office, and field operators), and testing.

New e-ticketing and e-invoicing procedures, reporting tools, and control mechanisms

Enable electronic payments for visitors, improving transparency and monitoring

Integration with e-Albania, installation in 12 RAPAs and 3 Controlled Access Points (Dajti NP, Syri i Kaltër, Kune-Vain), and deployment of 5 POS

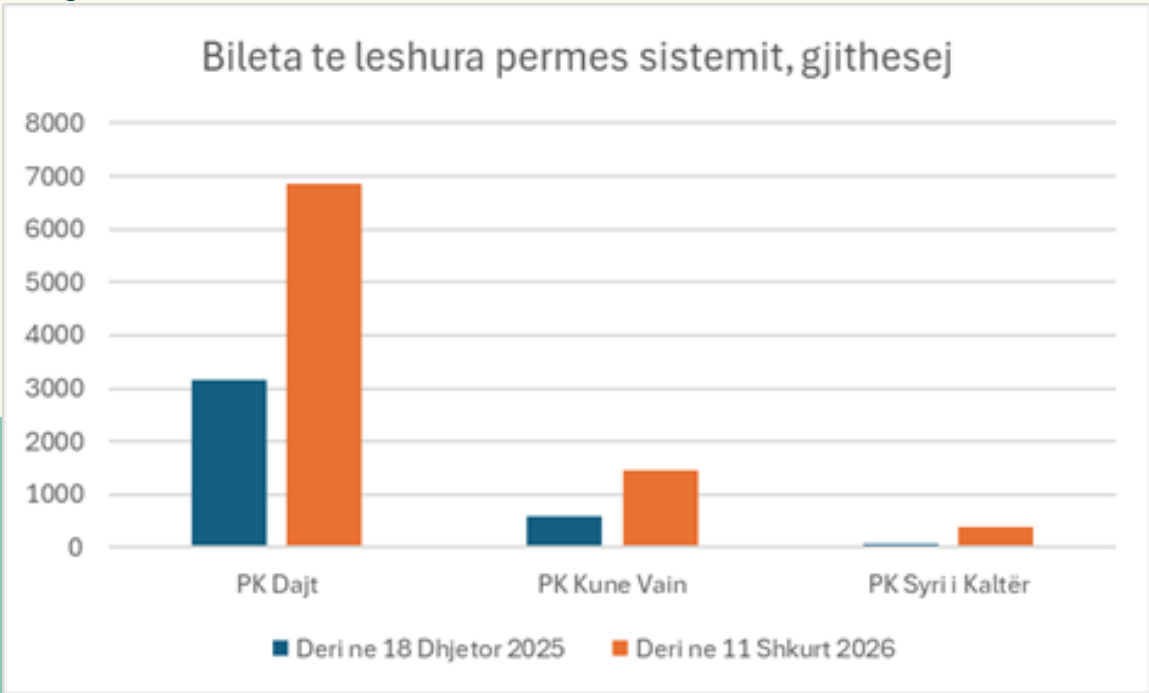
Strengthen the financial governance and reporting capacity of NAPA and RAPAs



Revenue collection through e-invoicing and e-ticketing

Electronic ticket (EasyPOS) in Controlled Access Points

- NP Dajt Mountain issued 6844 tickets through system
- NP Kune Vain issued 1465 tickets through system
- NP Syri i Kaltër issued 382 tickets through system



Fiscal System for contracts of RAPAs

- 7 RAPAs started to use the system and deliver fiscal invoices
- 5 RAPAs still don't use the system

	18 Dhjetor 2025	11 Shkurt 2026
AKZM	-	2
Elbasan	3	5
Lezhe	-	3
Shkoder	-	1
Kukes	1	1
Gjirokaster	-	1
Korce	-	3
Tirane	-	4
Totali	4	20

Use of POS

- Facilitation of the visitors flux during peak hours at Access Points, by creating a parallel ticketing line through POS
- Continuity of service in cases of emergencies, such as internet problems, as the devices are battery-powered

Review and propose amendments to DCM No. 1156, dated 24.12.2020

Aiming to:

- address challenges, gaps, and issues encountered in the implementation
- add missing fees and expand the base of ecosystem services

Key Proposed Changes

- Regulation of collection and use of monetary donations by establishing procedures
- Provision clear procedure and criteria for selecting projects/investments to be financed from revenues
- Specific details for “wood material”, “use of the surfaces,” “construction/use of a road”, “Ecotourism Fees” etc.
- Daily rental to private of premises such as halls in visitor centers or at InNature, for events, seminars, etc.

Youth4Nature



- Employment of more than 20 students and recently graduated persons
- Open process for applications
- Different disciplines, mainly from natural sciences
- Work closely with the staff of the Protected Areas Administration (RAPA) in different regions
- Involvement on awareness and education activities
- 2nd year of involvement

Capacity development for the staff of NAPA and RAPAs

<https://learning.akzm.net>



- The e-learning platform contains 10 training modules and case studies
- 2 additional modules under development on METT and Natura 2000
- Integrated into the Albanian School of Public Administration website and joint training are organized
- e-learning platform is being used from students of Youth4Nature program
- Results so fare:
 - 119 persons registered and following courses
 - 40 NAPA and RAPA staff finailzed courses with certificate
 - 19 students from Youth4Nature program

Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT-4)

<https://akzm.net/mettv4/>



- Conducting annual METT-4 assessments in all 10 pilot areas, with unified methodology.
- Expanded participation: NAPAs, RAPAs, MC members, NGOs, local community, etc.
- Structured discussion and validation process, increasing transparency and technical argumentation.
- Updating and verifying the results every year, with publication scheduled in akzm.net/METTV4
- Integration of species and habitats in accordance with the requirements of Natura 2000.
- Over 60 persons participated

