

**UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**

**Project of the Government of
Albania**

PROJECT DOCUMENT

Number: ALB/98/G33/A/1G/99
Title: Conservation of Wetland and Coastal Ecosystems in the Mediterranean Region

Duration: 5 years

Project Sites: Narta/Karabarun, Vlora District
ACC/UNDP Sector and Sub-sector: 0400 Environment
0340 Biological resources

UNDP/GEF:	\$1,751,000
Government Contribution:	\$ 150,000
Total:	\$1,901,000

GEF Theme: Biodiversity
Government Implementing Agency : Ministry of Health and Environment, Committee for Environmental Protection
Executing Agency: Government of Albania
Estimated Starting Date : February 1999

Brief Description:

This project is the Albanian component of a Mediterranean regional initiative involving Albania, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority and Tunisia. The overall initiative is aimed at ensuring the sustainable management the biological diversity of the coastal areas and wetlands in 6 Mediterranean countries/Authority through the development of adequate legal and regulatory frameworks, the creation of institutional organizations adapted to the complexity of the issues at stake, capacity-building and the development of an exchange network at the regional level both to achieve economies of scale and to save time when implementing and replicating the innovating actions undertaken.

The objective of the project is to create or enhance the exchange structures and fora concerned with this general management:

- ◆ By establishing interministerial coordination mechanisms for projects undertaken at the local and national levels;
- ◆ By developing demonstration activities at the most significant sites;
- ◆ By awareness-raising, training and networking of the population groups and the social and economic actors and establishing linkages between them around the Mediterranean basin.

On behalf of	Signature	Date	Name/Title
Government:	_____	_____	_____
UNDP:	_____	_____	_____

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The subject is a technical component of a wastewater treatment facility involving the design of the biological treatment system. The overall goal is to provide a reliable and efficient system for the treatment of wastewater. The design of the biological treatment system is a complex task that requires a thorough understanding of the biological processes involved. The design of the biological treatment system is a complex task that requires a thorough understanding of the biological processes involved. The design of the biological treatment system is a complex task that requires a thorough understanding of the biological processes involved.

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A. CONTEXT

1. DESCRIPTION OF SUB-SECTOR

Regionality of project

The main objective of this project is to build capacity in the participating countries in the Mediterranean region to conserve threatened, globally significant biodiversity in coastal and wetland eco-systems within the framework of sustainable coastal development. The project therefore aims at «closing the Mediterranean circle», in terms of wetland and coastal conservation initiative. The project will ensure that lessons learned and experiences made in the northern rim of the Mediterranean can be effectively transferred and, where applicable, applied and/or adapted to the prevailing circumstances in the participating countries. The regionality of the project provides a greater cost effectiveness and effectiveness for such information and experience transfers both on a north-south basis as well as on a south-south basis.

For the purposes of this project, eligible wetlands, primarily of lagoon type, are those whose flows are interconnected with the Mediterranean Sea, while coastal areas are the terrestrial components of the coastal zone in the vicinity, and under the influence of the Mediterranean Sea. The project does therefore not address navigational and marine pollution issues and nor marine biodiversity. These are presently covered by other existing and planned programmes, in particular under MAP/UNEP (GEF PDF B: Formulation of a strategic action programme for the Mediterranean Sea to address pollution from land-based activities).

This proposal addresses conservation of globally threatened biodiversity in 16 important wetland and coastal sites in five Mediterranean countries and in the Palestinian Authority. Through a combination of innovative land-use and wetland policies at national level, site protection and management at local level and regional networking and exchange of experience the proposal will provide a biodiversity protection increment to other brown programme addressing pollution and water resource issues in the beneficiary countries/authority. At site level mechanisms for taking account of local concerns and ensuring local participation and economic returns are built into the project from the outset.

The Mediterranean region has seen the rise and fall of many empires over the last 2500 years. Numerous invasions and commercial links, many of them by sea, have seen eastern traders found cities in the western basin, Catalan influence extend as far as Greece, and Arabic culture penetrate well into the Iberian peninsula. These fluxes, together with the enclosed nature of the sea, have led to the establishment of a common Mediterranean identity and culture. This identity is reinforced by the circum-Mediterranean climate of hot dry summers and rainy winters, which is also responsible for the development of ecosystems characteristic of the region.

The Mediterranean coastline (26,000 km) is an area of high biodiversity, where more than 50% of the 25,000 plant species are endemic to the region. It is also a critical area for migratory birds in the Africa-Palearctic flyway as wetlands in the region provide an essential flyway stepping stone on either side of the Mediterranean Sea and between the sea and the vast expanse of the Sahara desert to the south.

The major threats to the exceptional biodiversity of these wetland and coastal ecosystems related to uncontrolled development, urbanization, increasing national and international tourism, land-based pollution, and unplanned or over-exploitation of natural resources, in particular freshwater.

Aware of their common heritage, the Mediterranean States and European Union have developed common programmes and policies for the sustainable development and conservation of the coast since 1975. The Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP Regional Seas Programme), the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, METAP, LIFE, MedWet, Natura 2000 and MEDA (EU) are some of these regional initiatives.

The MedWet programme for the conservation of Mediterranean wetlands originated from the Grado Conference (Italy, 1991). The initiative was recently widened (Venice, 1996) where all the riparian States present endorsed a common strategy for the conservation of Mediterranean wetlands. In parallel, the Mediterranean Action Plan,

Conservatoire du Littoral (France) and Ramsar Convention secretariat held a joint technical meeting on coastal zone management (Hyeres, 1995) where 12 countries agreed on the need to develop land use policies for effective management of the coastal zone.

Today, the States of the Mediterranean region are at different stages of economic and institutional development and therefore differ in their capacity to address biodiversity issues within the context of sustainable development. Incremental funding is required to allow them to implement agreed regional policies in the field.

