



# For a Sustainable Future

## Institutional Support for Protected Areas in Albania

Shebenik-Jabllanicë National Park © IUCN/T.Pezold

**Project sites:** Buna River Protected Landscape (PL) and Shebenik-Jabllanicë National Park (NP)

**Implemented by:** International Union for Nature Conservation (IUCN) in partnership with the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and National Agency for Protected Areas (NAPA)

**Funded by:** Italian Development Cooperation (AICS)

**Collaborators:** Two IUCN Members in Albania, Institute for Nature Conservation of Albania (INCA) and Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania (PPNEA)

**Project website:** [www.iucn.org/projectalbania](http://www.iucn.org/projectalbania)

Brochure "For a Sustainable Future" <http://bit.ly/2j2gvfR>



### Long-term achievements

- Contributed to the new national institutional framework for protected areas,
- Strengthened legal framework for protected areas by passing a Ministerial Decree on the Standard Contents for Protected Areas Management Plans in Albania,
- Strengthened national protected areas policy by mainstreaming international standards into protected areas planning and management processes,
- Public participation enabled through the consultation processes for the first time at such a broad scale, introducing the knowledge of local stakeholders in the area-based management planning,
- Enhanced planning and management of protected areas of Albania and supported their further development by strengthening the income-generating potential without compromising nature preservation.

### Site-based action

- Management Plans for the Buna River Protected Landscape (PL) and Shebenik-Jabllanicë National Park (NP) prepared following the IUCN WCPA (World Commission on Protected Areas) Management Planning Guidelines,
- Updated 1:50.000 vegetation and habitat maps of the two areas published,
- The Biodiversity National Network of Albania (BioNNA) created, to ensure the biodiversity data are collected following standard protocols, stored and made available to the scientific community and interested public,
- The NAPA application: "Nature Guide Albania" developed, for the promotion of Albanian protected areas, with data entered for the two project sites.



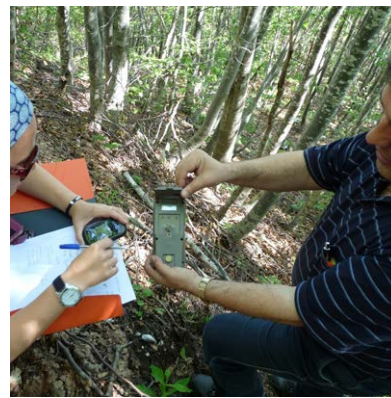
AGENZIA ITALIANA  
PER LA COOPERAZIONE  
ALLO SVILUPPO



Birds monitoring in Shebenik-Jabllanicë National Park  
© IUCN/A. Ghiurghi



Field visit to the Buna River Protected Landscape  
© IUCN/A. Ghiurghi



Setting camera traps in Shebenik-Jabllanicë National Park  
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Velipoje visitor centre opening  
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## Capacity building

- Around 50 experts and PA staff trained in the field on flora, fauna and water monitoring and analysis of socio-economic aspects,
- 25 hours of training delivered to staff from Librazhd and Shkodra District Forest service and the Ministry of Environment on the management planning,
- A two days study tour to Pelister National Park, FYR Macedonia was organized for 14 staff of Shebenik-Jabllanicë NP,
- Six rangers received an English language course,
- NAPA GIS technician trained on the use of databases.

## Awareness raising

- Six issues of project newsletter 'Advance Albania' published in English and Albanian, bringing news on protected areas management in the country,
- 'Our hidden treasure', a 45' long documentary produced, raising public awareness on the importance of nature and proper planning and management of protected areas,
- Co-organization of the Environmental Film Festival of Albania in 2013 and 2014,
- Support to four local celebrations in Shebenik-Jabllanicë NP,
- Two awareness campaigns for six schools in Buna and six in Shebenik, for a total of 180 and 150 students respectively involved,
- Awareness campaign in 20 villages in Shebenik-Jabllanicë NP to build the local knowledge on the park and its values,
- Mountain bike open competition in Fushe Stude in 2016, to promote Shebenik-Jabllanicë NP as an ecotourism destination.

## Infrastructure improvements

- Buna River Protected Landscape
  - » cleaning 2000m<sup>2</sup> of Velipoje beach
  - » construction of wooden birds' observation tower and platform on the river Buna mouth
  - » restoration of the Velipoje visitor centre
  - » cleaning and marking of 7 biking trails, 122 km total length
- Shebenik-Jabllanicë National Park
  - » building restoration and visitor centre opening in Fushe Stude
  - » restoration of the offices of Regional Administration for Protected Areas of Librazhd
  - » cleaning and marking of 13 biking trails (245 km total length) and hiking trails.

## Equipment provision

According to the needs identified by the National Agency for Protected Areas and the Ministry of Environment, field work material and equipment was provided for:

- Ecological monitoring of the two project areas (GPS, binoculars, camera traps, water analysis instruments, computers, etc.)
- Patrolling (car, camping sets, etc.)
- Awareness raising (projectors, promotional materials, etc.)