



“Biodiversity, conservation and restoration” -
Action examples
National Agency of Protected Areas
ALBANIA





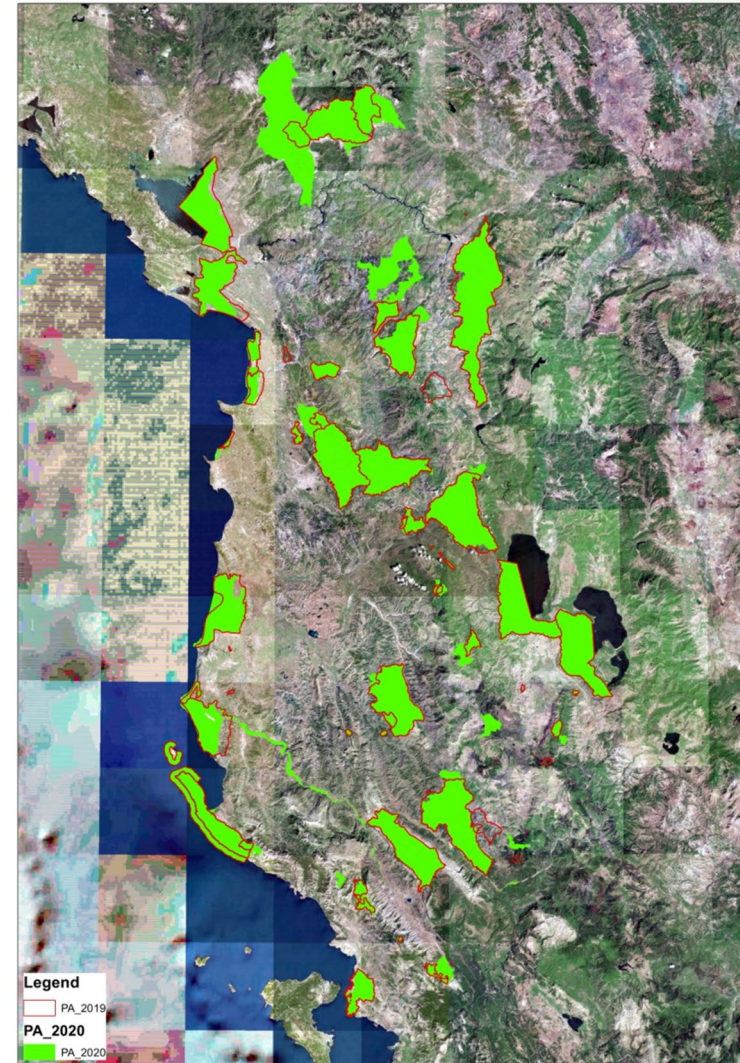
"Protected area" is a land, water, sea and coastal space, clearly defined geographically, known, with clear physical boundaries and managed through legal or other effective means, to achieve long-term conservation / protection of nature, related to ecosystem services and cultural values.



NEW NETWORK OF PROTECTED AREAS

- During 2019, the “STUDY FOR THE RE-EVALUATION OF THE NETWORK SYSTEM OF ENVIRONMENTALLY PROTECTED AREAS IN ALBANIA” was conducted.
- This study has defined new protected areas and changed some of the existing protected areas.
- The new network of protected areas constitutes almost 21% of Albania surface (from 18% that was before).
- According to IUCN categories:

IUCN Categories	Number
National Parks	11
Managed Nature Reserves/Natural Parks	17
Protected Landscapes	8



BIODIVERSITY IN ALBANIA

- Albania ranks among the countries with the highest biodiversity in Europe.
- The diversity of ecosystems and habitats offers a high diversity of plant and animal species.
- There are about 7 233 plant taxa (including ferns, fungi, lichens, mosses and algae) and 5 438 species of animals (including birds, mammals, reptiles, fish, insects, decapods, etc.). About 32% of all European flora is located in Albania.
- In Albania grow about 32 species of endemic plants and about 110 other subendemic plants, which share habitats between Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, Croatia and Greece.
- Lake Ohrid is the most popular ecosystem in the country in terms of endemic fauna: over 40 species of mollusks and two species of fish are endemic.