Rezultatet sipas komponenteve

Të gjitha Zonat bashkë në një grafik



EU4 NATURE

Ndërkombëtare

Ndërkombëtare





Training in Korça
June 13, 2025



Training in Shkoder
June 20, 2025



Training in Tirana
December 4, 2025

Strengthening Monitoring and Reporting Capacities

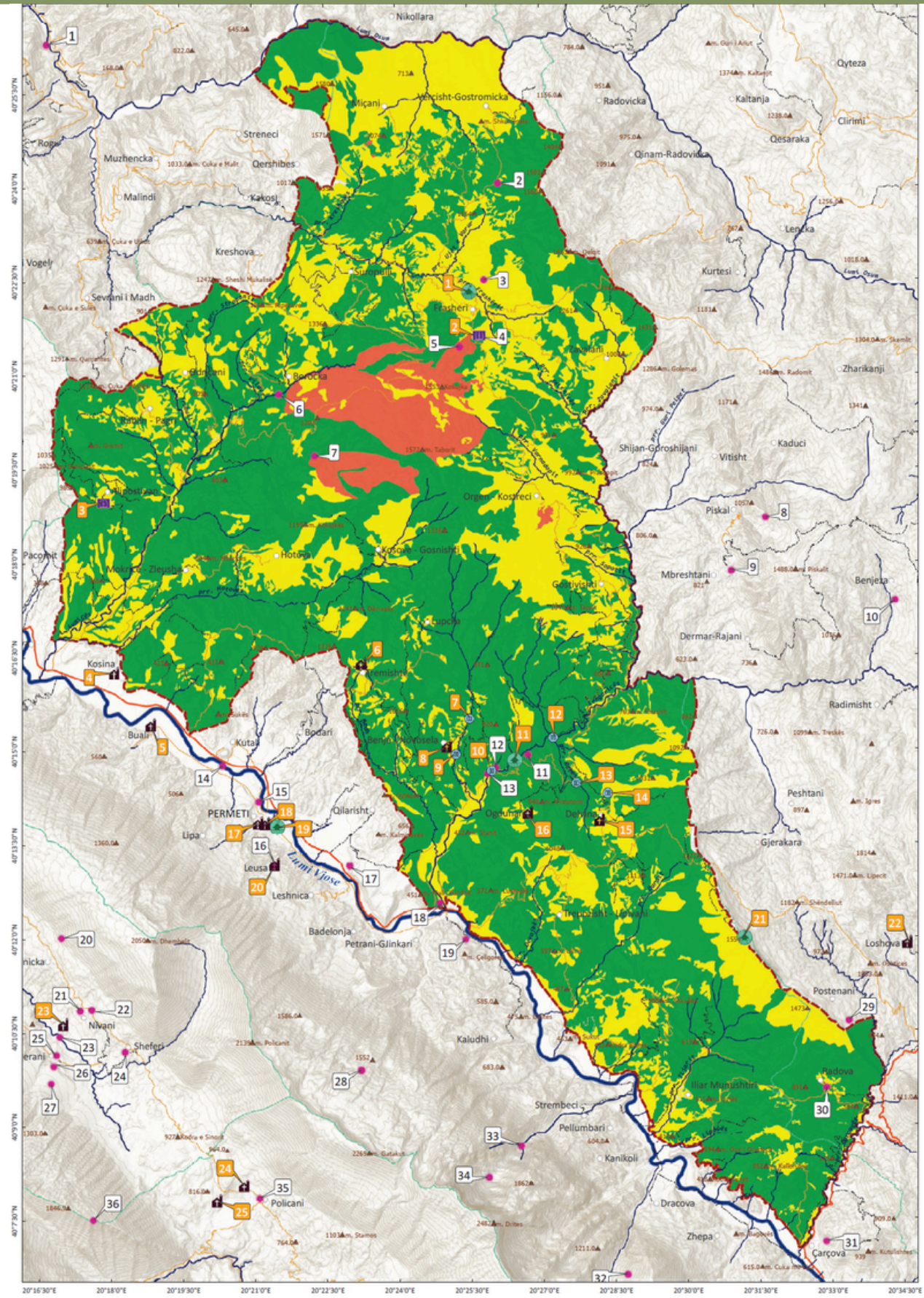
- RAPAs staff capacity assessment to identify gaps in knowledge on METT, BHD and Natura 2000.
- 2 regional workshops in Korça and Shkodra with all RAPAs
- 80+ participants in total, from NAPA and RAPAs, directors, head of management and monitoring, etc.
- National workshop analysing results and exchange international experience in monitoring and reporting

Management of Protected Areas

Natura 2000	Integrated Management Plans
The process for development of dataset for 5 Natura 2000 (preliminary sites) is ongoing	Ongoing development of IMPs in 3 areas: NP "Bredhi i Hotovo-Dangëlli", PN "Zagoria" and PN "Bredhi i Sotires"
Academics and scientist are working on completion of species and habitats as per BHD	Study on the biodiversity, culture and socio-economic situation of the PN "Shala Valley"
	Launched the process for the Integrated Management Plan of Lura-Mali i Dejes



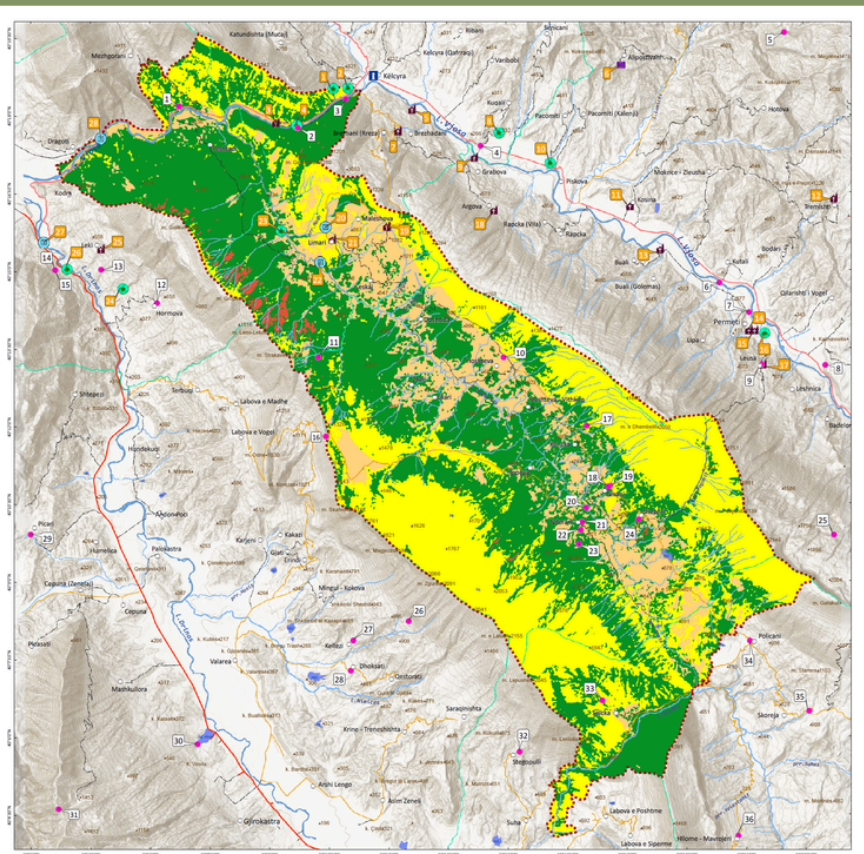
Habitats and Zoning Maps for (i) Bredhi i Hotoves-Dangelli, (ii) Zagoria, (iii) Shala Valley, (iv) Vjosa River, (v) Lura - Mali i Dejes