The overall GEF-funded Wetlands and Coastal project includes six countries/authorities, namely Albania, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Lebanon, and the Palestinian Authority.

Country profile:

Albania rejoined the international community in 1991 after 45 years of isolation. The political system, which insisted on self-sufficiency, a totally centralised economy and the lack of contact with neighbouring countries, was transformed into a democratic country resuming its place in the Adriatic and Mediterranean community.

Part of the Balkan region, Albania is a relatively small country. Most of the country is mountainous, rising to 2700 m, and 41 % of the 3.3 million population lives on the extensive coastal plain. The population has doubled over the last thirty years and there is substantial migration towards the cities of the coastal zone.

Albania sits at the interface between the mountainous Balkans, a continental European climate and the Mediterranean region. Despite the small area of the country, its rich biodiversity includes 3200 species of plant and the natural values of the country has been little affected by excessive coastal development, as has been the case in many other countries. Rainfall on the coast is between 950 - 1200 mm annually, making water resources generally abundant and the country has a water resource use index of only 10-15%.

The principal economic activities under the previous regime were mineral extraction, agriculture and basic industry. Sewage collection and treatment plants are currently being planned by the Albanian authorities but little provision currently exists for treating industrial and domestic effluent. Since the liberalisation of the economy, a range of government policies have been implemented to return collectivised land to its original owners and to promote the emergence of private initiatives. This has included designation of sites for tourism development along the coast.

The soils of the hinterland are extremely susceptible to erosion and the combination of high sediment flows along with a series of dams on major rivers means that the coastal zone is geomorphologically dynamic. Accreting in some places, eroding in others, the historical trend is towards accretion, and villages such as Lezha in the north, which are recorded as being by the sea in Roman times are now up to 5 km inland.

The high sediment loads and erosive maritime forces also strongly influence water quality, and it is evident that despite the high quality of some of the beaches, their potential for international tourism development is hampered by a lack of clean transparent "Mediterranean blue" water, especially in the centre and north of the country.

Along the coastal zone, a range of key natural habitats exist, ranging from rocky coastal areas with cliffs and caves in the south, to sandy dune-based ecosystems and deltas in the centre and north.

Historically, wetlands covered some 70 000 ha, however, land reclamation aimed at recovering agricultural land, and reducing malaria, have drained 15 000 ha, mostly along the coastal plain. The four remaining coastal wetland complexes considered of national or international importance include the lagoons at Lezha (Ceka and Merxhani), Karavastas, Narta and Butrinti.

2. HOST COUNTRY STRATEGY

The main issues for legislation and policy since the democratic changes have been the incomplete legislation for environment and nature conservation and the lack of incomplete national strategy for conservation of biodiversity, protection of archaeological assets, architectural and cultural heritage, tourism development, pollution control, exploitation of natural resources, criteria for land compensation, and movement of population. Numerous actions

have been undertaken by the Government in order to address most of these problems, in particular with the planned adoption of a "Nature and Biodiversity Protection Law" and sectorial actions in different Ministries and Departments.

The land compensation issue is the result of declarations and decisions taken without reviewing the plots concerned. Following a Presidential Declaration, the Council of Ministers has adopted a decision (No. 87, February 1995) for the acceleration of the process of compensation in zones that have priority in tourism development. These priority tourism zones have been defined in 1993 by Department of Tourism of the Ministry of Tourism and Construction at that time (now Ministry of Public Works, Territorial Planning and Tourism) and adopted as council of Ministers Decision (No 88, 1 March 1993). In some areas these zones are in contradiction with other decisions such as the Coastal Zone Protection Belt, the designation of sites for conservation (such as Karavasta under the Ramsar Convention) and the security of people and properties.

Specific decisions of the Council of Ministers are important for coastal area protection and management. Decision No. 321 (July 20, 1992) has approved the establishment of the Coastal Protection Belt (CPB). Development in the area is controlled and the decision asks for approval from the Council of Territorial Planning (CTP) for any development that might occur in the protection belt. Inside the CPB there is an exclusion zone of 300 m from the seashore (sandy coast), of 150 m from the riverside and 200 m from archaeological and historical sites within which no development is allowed.

National biodiversity strategy

National Biodiversity strategy is in the process of preparation. The national service responsible for the co-ordination of the activity is Committee of Environmental Protection (NEA). The activity is planned to be finished on December 1998. GEF funding 96,000 USA\$. Considering the biodiversity importance of the coastal and marine environment, the team responsible for the preparation of NBS has established a special working group on "Marine and Wetland Environment"

Five thematic working groups have been identified and established to prepare the BSAP and National Biodiversity Report (NBR). They are:

- > Marine and wetland ecosystems;
- > Forest, pasture and alpine ecosystems;
- > Agricultural and degraded lands;
- > Protected Areas; and
- > Institutional and Legal arrangements, and Public Participation.

National environmental action plan

The present National environmental action plan (NEAP) dates back to 1994. It was approved formally on January 1994 by the Council of Ministers. NEA plans to update the NEAP during 1998-1999. In the Country Operation Program 1997 (COP 1997) of PHARE has been foreseen a budget of 88,000 ECU for the activities related to the NEAP updating planned to start on August 1998. The World Bank has also offered its assistance on the same activity. Detailed activity list and breakdown of the budget still to be defined.

3. PRIOR AND ONGOING ASSISTANCE

Albania is one of the poorest countries of the European continent, and is neither rich in natural resources, nor well-situated geographically with respect to major fluxes within the region. From the second World War until the democratic changes of 1991, the political system excluded the participation of Albania on the international scene and imposed an autocratic system on its people. This system had a range of consequences particularly on the environment which suffers from pollution, inadequate waste treatment, abandoned industrial installations, and the lack of appropriate administrative and decision-making structures.

