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The Emerald Network

The European Diploma

Emerald Network Pilot Project in Albania

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1. Background

Albania is a rich country in terms of biodiversity values. 3 200 species of flora comprising 30 % of the European flora and 756 species of vertebrates, 91 of which globally threatened, are encountered in Albania.

In the framework of the CORINE Biotopes Program 79 sites were identified in an area of 499,290 ha, which cover 17.23 % of the country territory. Protected areas in Albania cover a surface of 166.611 ha that is 5.8 % of the country's area.

Albania signed the *Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern, 1979)* on 31 October 1995 and ratified it on 13 January 1999. On 6 June 2002 the Albanian Parliament approved for the first time in Albania the law "On protected areas" No. 8906, which provides the legal base for the development of the ecological network in the country. In 2001 the Council of Europe invited Albania to start the Emerald Network pilot project. The project started in April 2002, according to the contract signed on 25 February 2002 between the Ministry of the Environment of Albania and the Council of Europe.

2. Establishing the national team

The national team in the Republic of Albania was established in April 2002. The structure of the team is as follows :

- Zamir DEDEJ - team leader – Ministry of the Environment;
- Petrit HODA - plant expert, scientific work team leader – Faculty of Natural Sciences;
- Jani VANGJELI - plant and GIS expert - Academy of Sciences;
- Ferdinand BEGO - fauna expert – Museum of Natural Science (Faculty of Natural Sciences);
- Taulant BINO - fauna expert - Museum of Natural Science (Faculty of Natural Sciences);
- Mehmet META - protected areas expert – General Directorate of Forestry and Pastures;
- Elvana RAMAJ - administrator – Ministry of the Environment

3. Description of activities

Technical workshop

The technical workshop was held in Tirana (Mondial Hotel) on 22 - 23 April 2002 (see Annex III); During the workshop Ms. Helene Bouguessa from the Council of Europe, besides a short introduction regarding the Council of Europe, explained the legal framework of the Emerald Network, criteria for

selection of ASCI-s and presented relevant Emerald documentation.

Mr. Roekaerts, consultant for the Council of Europe explained the main features of the Emerald Network database and the Standard Data Entry form and demonstrated the final version of the Emerald network software as well.

Mr. Zamir Dedej from the Ministry of the Environment, after a brief presentation of the newly established Ministry of the Environment's structure (previously National Environmental Agency), gave an overview of the protected areas and their management in Albania analyzing the legal framework related to them.

In the second session of the workshop main areas of work were identified as follows :

- briefing about Emerald background
- installation of the software
- discussing potential Emerald sites in the Republic of Albania
- preparing list of Emerald species and habitat types in the Republic of Albania
- draft list of ASCI-s
- designation and proposals for the ASCI-s

In the following months the team compiled a draft list comprising species listed in Resolution No. 6 (1998) identified in the country and habitats listed in Resolution No. 4 (1996) occurring in the country. Potential Emerald sites were pre-selected according to the existing information in the country. Seven sites were pre-selected as the base for the Emerald Network (all of them National Parks).

At a later stage the list of potential Emerald sites was slightly changed after expert discussions, taking into account the recommendation that the selected sites should not comprise only National Parks (Protected Areas) and also includes different types of habitats from the coastal one to mountains. Finally, six sites were selected as Emerald sites that are Llogora National Park, Tomorri National Park, Pine of Divjaka, Butrinti National Park, Prespa National Park and Allamani area (proposed to be a Strict Nature Reserve).

The next phase was the compilation of data on habitats and species using all the available information recorded in the country.

4. Nature conservation designation types in Albania

In Albania we use the IUCN category for the protected area which are the only system of nature protection in the countries. As mention before this structure is based after 6 June 2002 on the "Protected areas" Law Nr. 8906.

Below you find two tables that present the actual situation and a map to figure their position in the country. The protected are cover 5.8 % of the whole territory of Albania.