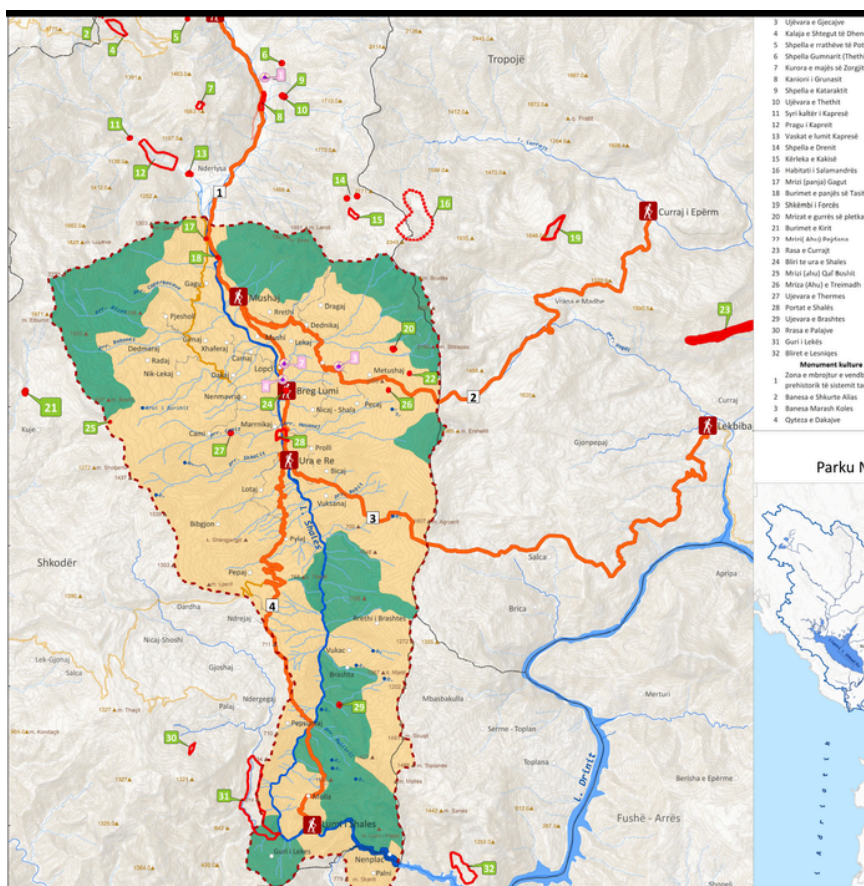
- Monument natyre**
- 1 Kanioni i Osunit
 - 2 Pylli i Ropushës
 - 3 Bokërrimat e Dangëlisë
 - 4 Gështenja e Teqesë - Frashër
 - 5 Bredhi i Kokojkës - Frashër
 - 6 Perëndi e Borockës (Kanioni, Guri i Bletës)
 - 7 Kanioni i Kamenikut (Kamenckes)
 - 8 Bokrimat e Piskalit
 - 9 Rrapi i Mbreshtanit
 - 10 Mecka e Benjezit
 - 11 Kanioni i Lengariçës
 - 12 Shpella e Pëllumbave
 - 13 Ujërat Termale të Bënjes
 - 14 Guri i Atos
 - 15 Guri i Qytetit
 - 16 Selvia e Kishës në Leusë
 - 17 Grumbulli pyjor i Polenit
 - 18 Guri i Petranit
 - 19 Bredhi i Petranit
 - 20 Vrimat e Konckës
 - 21 Gurra e Nivanit
 - 22 Rrepet e Nivanit
 - 23 Lisat e Manastirit Nivan
 - 24 Rrapi i shkollës Sheper
 - 25 Rrapi i Ndëranit
 - 26 Pylli i Gurtë - Ndëran
 - 27 Tarraca e Ndëranit
 - 28 Pusi i Nemerçkës
 - 29 Banjat e Avullit Postenan
 - 30 Selvitë e Radovës
 - 31 Horizonte vithisëse dhe olistolitet e Çarshovës
 - 32 Pylli i Gërhotit
 - 33 Ujëvara e Sopotit
 - 34 Cirkus i Nemerçkës
 - 35 Rrapi i Policanit
 - 36 Kanioni Selckes
- Monument kulture**
- 1 Shtëpia e Vëllezërve Frashëri
 - 2 Teqeja e Frashërit
 - 3 Teqeja e Alipostivanit
 - 4 Kisha Shën Mëria - Kosinë
 - 5 Kisha e Shëndëllisë - Bual
 - 6 Kisha Shë Sotiri
 - 7 Ura e Dashit
 - 8 Kisha Shën Mëria - Bënje
 - 9 Ura e Bënjes
 - 10 Ura e Kadut
 - 11 Shpella e Bënjes
 - 12 Ura e Miçait
 - 13 Ura e Babos
 - 14 Ura e Zonjës
 - 15 Kisha e Shen Janit - Delvinë
 - 16 Kisha Shën Mëria - Ogdunan
 - 17 Kisha e Shën Kollit
 - 18 Kisha Shë e Premte
 - 19 Salla e Kongresit
 - 20 Kisha Shën Mëria - Leusë
 - 21 Ish reparti ushtarak Postenan
 - 22 Kisha Shën Mëria, Lashovë
 - 23 Kisha e Manastirit të Shen Mehilit, Nivan
 - 24 Kisha e Shën Thanasit, Polican
 - 25 Kisha e Mazharit, Polican