In the early 1990s, this situation led the Albanian authorities to begin a range of environmental projects with the financial support of major donors, including;

- > Infrastructure improvement; (waste water treatment in Vlora) PHARE, WB
- > Tourism (small scale projects),
- > Construction of a North-South axis of motorway, EU, WB, EBRD
- > Karavasta Lagoon Coastal Management Project (PHARE), which assessed the local socio-economic and natural values of the lagoon, undertook an environmental audit, and proposed a management plan and appropriate institutional structure for its implementation. The PHARE programme has indicated its readiness to continue with the implementation of follow up activities of Karavasta.
- > Extension of MedWet (LIFE) in the non- EU countries. This project provides the basis for a national wetland strategy, as required under the Ramsar Convention, which will particularly address all the coastal lagoons of Albania with focus in the Kune-Vaini lagoon. It also supports the establishment of a wetland inventory and database.
- > Lake Ohrid Conservation programme is a GEF funded project. Funding is sought under "International Waters" component of GEF. Albania has received approximately 2 million US dollars. The project has four components: Institutional Strengthening, Monitoring, Watershed management, and Public Awareness.

The most important policy document addressing sustainable development and integration management in the coastal area of Albania is the Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP). This study was the result of co-operation between the Government of Albania and the EU, UNDP, WB, and EIB through the Mediterranean Technical Assistance Programme (METAP). The work was carried out through a joint venture partnership of the Priority Actions Program (PAP) and the UNEP's Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), the Environmental planning firm Dobbin Milus International (DMI) and the UNEP/MAP "Coastal Area Management Programme". This document, together with its findings and recommendations, has been submitted to the Albanian Government for formal approval. The Plan makes provision for a range of natural and cultural heritage sites along the coast, and specifically excludes these areas from designated tourism development zones.

The PHARE programme is assisting the Fisheries Directorate to establish a central fish hatchery and decentralised nursery pools at each lagoon along the coast in order to repopulate the lagoons with native species.

4. INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Legal measures

Laws and regulations concerning environmental issues, although of a very reduced coverage, have been in existence since 1967. The environmental legislative framework began to be completed after the democratic changes in 1991. Until then the legal basis for all National Parks in Albania was the Hunting Law No. 1351 of 1 November 1951 and the Forest Protection Law, No. 3349 of October 1963.

Since 1991 the relevant legal acts approved by the parliament so far are as follows:

1. Laws on Albanian agricultural land distribution (No. 7491 and 7501 enacted in 1991)
2. Law on Land Tenure (1991)
3. Compensation law (No. 7698)
4. Law on Environmental protection (January 1991)
5. Law on Physical planning (No. 7693, April 1993)
6. Law on forest and forestry police (1992)
7. Law on pasture land (1995)
8. Law on Wild life and hunting (1993)
9. Law on Fisheries and Aquaculture (1995)
10. Law on protection of medicinal and aromatic plants
11. Law on Priority tourism development zones (No. 7491, April 29, 1993)

So far there is no law on "Nature and Biodiversity Conservation". A draft has been prepared by NEA and different NGOs and reviewed with the support of the Council of Europe; it will be presented to the Council of Ministers for approval. This law proposes changes to the existing laws concerning the present administrative structure responsible for protection and management of biodiversity inside and outside protected areas.

A Coastal Zone Management Law is now in preparation following the completion of the Coastal Zone Management Plan for the whole coast of the Albania in late 1996. One of the central issues in this law will be the creation of a Coastal Authority which will be responsible for co-ordinating interventions toward a sustainable use of resources in the coastal area. The law will be submitted shortly to the Council of Ministers. A first draft of the law has been prepared about one year ago. The activity was financed by Soros foundation has stopped due to dramatic events in Albania in the spring of 1997.

The Law on Environmental Fund is now prepared and is in an advanced stage of consultations between governmental institutions. It will shortly be submitted to the Council of Ministers.

Although the Environmental Act of 1993 provides for EIA procedures for all developments which are likely to have significant effects on the environment there is a need for detailed regulations to be issued. In this context NEA is preparing these regulations which will be issued as "Ministerial orders" under Albanian legislation. As a follow up to this process some laws are already supported by binding regulations. Numerous other regulations are under preparation, but the main issue is their enforcement, due to lack of trained staff, information and education campaigns.

International conventions

The Albanian participation in international environmental conventions is as follows:

- > Ratification of the Convention on the protection of the World cultural and natural Heritage (1972, Paris);
- > Adhesion in 1990 to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution (Barcelona, 1976);
- > Adhesion in 1990 to the Barcelona convention Protocol on Specially Protected Areas (1982, Geneva);
- > Access in 1994 to the Convention on Climate Change (New York, 1992);
- > Access in 1994 to the Convention on Biodiversity (Rio, 1992)
- > Access to the Bern convention
- > Access to the Convention of Wetlands of International Importance 1996 (declaration of Karavastas lagoon as a Ramsar site)

Institutional framework

At the present time there are several state authorities that have executive power regarding development, planning, management, exploitation of natural resources, protection and conservation of the environment (nature and natural resources).

The highest state body is the Prime Minister. The highest consultative body for spatial planning close to the Prime Minister is the Council of Territory Adjustment (or Planning: CTA or CTP according to different documents/translations) chaired by the Prime Minister. The CTA has subordinate branches at the district level but can always overrule them.

The highest state body in water management is the National Water Authority NWA created by the law on Water Resources (No. 8093, March 21, 1996). The NWA is chaired by the Prime Minister and has regional branches or catchment authorities which are responsible for the administration of the water resources in that catchment area.