Table 1 - Existing system of protected areas up to the end of 2002

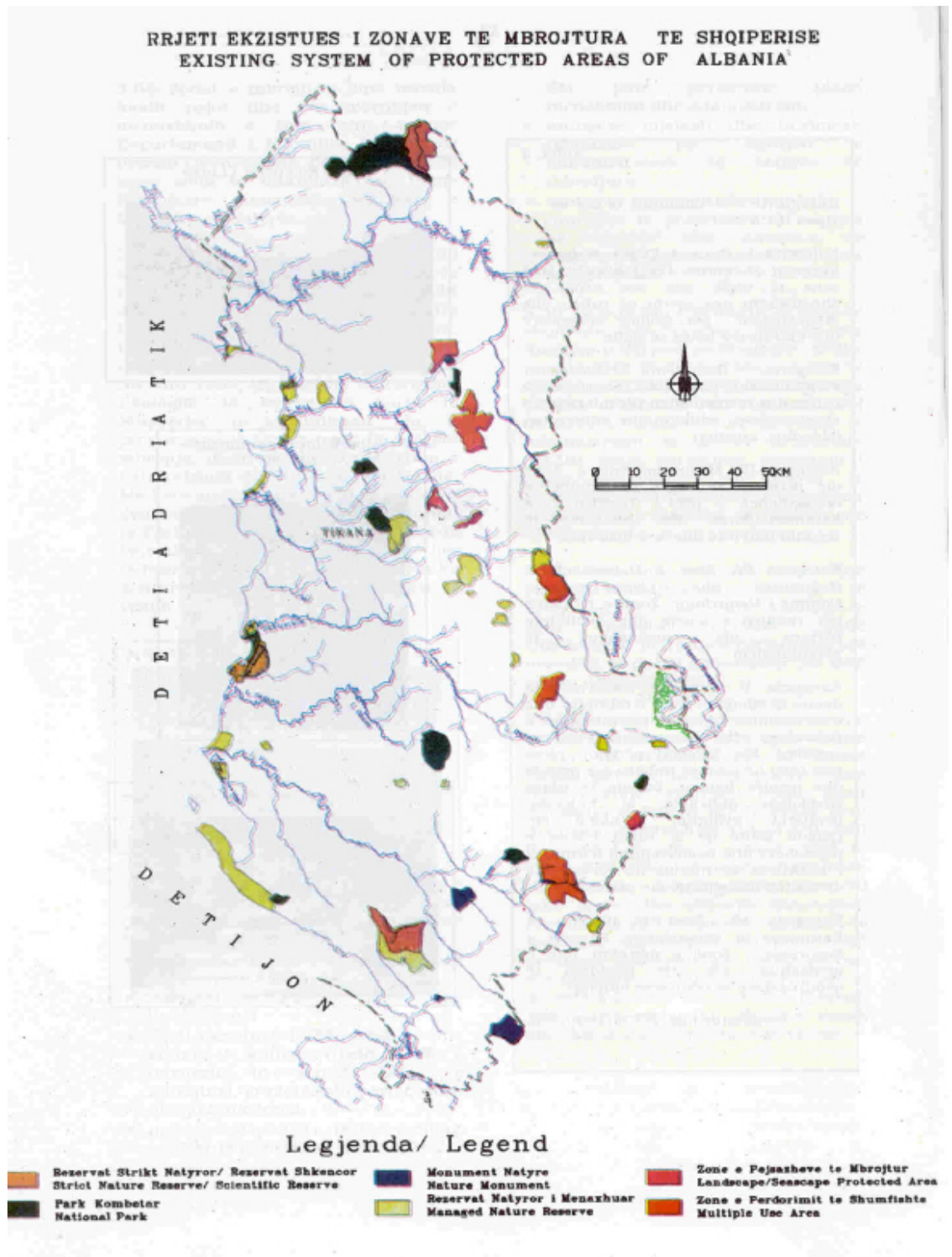
N	PA categories	Nb of PA	Surface ha	%	Main goals of the categories for PA management
1	Strictly protected area	4	14 500	8,83	Protected area, managed mainly for scientific aims and the conservation of the wild fauna
2	National parks	13	56 440	32,86	Protected area, managed mainly for the protection of the ecosystem and for recreation/tourism
3	Monuments of nature (special forest wood, woodland areas)	115 68	4 600	2,88	Protected area/surface, managed mainly for the protection/conservation of the specific/characteristic features of the nature
4	Managed areas	26	42.898	26,13	Protected area/surface, managed mainly for the protection/conservation mainly through management interventions
5	Protected landscape/ seascape	4	29 873	18,20	Protected area/surface, managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and for recreation