- Parku Kombëtar "Bredhi i Hotovës - Dangëlli"**
- Legjenda**
- Qëndër e banuar
 - Kuotë
 - Rrjeti ujor
 - lumë
 - përrua
 - Kufiri i Zonës së mbrojtur
 - Kufiri i Zonës së mbrojtur
 - Përdorimi territorit
 - Pyje fletore
 - Pyje halore
 - Te tjera (toka bujqesore, shkembore, te eroduar, etj)
 - Monument kulture
 - Atraksion kulturor
 - Kishë
 - Teqe
 - Urë
 - Monument natyre



- Monument natyre**
- 1 Bredhi i Osunit
 - 2 Pylli i Ropushës
 - 3 Bokërrimat e Dangëlisë
 - 4 Gështenja e Teqesë - Frashër
 - 5 Bredhi i Kokojkës - Frashër
 - 6 Perëndi e Borockës (Kanioni, Guri i Bletës)
 - 7 Kanioni i Kamenikut (Kamenckes)
 - 8 Bokrimat e Piskalit
 - 9 Rrapi i Mbreshtanit
 - 10 Mecka e Benjezit
 - 11 Kanioni i Lengariçës
 - 12 Shpella e Pëllumbave
 - 13 Ujërat Termale të Bënjes
 - 14 Guri i Atos
 - 15 Guri i Qytetit
 - 16 Selvia e Kishës në Leusë
 - 17 Grumbulli pyjor i Polenit
 - 18 Guri i Petranit
 - 19 Bredhi i Petranit
 - 20 Vrimat e Konckës
 - 21 Gurra e Nivanit
 - 22 Rrepet e Nivanit
 - 23 Lisat e Manastirit Nivan
 - 24 Rrapi i shkollës Sheper
 - 25 Rrapi i Ndëranit
 - 26 Pylli i Gurtë - Ndëran
 - 27 Tarraca e Ndëranit
 - 28 Pusi i Nemerçkës
 - 29 Banjat e Avullit Postenan
 - 30 Selvitë e Radovës
 - 31 Horizonte vithisëse dhe olistolitet e Çarshovës
 - 32 Pylli i Gërhotit
 - 33 Ujëvara e Sopotit
 - 34 Cirkus i Nemerçkës
 - 35 Rrapi i Policanit
 - 36 Kanioni Selckes
- Monument kulture**
- 1 Shtëpia e Vëllezërve Frashëri
 - 2 Teqeja e Frashërit
 - 3 Teqeja e Alipostivanit
 - 4 Kisha Shën Mëria - Kosinë
 - 5 Kisha e Shëndëllisë - Bual
 - 6 Kisha Shë Sotiri
 - 7 Ura e Dashit
 - 8 Kisha Shën Mëria - Bënje
 - 9 Ura e Bënjes
 - 10 Ura e Kadut
 - 11 Shpella e Bënjes
 - 12 Ura e Miçait
 - 13 Ura e Babos
 - 14 Ura e Zonjës
 - 15 Kisha e Shen Janit - Delvinë
 - 16 Kisha Shën Mëria - Ogdunan
 - 17 Kisha e Shën Kollit
 - 18 Kisha Shë e Premte
 - 19 Salla e Kongresit
 - 20 Kisha Shën Mëria - Leusë
 - 21 Ish reparti ushtarak Postenan
 - 22 Kisha Shën Mëria, Lashovë
 - 23 Kisha e Manastirit të Shen Mehilit, Nivan
 - 24 Kisha e Shën Thanasit, Polican
 - 25 Kisha e Mazharit, Polican

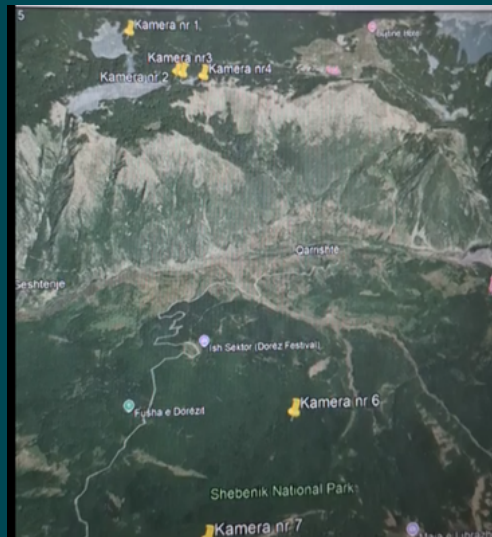


- Monument natyre**
- 1 Bredhi i Osunit
 - 2 Pylli i Ropushës
 - 3 Bokërrimat e Dangëlisë
 - 4 Gështenja e Teqesë - Frashër
 - 5 Bredhi i Kokojkës - Frashër
 - 6 Perëndi e Borockës (Kanioni, Guri i Bletës)
 - 7 Kanioni i Kamenikut (Kamenckes)
 - 8 Bokrimat e Piskalit
 - 9 Rrapi i Mbreshtanit
 - 10 Mecka e Benjezit
 - 11 Kanioni i Lengariçës
 - 12 Shpella e Pëllumbave
 - 13 Ujërat Termale të Bënjes
 - 14 Guri i Atos
 - 15 Guri i Qytetit
 - 16 Selvia e Kishës në Leusë
 - 17 Grumbulli pyjor i Polenit
 - 18 Guri i Petranit
 - 19 Bredhi i Petranit
 - 20 Vrimat e Konckës
 - 21 Gurra e Nivanit
 - 22 Rrepet e Nivanit
 - 23 Lisat e Manastirit Nivan
 - 24 Rrapi i shkollës Sheper
 - 25 Rrapi i Ndëranit
 - 26 Pylli i Gurtë - Ndëran
 - 27 Tarraca e Ndëranit
 - 28 Pusi i Nemerçkës
 - 29 Banjat e Avullit Postenan
 - 30 Selvitë e Radovës
 - 31 Horizonte vithisëse dhe olistolitet e Çarshovës
 - 32 Pylli i Gërhotit
 - 33 Ujëvara e Sopotit
 - 34 Cirkus i Nemerçkës
 - 35 Rrapi i Policanit
 - 36 Kanioni Selckes
- Monument kulture**
- 1 Shtëpia e Vëllezërve Frashëri
 - 2 Teqeja e Frashërit
 - 3 Teqeja e Alipostivanit
 - 4 Kisha Shën Mëria - Kosinë
 - 5 Kisha e Shëndëllisë - Bual
 - 6 Kisha Shë Sotiri
 - 7 Ura e Dashit
 - 8 Kisha Shën Mëria - Bënje
 - 9 Ura e Bënjes
 - 10 Ura e Kadut
 - 11 Shpella e Bënjes
 - 12 Ura e Miçait
 - 13 Ura e Babos
 - 14 Ura e Zonjës
 - 15 Kisha e Shen Janit - Delvinë
 - 16 Kisha Shën Mëria - Ogdunan
 - 17 Kisha e Shën Kollit
 - 18 Kisha Shë e Premte
 - 19 Salla e Kongresit
 - 20 Kisha Shën Mëria - Leusë
 - 21 Ish reparti ushtarak Postenan
 - 22 Kisha Shën Mëria, Lashovë
 - 23 Kisha e Manastirit të Shen Mehilit, Nivan
 - 24 Kisha e Shën Thanasit, Polican
 - 25 Kisha e Mazharit, Polican