Subordinate to the Prime Minister there are several ministries involved in activities mentioned above in particular:

Ministry of Public Works, Territorial Planning
Ministry of Trade and Tourism (National Planning Institute)
Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MAF)

The MAF has primary responsibility for forestry and Protected Areas in Albania, which is exercised through the Directorate General of Forests and Pastures (DGFP), the executive body that carries out the government's forestry policies and operations. The MAF also includes the General Directorate of Fisheries (DGF), the Directorate of

Science and Qualification, with responsibility for agricultural schools and research institutes, among them the Forest and Pasture Research Institute (FPRI).

The Directorate General of Forests and Pastures (DGFP) is responsible for the production and protection of Albania's forest and pasture resources. The Department for Nature Protection of DGFP is responsible for all game and non-game fauna (with primary emphasis on the former) and administers hunting regulations such as seasons, species to be hunted, and quotas. It also collaborates with other fauna specialists who are responsible for protecting endangered species through bans on hunting as well as provisions for their restoration. The Fauna section, with its decentralised staff in all districts of the country that have or share protected areas, is also responsible for management of the network of protected areas, in consultation with the NEA. These areas are all located within the "forest fund" and their protection is ensured by guards under the supervision of the forest district directorates.

The Committee for Environment Protection, previously located under the Ministry for Health, was replaced with the National Environment Agency. The NEA depends directly from the Prime Minister's Office. The direct administrator of the Protected Areas is GDFP through its district branches. Where protected areas have activities other than forestry, like fishing (lagoon areas) the water surface is administered by Directorate of Fisheries. Due to lack of clear legislation framework there is a frequent overlap of competencies in the field of administration.

Research Institutions (RI)

The main institutions involved in country's biodiversity inventory & monitoring are the following: Institute of Biological Research (IBR); Museum of Natural Sciences (MNS), Institute of Forest and Pasture Research (IFPR), Hydro-meteorological Institute (HI), Institute of Fishery Research (IFR), and the Faculty of Natural Sciences (Department of Biology).

The IBR is the main research institution as far as flora is concerned. It is one of the Albanian Academy of Sciences Institutions. Due to its research the flora of Albania is well known. A series of fundamental works on the country's flora has been and is being published by the IBR staff. A red data book on plants has been recently published.

The MNS is the only specialised research institution involved in the inventory, monitoring and study of the country's fauna. The fauna of Albania is much less studied and well-known when compared with the existing level of knowledge on the country's flora. Lack of tradition in the field of faunal studies in the past, and lack of staff and equipment to carry out field work, are some of the reasons explaining why. The existing staff is engaged in studying the main groups of invertebrates and vertebrates (Malacofauna, Crustaceans, Moths and Butterflies, Ichthyofauna, Herpetofauna (Amphibians, Reptiles), Birds and Mammals), but there are still gaps in data for a lot of taxa. A data base elaborated by MedWet will be established in this institution on the Albanian wetland fauna under the LIFE project.

The IFPR is responsible for inventory and preparing forest pasture and management plans. The wildlife component is still a weak point of the forest management plans, and one of the objectives of the WB Integrated Forest Management Project is to improve the Forest Management Plans with more attention to the forest biodiversity. One of the findings and recommendations of the Environmental Assessment of the WB Forestry Project was that IFPR should collaborate closely with IBR and MNS when preparing forest management plans.

The HI is responsible for monitoring the water quality of the seas, coastal lagoons, lakes, rivers and reservoirs. It also researches the water and sediment discharge of the rivers into the Adriatic sea. Water regime and hydrology of the coastal lagoons is another important subject for the HI staff.

Non-Governmental Organisations

The environmental Non-Government Organisations were the first NGOs to be established after the democratic revolution in 1990 in Albania. The first environmental NGO was established in 1991, but since then a lot of environmental NGOs have been created and developed. The main environmental NGOs engaged in country's biodiversity inventory and management activities are: the Society for the Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania (PPNEA); the Albanian Society for the Protection of Birds and Mammals (ASPBM, Designated Birdlife Partner); the Albanian Association of Biologists (AAB); the Forestry Progress, and the Albanian

Ecological Club (AEC). These NGOs have already established their local branches in different districts of the country.

B. PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

1. PRESENT SITUATION AND THE PROBLEMS TO BE ADDRESSED

Identification of coastal sites of international importance

From North to South, the following areas have been identified by different expert missions as the most interesting due to the association of their biodiversity (species, ecosystems, habitats), landscape or cultural values:

1. Velipoja
2. Renci mountain
3. Kune Vaini
4. Fushe Kuqe Patok
5. Rodoni Cape
6. Rrushkulli Lagoon
7. Lagji cape
8. Divjaka Karavasta
9. Narta Lagoon
10. Vlora Bay
11. Orikumi Lagoon
12. Sazani-Karaburuni
13. Kanali-Llogora
14. Vunoi-Jala
15. Porto Palermo
16. Kakomese Bay - Qefalit
17. Lake Butrinti
18. Ksamili Islands
19. Stillo Island and Cape

Selection of project sites

The criteria used for site selection under this project were:

- > Biodiversity richness, in particular the global biodiversity importance of the site
- > The quality or "naturalness" of the environment, particularly flora and fauna
- > The importance of the site in terms of endemic and subendemic species
- > The ecosystem complexity and functional value
- > The scenic / landscape beauty
- > The potential for recreational and educational purposes
- > The existence of traditional uses compatible with conservation matters
- > The severity of the ecological problem/threat
- > The emergency of conservation and management intervention

From the above list of sites, the following were preselected as being priority areas for consideration under the present programme:

8. Divjaka Karavasta
9. Narta Lagoon
- 10/11. Vlora Bay and Orikumi Lagoon
13. Kanali-Llogora
12. Sazani-Karaburuni
17. Lake Butrinti

Karavastas (Rar site) is already addressed by the PHARE programme which is supporting a management plan for the area. However retaining the nearby Narta lagoon as a site under this project creates synergies which would not be possible with Butrinti for example.