6	Protected resource area	4	18 200	11,09	Protected area/surface, managed mainly for sustainable use of natural resources/ecosystems
7	Total	384	166 611	100,00	3,79% of the surface of the Republic and 10,43% of the forest fund

Table 2 - Protected areas according to districts and management categories

No	Designation	Surface in ha	District	Approved
Category I Strictly natural reserve/scientific reserve				
1	Karavasta Lagoon	5 000	Lushnja	22.08.1994
2	Gashi River	3 000	Tropoja	15.01.1996
3	Rrajca	4 700	Librazhd	15.01.1996
4	Kardhiq	1 800	Gjirokastra	15.01.1996
	TOTAL	14 500		100,00 %
Category II National Park				
5	Dajti mountain	3 300	Tirana	16.12.1960/1966
6	Theth	2 630	Shkodra	21.11.1966
7	Lura	1 280	Dibra	21.11.1966
8	Pine of Divjaka	1 250	Lushnja	21.11.1966
9	Llogara	1 010	Vlora	21.11.1966
10	Fir of Drenova	1 380	Korça	21.11.1966
11	Tomorri mountain	4 000	Berat	15.01.1996/1940
12	Valbona valley	8 000	Tropoja	15.01.1996
13	Fir of Hotova	1 200	Përmet	15.01.1996
14	Qafë Shtama	2 000	Kruja	15.01.1996
15	Zall Gjocaj	140	Mat	15.01.1996
16	Prespa	27 750	Korca	18.02.1999
17	Butrinti	2 500	Saranda	2.03.2000
	TOTAL	56.440		100.00 %
Category III Monument of nature				
17	Fir of Sotira	1 740	Gjirokastra	15.01.1996
18	Blue Eye	200	Delvina	15.01.1996
19	Vlashaj	50	Dibra	15.01.1996
20	Zhej	1 500	Gjirokastra	15.01.1996
	TOTAL	4 360		100.00 %
Category IV Natural managed reserve				
21	Rrushkull	650	Durrës	1955,1977,1983 26.12.1995
22	Pishë-Poro	1 500	Fier	1958/1977/1983
23	Velipojë	700	Shkodra	1958/1977/1983
24	Kune	800	Lezha	1940/1960/1977/ 1983
25	Maliq	50	Korça	1961/1977/1983
26	Patok-Fushëkuqe-Negel	2 200	Kurbin	1962/1977/1983
27	Karaburun	20 000	Vlora	22.02.1968/1977/1983
28	Pishë-Poro	1 770	Vlora	04.08.1969/1977/ 83
29	Vain	1 500	Lezha	1940,1969,1977, 1983
30	Cangonji	250	Devoll	05.11.1960/ 1977/ 83