Support with Equipment



Trap cameras for biodiversity monitoring



Firefighting sets and packages of tools



Water monitoring Kits for freshwater



Drons for RAPAs of pilot areas



Training on use of water monitoring kits
to Administration Office of Vjosa



Implementation of priority conservation measures- NbS



Small-scale ecosystem restoration at Vjosa River NP

- Based on the Vjosa Park Integrated Management Plan
- Close cooperation with Administration Office of Vjosa Park
- 3 ha covered
- 7500 autochthone plants
- Involvement of local community

Activities foreseen in 3rd year (March 2026 - February 2027)

- Support on full transposition of the EU Nature Protection Acquis
- Supervise and enforcement of the revenues generated and replicate the e-invoicing system and providing POS for Vjosa River NP
- Finalise the business plan for Dajti Mountain and development for Shebenik and Vjosa River
- Dedicated sessions for PA Management Committees on EU Nature Protection Acquis, particularly the Birds and Habitats Directives.
- Cooperation with ASPA and develop two additional modules on Natura 2000 and METT and respective trainings
- Assist NAPA on implementation of the Youth4Nature program

Activities foreseen in 3rd year (March 2026 - February 2027)

- Finalisation of management plans for Bredhi i Hotoves-Dangelli, Zagoria and Bredhi i Sotires and development of management plan for Lura
- Develop data sets for 5 selected sites from pSCI of Natura 2000 sites
 - Drino valley, Delta of Vjosa, Upper valley of Vjosa, Skadar lake, Shebenik
- Development/ revision of two Specific Action Plans: Bear and Lynx
- Capacity building program and respective trainings on priority topics to be addressed, such as law enforcement and relevant reporting
 - Develop Structured Template for reporting the performance of PA in line with EU standards

Activities foreseen in 3rd year (March 2026 - February 2027)

- Completion of METT for pilot sites & nationwide workshop on management effectiveness system
- Finalising/ monitoring the interventions in Vjosa River NP
- Initiate implementing actions based on the priorities identified in MPs for either of the sites (Bredhi i Hotoves-Dangelli, Zagoria, Bredhi i Sotires)
- Provide equipment like computers, GPS, telescopes, etc.
- Preparation of habitat and zoning maps for the remain pilot sites

Seminars on Environmental Crime within Protected Areas (Municipality of Milan)



**ARPA
Lombardia**
March 2025



**Fondazione
Milano Cortina**
September 2025

**ARPA
Lombardia**
February 2026



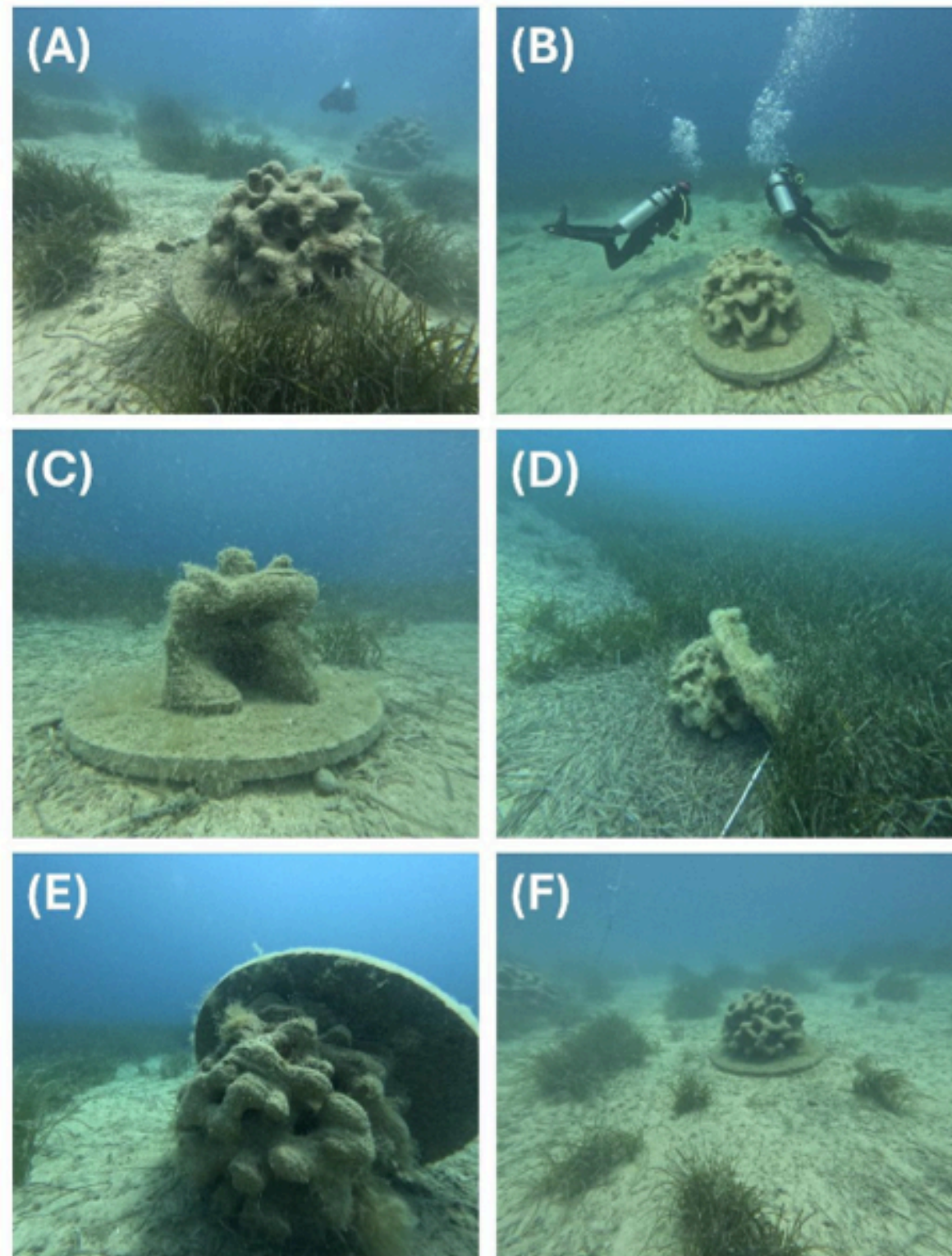
Restoration works in forest areas (CREA)