On the basis of these criteria, two priority sites/areas have been identified for this GEF coastal and wetland biodiversity project:

1. Narta lagoon with its adjacent area
2. Llogora-Kanali-Orikumi-Karaburun peninsula-Sazani island

At national level 215 taxa have been identified as being globally endangered (excluding fish; invertebrates incomplete) of which 69 taxa occur in the coastal zone (32.1 %).

Of these 69 taxa ;

18 (14 certain, 4 possible) are present at Narta (26.1 % of threatened coastal taxa)

44 (39 certain, 5 possible) are present on the site of Karaburun / Orikumi, (63.8 % of threatened coastal taxa) although it should be borne in mind that some species are more associated with the mountainous nature, rather than the coastal nature, of the site (eg. *Rupricaria r. balcanica*).

Site description : Narta Lagoon

The site which includes Narta Lagoon and its surrounding area lies in the District of Vlora and covers 10 000 ha, composed as follows:

- > Forests, app. 2000 ha
- > Wetlands, app. 5000 ha : free water surface, app. 4000 ha; salinas, app. 1000 ha
- > Sand dunes and beaches: app. 500 ha
- > Uncultivated salty land, agriculture land: app. 2500 ha

This complex includes: Vjosa river downstream and mouth; old river beds and small coastal wetlands; marshland ; Mediterranean pine forest of Pisha Poros; Mediterranean shrubs; Narta lagoon one third of which is a salina; halophytic and hygrophilic vegetation; reclaimed, but uncultivated land with very dense salt-tolerant vegetation, agricultural land in the east of the area, vegetated and unvegetated sand dunes.

Sand dunes of this area represent the typical dunes found along the Albanian Adriatic coast. Reaching at some parts up to 4-5 m they are covered by a typical sand dune vegetation dominated by *Ammophila arenaria* which dominates the structure of the vegetation. The anthropogenic influence in the dunes has been fairly low, but recently sand extraction for construction is posing a serious threat in some areas.

There are two Managed Nature Reserves/Hunting reserves (IUCN category IV) established inside the two Mediterranean pine forests of Poros. The dominant species are *Pinus halepensis* and *P. pinea* while the subforest is composed mainly of *Myrtus communis*, *Erica manipuliflora*, *Pistacia lentiscus*, *Juniperus oxycedrus subsp. Macrocarpa*, etc. There are also vines such as *Smilax aspera*, *Hedera helix*, *Clematis flammula*, etc. Herbaceous plants are poorly represented. Among the most common species are *Vulpia fasciculata*, *Asparagus acutifolius*, *Asphodelus aestivus*, etc. Of special interest are endemic species of *Orchis albanica* and *Orchis x paparisti* which is a hybrid form between *O. albanica* and *O. coriphora*.

Salt-tolerant vegetation is mainly present along the North and North-Eastern shores of Narta lagoon and in the immediate vicinity of Vjosa river mouth. During summer time the area is covered by salt tolerant (halophytic) vegetation composed mainly by *Arthrocnemum fruticosum*, *A. glaucum*, *Salicornia europea*, *Limonium vulgare*, *Juncus maritimus*, *J. acutus*, *Tamarix dalmanatica*, *T. hampeana*. This type of vegetation is gradually being replaced by associations of *Phragmites australis*, *Typha latifolia*, *T. angustifolia*, along the river banks, and in fresh and brackish water ponds.

Narta lagoon has a total surface area of 4100 ha and a maximum depth of 0.8 m. At present one third of the total surface is occupied by salt pans. Narta lagoon has only one outlet channel with a maximal water exchange potential of 1-5 m³/s. In the South-western part of the lagoon there are two islands: the bigger one is covered by cypress trees (*Cupressum sempervirens*) and has a small and interesting 14th century monastery.

The annual water temperature of the lagoon ranges from 1 to 35 °C, salinity ranges from 20 - 78 ‰, dissolved oxygen 2.4 -13.9 mg/l, pH 8 -8.5. The total surface of the lagoon undergoes a reduction of 30% during the dry season due to a very reduced water exchange with the Adriatic sea, the shallow depth and intensive summertime evaporation. The catchment of the lagoon is only 46.2 km² and consists mostly of drained agricultural land. Three pumps drain this area into the lagoon. Evaporation is estimated at 1270 mm per year with a mean annual rainfall of 950 mm.

Narta lagoon is one of the Albanian lagoons that is undergoing rapid degradation due to limited marine and fresh water input. The channel with the sea is increasingly blocked by marine sediments transported by coastal currents. This phenomenon has increased over the last five years. During summer and early autumn almost half of the lagoon dries out completely and the rest of the lagoon has a depth of only 10-20 cm. The lagoon is subject to frequent dystrophic crises. During the wet season the lagoon reaches a depth of 40 cm on average.

Bird colonies are established mainly in the salines, where they are subject to disturbance, and have low breeding success. The potential breeding populations of both globally threatened species, such as Dalmatian Pelican, and of more common gulls and terns, are limited by lack of suitable breeding islands, surrounded by water throughout the breeding season, in the lagoon itself.

(a) Biodiversity importance

Even though the biodiversity values of the site are not well known due to lack of studies and research, there is no doubt that the site is one of the most important along the country's Adriatic coast for the following reasons:

- > The area has a wide variety of habitat types.
- > It is an area of endemic species such as *Orchis albanica* and *Orchis x paparisti*.
- > Outside the breeding season, globally threatened Dalmatian pelicans *Pelecanus crispus* use the site for feeding and roosting.
- > The Narta lagoon is the second most Important Bird Area in the country after Karavasta in terms of numbers of bird species that occur here.
- > A number of globally threatened species occur in the area (see table)
- > The list of threatened species at regional and national level occurring in the area will probably increase with additional fieldwork.