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MAJOR THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY

- Industrial development
- Urbanization
- Energy and mining (quarry)
- Illegal logging
- Illegal hunting
- Fishing
- Transport and tourism
- Fires



LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

- Strategic policy document for biodiversity protection (2015-2020);
 - Law no. 81/2017 “On protected areas”, which among other things strictly prohibits hunting in all categories of protected areas;
 - Law “On the protection of wild fauna”;
 - Law “On the protection of biodiversity”, amended on 2020 to include the Nagoya Protocol;
 - Law “On hunting”;
 - Law “On forests”;
 - Etc.
-
- To ensure the implementation of these laws, a number of bylaws have been drafted and approved to supplement the legal basis for specific elements of nature protection, including the list of protected species of fauna and flora, published in the Red Book of Flora and The red book of Fauna of Albania.



ACTION EXAMPLES - Rehabilitation of the quarry area in Qafe-Priske, Dajt

- According to the Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 1156, date 24.12.2020 “On the determination of the revenues generated from the tariffs in the protected areas, of the measure and the criteria of their use” the generated revenues are used, inter alia, in the amount of 60% for investments in protected areas, afforestation projects and also for habitat and landscape rehabilitation.

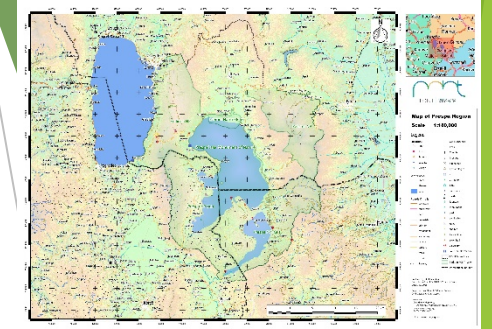


- In this way, has recently been carried out the rehabilitation of one of the quarries area in Qafe-Priske, part of the National Park "Dajti Mountain".
- The forested area is 1.5 hectares and is planted with chestnuts.
- In addition to being planted, the area has also been fenced.
 - The same activities will start soon in the area damaged by the quarries in the area of Kruja Mountain and are planned in Tarabosh, Shkoder.
 - Rehabilitation of the area from illegal logging will also be done in Lure and Munelle, thus helping to restore the biodiversity of habitats and species in these areas.



ACTION EXAMPLES - Prespa Ohrid Nature Trust (PONT)

- Was created in 2015 to provide long term financing for the Prespa Ohrid ecoregion - a transboundary area of Albania, Greece and North Macedonia.
- Combining endowment and sinking elements, PONT was capitalised with funding from MAVA Foundation, German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the German development bank (KfW).
- The overall objective of the grant is to improve management effectiveness of Prespa National Park.
- Building upon the findings of the management plan, a three-year operational plan was developed to attain the management objectives set out in the management plan, with the activities organized in six functional areas:
 - (1) Park Administration;
 - (2) Research and Monitoring;
 - (3) Habitat and Species Conservation;
 - (4) Rural Development;
 - (5) Social and Cultural Assets; and
 - (6) Education and Information.



ACTION EXAMPLES - Prespa Ohrid Nature Trust (PONT)

In the framework of this project, a series of activities for the conservation of biodiversity have been carried out and the relevant documents have been produced:

- Support to the management of protected areas in border region of Albania, Kosovo, North Macedonia in monitoring of endangered species;
- Preliminary assessment of human-large carnivore conflicts and associated livestock husbandry practices in the Albanian and Macedonian sides of the Prespa Basin;
- Assessment and mapping of the Great Prespa Lake wetland habitat types in Albania;
- Opening of a local satellite office in Albania;
- Support for participating in the International Waterbird Census in the three countries;
- The conservation of ten vascular plant species in Prespa National Park. Most of the selected species occur on both sides of the border. Updating the national and global red lists priorities of PONT's Strategic Framework;
- From June - September 2020, the Albanian Centre of Environmental Governance (ACEG) organised a Youth Academy on nature-based tourism in Prespa, Albania.



Look closely at nature. Every species is a masterpiece, exquisitely adopted to the particular environment, in which it has survived. Who are we to destroy or even diminish biodiversity?

E. O. Wilson

Thank you! 😊