**Field mission in
Dajti, Shebenik,
Bredhi i Hotoves,
Zagori - March
2025**



Nature Based Solutions in maritime-coastal areas (University of Genova)



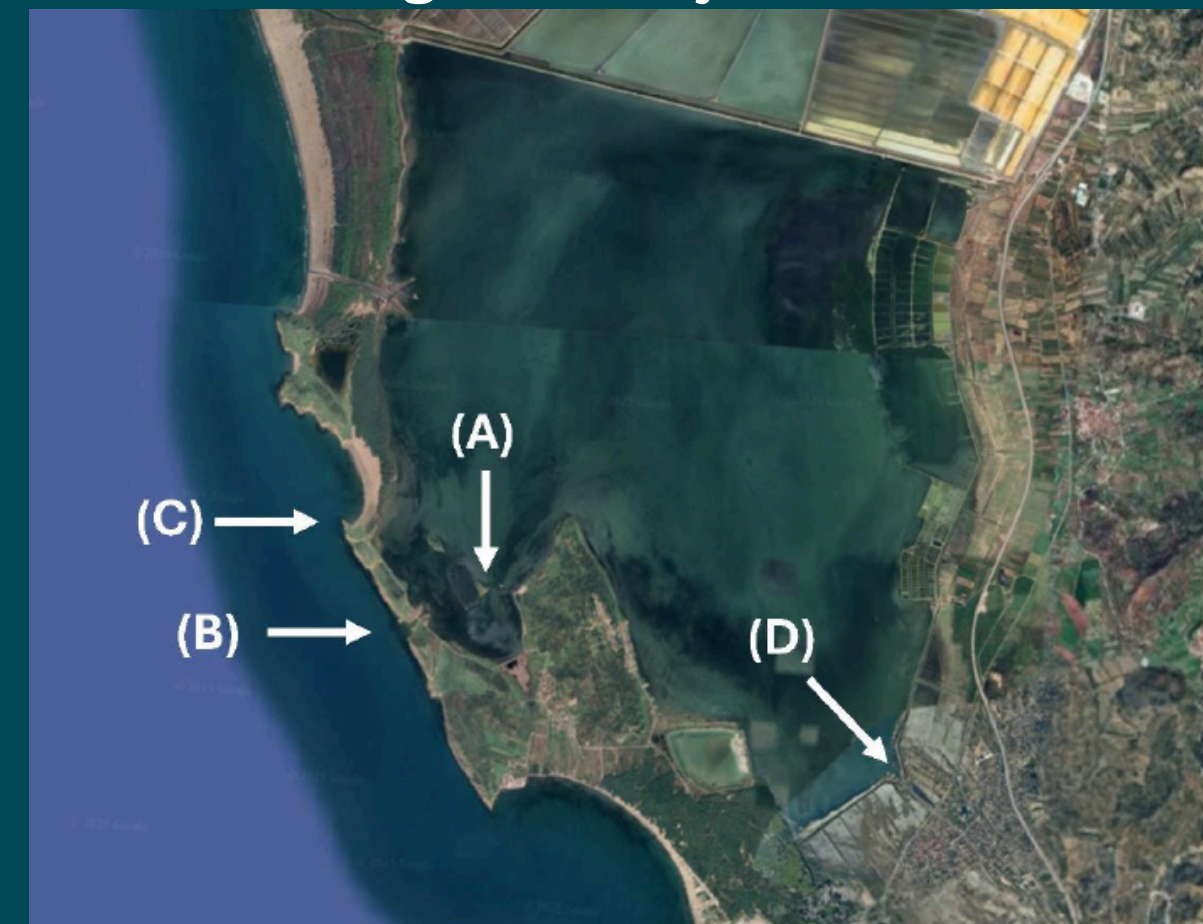
A 2. ARs installed in the SE-site (see Figure 1).

Study in Porto Palermo on Artificial Reefs and *Posidonia Oceanica* - May 2025



A 2. Large sand channel probably caused by anchoring at a depth of 16 m.