Recent winter counts of the Narta lagoon avifauna are given below:

Year	1993	1995	1996	1993	1995	1996
		Water birds			Birds of prey	
Number of species	46	33	32	7	9	7
Total individuals	6996	14651	19638	12	22	25

Summary of known global biodiversity importance

PLANTS	FISH	INVERTEBRATES	BIRDS	REPT. & AMPHIB.
<i>Orchis albanica</i> (R)	<i>Aphanius fasciatus</i>	<i>Hirudo medicinalis</i> (I)	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i> (V)	<i>Rana epeirotica</i>
		<i>Gomphus flavipes</i> (I)	<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i> ?(V)	<i>Rana shqiperic</i> ?
		<i>Myrmelon formicarius</i> (K)	<i>Aquila clanga</i> (VU)	<i>Hyla arborea</i>
		<i>Calosoma sycophania</i>	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> (V)	<i>Testudo hermanni</i> (V)
			<i>Larus audouinii</i> ?(CD)	<i>Emys orbicularis hellenica</i>
			<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i> ?(Nt)	<i>Cyrtodactylus kotschyi</i> <i>bibroni</i>

- . The letters in brackets refer to their status according to IUCN
- . (?) = possible or probable presence at the site.

(b) Land-uses in and around Narta Lagoon

In the area are nine villages with a total population of 9,400. Villages are organised in two communes: Novosela and Centre. The forest fund is 2345 ha with a standing timber volume 76,000 m³. The forest fund is not exploited by GDFP for timber. There is a severe shortage of fire wood in the area since wood is widely used in cooking and for heating purposes. According to the GDFP sources the annual per capita consumption of fire-wood per family is 4-6 m³. Every year there are more than 60 fines for illegal use of the forest among the local population. Forest fires are not frequent. In the last two years two fires have been recorded that have affected 500 ha, of which 250 ha have been burnt completely.

According to the cadastra registry there is no pasture land despite a relatively large number of cattle and sheep/goat which pasture mainly in the agricultural land and in the forest. In the area there are 184 licensed hunters. Also 80 hunters from Vlora hunt mainly in the free zones, i.e. outside protected areas.

In the area GDFP has 2 forest engineers (university graduate), 6 forest inspectors (technicians) and 10 seasonal workers hired on seasonal basis for forest services. The World Bank forestry project has foreseen construction/refurbishing of the local rangers office at a value of 1.2-1.4 mil Leke (1 \$ = 150 Leke). The project also plans the equipment of the personnel with additional radio communication.

One of the main unknown factors around lake Narta is the degree of pollution from the industrial waste dump of an old PVC factory which contains heavy metals (at least mercury and perhaps also cadmium). The degree to which this dump is leaking is not well appreciated.

The fishing rights have been given for one year (1998) to a fishing cooperative of 12 fishermen. The annual catch during 1997 was 2-3 tons mainly *Mugil cephalus*, *Aterina boyeri* Sea bass, *Dicentrarchus labrax* etc. The catch has fallen from 10-15 tons in 1990 to 3 tons in 1997 due , at least in part, to the progressive blockage of the inflow channel.

The salt pans are a state owned enterprise employing 120 people. The market value of salt produced during 1997 was 64,289,000 Leke (around. US\$ 429,000). The salt pans pump water from the lagoon into the evaporation and settling pans. This is a major problem only when the channel is blocked, and this water is not replaced from the sea.

According to the best available information there are no concrete plans and/or foreign investors offered for tourism development in the area but the beaches are frequented in Summer by local people and by visitors from the Balkan hinterland.

(c) Threats to biodiversity at the site

- > Water extraction from lagoon for salt production (salinas);
- > Dune erosion and sand extraction for construction;

- > Limited water exchange with the sea (natural sedimentation in the channel)
- > Nearby industrial waste water dump (with mercury);
- > Tourism development and pressure during summer;
- > A new harbour/port close to the area (south of Narta lagoon) planned to increase its capacity and activity;
- > Hunting;
- > Fishing; clam fishing.

The lagoon itself has no protection status. Only the Pishe Poros Pine forest (3420 ha) have the status of the Managed Nature Reserve (category IV of IUCN). The Narta lagoon is an Important Bird Area, and satisfies Ramsar criteria for wetlands of international importance.

Site description : Llogara -Kanali-Orikumi-Karaburun peninsula-Sazani Island

This site covers 25 000 ha in Vlora district. The area includes the western slope of Çika mountain, Llogora, Kanali ridge, the Karaburun peninsula, Orikumi lagoon and Sazani island. The Llogora (1010 ha) is a National Park (categ. II of IUCN), while Karaburun Peninsula (20 000 ha) has the status of Managed Nature Reserve (categ. IV of IUCN). There are no existing management plans for either Llogora NP or Karaburun peninsula managed nature reserve. The Llogora National Park is an Important Bird Area. The DGFP has a base in Llogora for the management of the area.

The hills rise to 2,000m and the coastal geomorphology of the area is characterised by high, wave-cut cliffs. These very scenic coastal cliffs dominate the coastline along the Karaburun peninsula, Kanali ridge and Sazani Island. Important habitats include alpine and subalpine pastures and meadows; pine forests of *Pinus nigra*, *Pinus leucodermis*; beech forest *Fagus sylvatica* mixed with *Quercus coccifera*, *Q. macrolepis*; typical Mediterranean maquis; typical rocky coastal vegetation; wetlands with relic alluvial forests.