31	Bërzanë	880	Lezha	05.11.1977/1983
32	Levan	200	Fier	05.11.1977/1983
33	Qafëmollë-Derje	3 300	Tirana	05.11.1960/ 1977/ 83
34	Balloll	330	Berat	05.11.1977/1983
35	Qafë-Bushi	500	Elbasan	05.11.1977/1983
36	Bogovë	330	Skrapar	05.11.1977/1983
37	Krastafillak	250	Korça	05.11.1977/1983
38	Kuturman	3.600	Librazhd	05.11.1977/1983
39	Kular	815	Lushnja	22.08.1994
40	Rrezoma	1 400	Delvina	15.01.1996
41	Tej Drini Bardhë	30	Has	15.01.1996
42	Shelegur	430	Kolonja	15.01.1996
43	Polis	45	Librazhd	15.01.1996
44	Stravaj	400	Librazhd	15.01.1996
45	Sopot	300	Librazhd	15.01.1996
46	Qarishtë	318	Librazhd	15.01.1996
47	Dardhë-Xhyre	400	Librazhd	15.01.1996
	TOTAL	42 898		100,00 %
Category V Protected landscape/seascape				
47	Bizë	1.370	Tirana	15.01.1996
48	Bërdhet	670	Tirana	15.01.1996
49	Nikolicë	510	Devoll	15.01.1996
21	Lake Ohrid	27 323	Pogradec	18.02.1999
	TOTAL	29 873		100,00 %
Category VI Reserve of managed resources				
50	Luzni-Bulac	5 900	Dibra	15.01.1996
51	Piskal-Shqeri	5 400	Kolonja	15.01.1996
52	Bjeshka e Oroshit	4 700	Mirdita	15.01.1996
53	Guri i Nikës	2 200	Pogradec	15.01.1996
	TOTAL	18 200		100,00 %



5. List of Emerald species in Albania

[List of Emerald species \(PDF\)](#)

The team identified species listed in Resolution No.6 (1998) present in Albania 2 taxa of plants and 178 taxa of animals were identified as species requiring specific habitat conservation measures.

6. List of Emerald habitats in Albania

[List of Emerald habitats \(PDF\)](#)

The team identified habitats listed in Resolution No. 4 (1996) occurring within the country. In total 19 types of endangered natural habitats were identified.

7. Biogeographical regions in Albania

In Albania there are two biogeographical regions:

1. Mediterranean
2. Alpine

8. List of proposed Emerald sites in Albania

Six sites have been proposed for the inclusion into the Emerald network :

Code	Site name in Albanian	Site name in English
AL 0000001	Parku kombetar i Llogarase	Llogara National Park
AL 0000002	Parku Kombetar i Divjake	Divjake National Park
AL 0000003	Parku Kombetar i Prespes	Prespa National Park
AL 0000004	Park Kombetar i Butrintit	Butrinti National Park
AL 0000005	Reserve Strikte Natyrore e Allamanit (e propozuar)	Allamani Strict Nature Reserve (proposed)
AL 0000006	Parku Kombetar i Tomorrit	Tomorri National Park

Site location is shown on the "Map of proposed Emerald Sites in Albania".

9. Work table

Activity	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J
1. Building up the national Emerald team										
2. Training of the national Emerald team										
3. Identification of the species and habitats within each biogeographical region										
4. Selection of potential ASCI-s										
5. Description of potential ASCI-s										
6. Designation of the ASCI-s										
7. Building up the database of Emerald designated sites										
8. Submission of proposals										

10. Follow up activities

Problems – The table of the Emerald species in Albania according to Resolution No. 6 (1998) is nearly blank; there are only two species of plants from the list identified in Albania (*Marsilia quadrifolia* and *Solenanthus albanicus*). But, there are no data to confirm the presence of these two species in the selected Emerald sites of the project. Meanwhile, a considerable number of endemic, rare or threatened plant species are identified in the framework of the project. These species are listed under the title "Other species - Plants".

In the framework of the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, Albania intends to develop the Emerald Network of ASCI-s. In order to develop this network, Albania will be requesting additional funding from the Council of Europe in the amount 4.500 euro, to continue the work of building up the Emerald Network.

11. Financial statement of expenditure with the break-down of costs

ITEM	COAST
Field Coasts	1,200 €
Travel and accommodation expenses for experts	
Professional Fees	4,100 € 3,000 €
1. Purchase of missing data 2. Experts coast (Data sheets develop.)	
Equipment and materials	700 €
Purchase of software and printer	
TOTAL	9,000 €