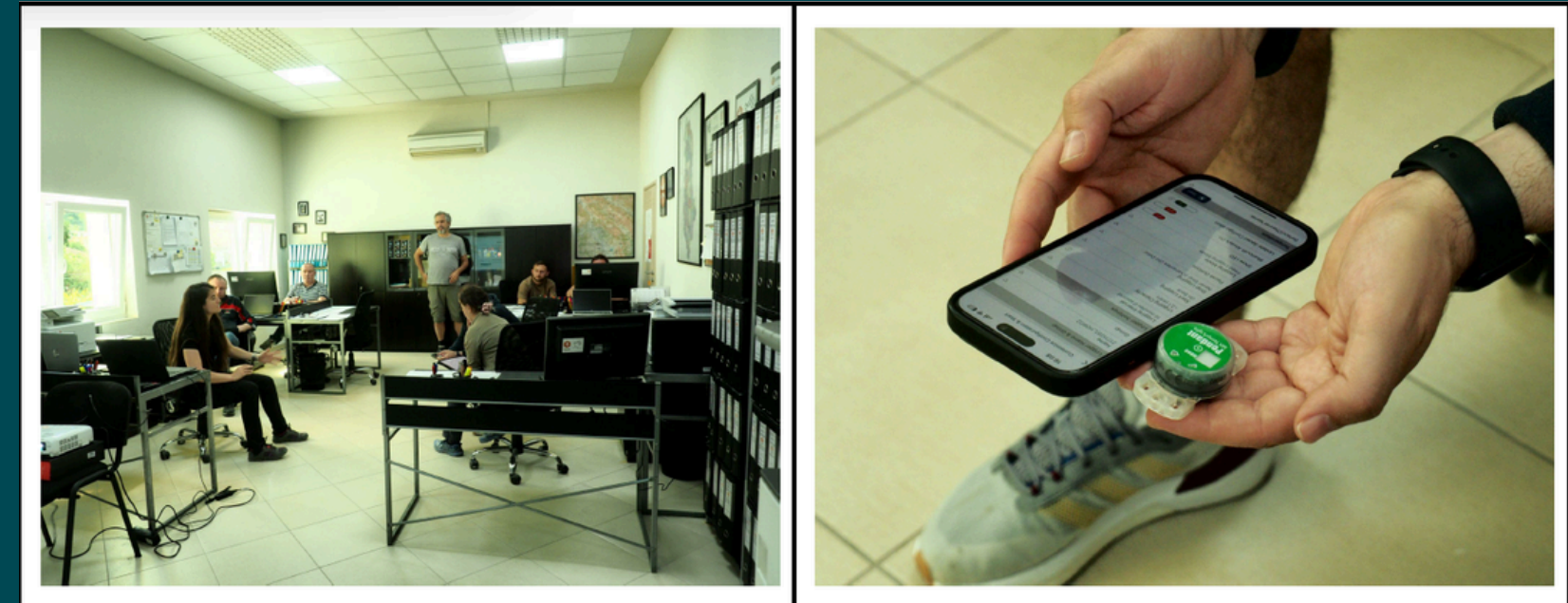
Study in Vjosa Narta on Coastal erosion monitoring and ecological status of the lagoon - May 2025



Nature Based Solutions in river catchments (University of Trento)



Study in Vjosa and tributaries - May 2025



May 28th training for the monitoring, management and data collection and sharing of temperature sensors to CESVI.



Air Temperature sensor in Permet



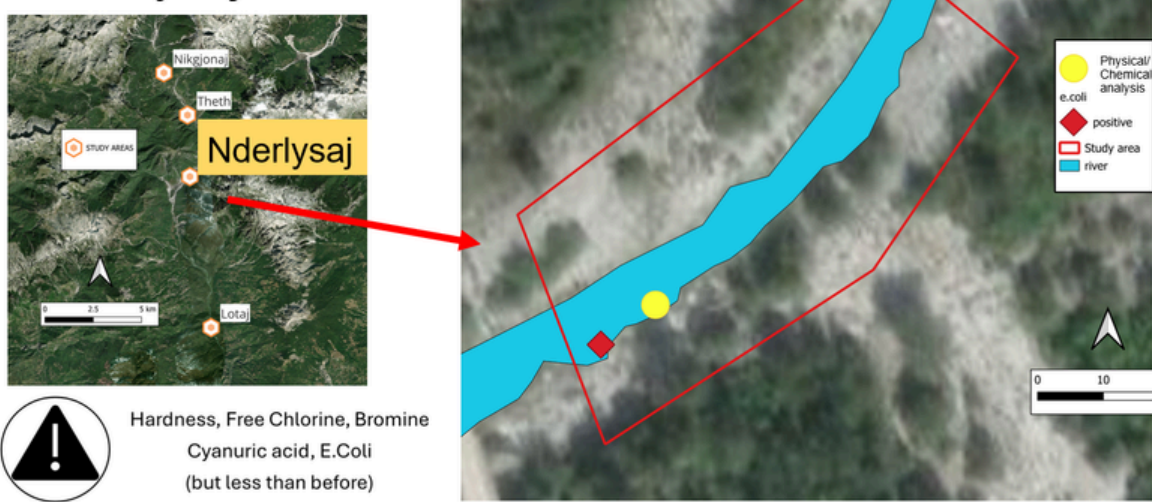
Water temperature sensor installation in Lengarica river



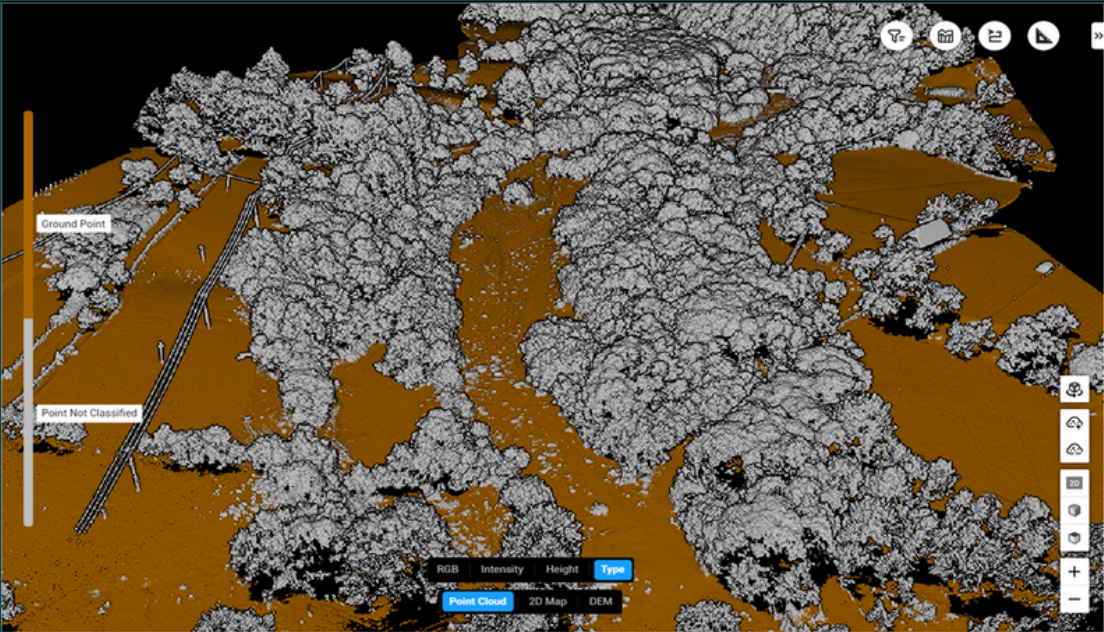
Water temperature sensor installation in Permet, Vjosa river