The coastal profile is characterised by sharp relief plummeting vertically to the sea, with outstanding canyons and caves only accessible by boat. Tectonic movements and shifting sea-bed morphology determine cliff erosion, creating recesses along the coast in the form of caves and canyons. Weather and the assailing forces of waves from the open Ionian Sea cause basal cliff erosion to the karstic limestone rocks.

The only wetland inside this area is the Orikumi lagoon. It has a size of 130 ha while the low lying surrounding, Dukati field, covers some 1000 ha. This field originated from the solid materials transported by the Dukati river. The Orikumi lagoon itself occupies the lower part of this gently sloping field and is located near the military base of Pasha Liman (western part) and Orikumi village in the East. The lagoon has a maximum depth of 3 m and communicates with the sea through a single channel 50 m in length. The lagoon is surrounded by a dike in the South-east, where a pumping station does not allow freshwater to flow into the lagoon. In the South South-Eastern part of the lagoon a drained former marshland exists in the form of a rich peat soil.

The whole ecosystem has undergone a significant change of water regime due to reduced water exchange with the sea and the diversion, 15 years ago, of Dukati river which once flowed into the lagoon. The original flood plain forests have already disappeared. The former fresh and brackish water types of habitats and vegetation have been mostly replaced by typical salty and brackish-water habitats. The lagoon has been subject in recent years to a continuous increase in *Carcinus aestuarii* that, together with the change in the algal community, could be interpreted as an indication of a shift of the whole ecosystem toward eutrophication.

Reedbeds are well-developed along the western part of the lagoon. This kind of habitat is maintained by the freshwater input coming from several small springs as well as from a drainage channel in this part of the lagoon. The former biological values of this lagoon have been drastically reduced as a consequence of the drainage and diversion works.

(a) Biodiversity importance

The area has one of the highest biodiversity values in the country.

PLANTS

Sideritis reaseri *Corylus*
columna
Achillea fraasii
Asperula chlorantha
Athamanta densa (R)
Centaurea nicolai (R)
Cirsium tymphaeum
Crataegus heldreichii
Crepis baldaccii (R)
Draba parnassiaca
Linum spathulatum
Pedicularis graeca
Petteria ramentacea
Pterocephalus perennis
Silene caesia
Sinapis pubescens
Valeriana crinii (R)
Lactuca graeca
Thymus teuroides
Hypericum haplophylloides
 (V)
Lilium chalcidonicum
Limonium anfractum
Pinus heldreichii (R)

INVERTEBRATES

Hirudo medicinalis (I)
Gomphus flaviceps (I)
Myrmelon formicarius (K)
Calosoma sycophanta
Buprestis splendens (E)
Zerynthia polyxena
Papilio alexanor
Saga italica

MAMMALS

Lutra lutra
Monachus monachus (E)
Rupricaria r. balcanica (I)
Pitymys felteni (R)
Apodemus mystacinus
Pitymys thomasi (R)
Rinolophus euryale ? (R)
Taradidae teniotis ?

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

Telescopus fallax
Rana balcanica
Rana lessone
Mauremys caspica
Cyrtodactylus kotschy
Ophisaurus apodus

- . The letters in brackets refer to their status according to IUCN
- . (?) = possible or probable presence at the site.

The caves and shores of Karaburun peninsula provide suitable sites for the globally threatened Monk Seal *Monachus monachus*. [Assuming that a population of the monk seal occurs in the Adriatic coast of Croatia, while the Greek monk seal population extends up to the Ionian sea waters of the South Albanian coast, it is very likely that the area provides a bridge between the Greek and Croatian population of the monk seal.]. Endemic, subendemic, relict and many rare and threatened taxa occur inside the area which includes Orikumi lagoon (see table above).

The distribution of threatened biodiversity of this large and inaccessible area is not well known (particularly that of Karaburun peninsula and Sazani island). While flora of the area is relatively well studied, the fauna is very poorly known. More studies are needed before effective zoning and management can be envisaged.

(b) Land-uses in the area

In the area are two municipalities; Orikumi and Himara. Under their jurisdiction are 4 villages with approximately 13,000 inhabitants.

The pasture land in the Karaburun peninsula covers 10,000 ha and is grazed by 32,000 sheep and goats. The ratio between sheep and goats is approximately 50% varying greatly from area to area due to the kind of vegetation cover. Pastoral activities are traditional in the area. The pasture land is mainly used as winter pasture and the grazing pressure is well above the carrying capacity of the area.

The present status of the area does not allow the use of existing forest fund for grazing and timber although the local population does not have any other alternative source of burning wood for domestic use.

Around 100 cases of fires. have been recorded during 1997. Fires in most of the cases are intentionally started by local shepherds. Fire is applied by local population pretending that it improves the quality of pasture by burning off

the weeds. In some other cases it is applied to existing maquis in order to transform the area into herbaceous pasture. Alternatives for pasture improvement exist and are implemented by GDFP.

The whole of the Karaburun peninsula has long been a military zone due to its strategic importance.

In the area are 76 licensed hunters members of hunters association. Illegal fishing and use of dynamite has become frequent in the area especially after the events of spring 1997. Red coral is collected by local and Italian divers but more precise information is lacking.

(c) Threats

- > Tourism and recreation
- > Hunting
- > Fishing,
- > Livestock and agriculture,
- > Military.

2. Expected end of project situation

Developed and institutionalized a sustainable framework for the management, policies and protection of the wetland and coastal biodiversity, contributing to "closing the Mediterranean circle" in close networking with the other participating countries.