Nature Based Solutions in river catchments (University of Trento)

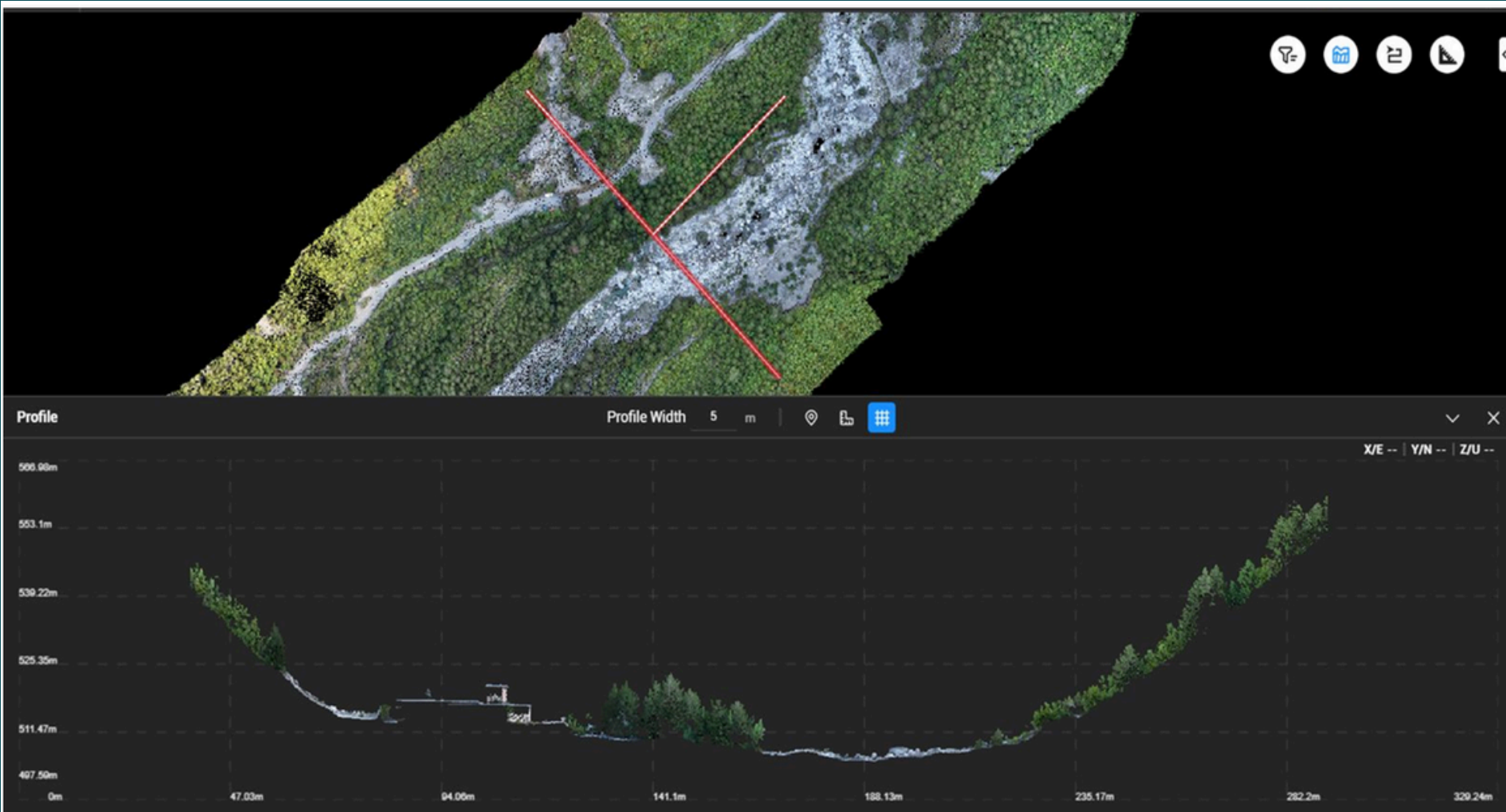
River quality results - Nderlysaj



Study in Theth and Lumi i Shales - June 2025



UAV and Lidar Zenmuse L2



Activities foreseen in 3rd year (March 2026 - February 2027)

- Launch of **Grant scheme** for local OSC to implement **NBS** within Protected Areas
- Launch of tenders for the installation of **Artificial Reef** and **Posidonia** in Porto Palermo
- Launch of tenders for **restoration works** in **forestry areas** within Protected Areas
- Drafting of **multifunctional management** plan for forestry areas
- Seminars on **Non Timber Products** within Protected Areas

Request for No-Cost Extension

Actual duration of the project is 5 years (60 months)

Project dates: 1.09.2023 - 31.08.2028

Proposed extension of the project by one year; new proposed date:

1.09.2023 - 31.08.2029

Reasons of delays:

- **Time committed to responding to legal amendments:** Changes to the Law on Protected Areas required extensive time to assess its impact on the project, and to revise risks and assumptions, in consultation with partners.
- **Delays in selecting pilot sites:** Reaching a common agreement on including the marine area as one of the selected sites.
- **VAT exemption:** The delayed issuance of VAT exemption certification and the lack of a functional exemption process

Main Changes in the Budget

Original	Reasons for changes	Changes in Budget
Output 1.5 - Design, develop, and deliver a capacity building and career development certification program	The activity is being covered mainly by the project staff	reduce with approx. 19,874 Euro
Output 2.2 - Support the development of new management plans,	Following the new standard of Management Plan including 5 studies, the budget line should be increased	Increase with 131,839 Euro
Output 3.3 - PA management effectiveness system (building on the METT-4 methodology)	The activity is being covered mainly by the project staff	reduce with approx. 5,380 Euro
Funds saved on the 1 and 2 years from activities covered by project team, travels, misc.	Reallocate to the Output 2.2	approx. 106,585 Euro