Specific achievements will be:

- > Legal, regulatory and institutional instruments and tools will have been established for the protection and conservation of threatened biodiversity in the coastal and wetlands areas of the Mediterranean basin.
- > Regional networks will have been established for exchange of experiences and for mutual reinforcement of actions.
- > On-site protection of globally significant biodiversity will have been achieved in the project sites, and actions will have been taken to broaden these initiatives beyond the selected priority sites to others in the country.
- > Improved knowledge of biodiversity, habitats and ecosystems, interlinkages, distribution, threats and uses
- > Improved capacity at the local and national levels to address biodiversity issues in lateral and integrated planning levels
- > A solid legal framework for the protected/conservation areas will have been established
- > A detailed assessment of threatened species and appropriate measures (Management Plan) for their preservation will have been developed
- > A general public awareness campaign for stressing the importance of natural environment resources protection will have been undertaken
- > Grassroots involvement in biodiversity protection will have been ensured.
- > A monitoring system for globally threatened biodiversity will have been set up
- > A series of training for biodiversity experts and other relevant participatory bodies will have been accomplished
- > Local level management structures will have been established/strengthened to ensure sustainable long term management of the globally significant biodiversity in the selected sites
- > Cross-sectoral structures and policies for the effective management of biodiversity and wetland and coastal resources will have been developed.
- > Indirect benefits, such as human health improvements, employment creation, increased tourism, etc. will also be associated with this initiative.

3. Target beneficiaries

The main beneficiaries are the people of Albania who will gain from having a well-managed network of sustainable protected areas. Those who live in and around the sites, and those who harvest the natural resources (such as herders and fishermen) will benefit from the long term sustainable management of those resources. These are often people with precarious livelihoods.

government executed project via UNDP Beirut and the French Embassy. For the Palestinian authority PAPP/UNDP in Jerusalem will be the implementing agency, and the Regional project will be managed through UNOPS.

This "subsidiarity principle" will lead to more effective local decision-making and improved administrative efficiency. In order to achieve the added value from the regional initiative, and to avoid repeating similar errors in each country/Authority, a Regional Facilitator to organise exchange of experience and information flow for all the technical aspects of the national programmes is absolutely essential, backed by an Advisory Committee.

The Regional Advisory Committee

In order to maintain the coherence of the regional approach capitalising on the experience of each of its participating members, it is essential to maintain a common regional vision through the constitution of a Regional Advisory Committee. This committee will, at the highest level, ensure that this regional vision is maintained, hence providing synergy to each of the national actions (ToR in Annex 8).

The composition of the Regional Advisory Committee will include:

- One representative of each of the Ministries or entities in charge of the environment in each country/Authority (if possible the Chief or Assistant Chief of the delegation to the MAP meeting)
- The National Project Coordinator;
- GEF/UNDP,
- UNOPS
- FFEM/AFD,
- French Environment Ministry;
- The Coordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan or his representative;
- The Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention or his representative.
- Tour du Valat
- Conservatoire du Littoral

The *Regional Advisory Committee* may invite the participation, at their own expense, of other partners or qualified authorities: European Union, IUCN, WWF or any other person whose presence might be considered appropriate.

The expenses incurred by the members of the *Regional Advisory Committee* for their participation in the Committee's annual meeting are charged to their respective national budgets.

The Regional Facilitator

The need to establish networks linking all the actors in each country/Authority and the organisation of training, exchanges and the monitoring of coherence requires the establishment of a regional focal point : the regional facilitator is recruited to this effect.

The facilitator will assist each government/authority to reach the objectives fixed within the framework of the project in collaboration with the different national UNDP representations and those of the French GEF (as appropriate). This task is essentially a technical one, and implies no administrative control over expenditure of the national/Authority components. The regional facilitator will monitor the use of UNDP funds and will report on the implementation of planned project activities.

He/she will maintain direct contact with all project participants in each country/Authority at local and national level, including all concerned Ministries and agencies, the UNDP office and the local representatives of French GEF. The national coordinators will provide the Regional Facilitator with all the information necessary to his/her mission. They will transmit a copy (in paper and digital form) of all the technical studies, project reports, minutes of meetings from local site and national steering committees, and any other documents required for efficient monitoring of project activities. The ToR are outlined in Annex 5 to this document.

At the end of the project, the results from the whole project are reviewed at regional level and a summary of case studies and lessons learned is made by the Regional Facilitator. This summary will be distributed throughout the region through existing networks.

Roles of Tour du Valat and Conservatoire du Littoral.

The tasks entrusted to the Regional Facilitator will be numerous and varied. He/She will be supported in his/her activities by a team of experts in training, wetland management, biodiversity, integrated management of coastal areas and land-use policies. All of these experts will make their technical knowledge available to the Facilitator to support the development of regional activities and will also provide access to their own regional expert networks. The technical coordination of this team of experts will be ensured by Tour du Valat/MedWet for the wetland component and the Conservatoire du Littoral for matters pertaining to coastal management and the development of land policies.

There are numerous networks in place in the Mediterranean region and, thanks to their central position within those technical and institutional networks, the Conservatoire du littoral and the Tour du Valat Centre are able to support the project by calling on their counterparts throughout the region. These two not-for-profit organizations were created for the purpose of conducting integrated actions for the development of coastal areas and wetlands and to protect biodiversity.

Strategy at national level

After a detailed assessment of the local threats to biodiversity on each of the selected sites, the project will identify and apply the innovative tools required for integrated management, including particularly the use of land policies complementing the regulatory system and through formulating adequate policies for wetland management. It will endeavour to develop those management systems and to build capacity both at the national and local levels, and will focus on awareness-raising, information and participation of the various stakeholders, especially at the local level, whose involvement in the project will create the conditions required for its success and replicability to other sites along the national coastline and in the Mediterranean region.

Innovative management and concertation policies will be implemented, beginning at sites with special significance for global biodiversity, whose protection could not be initiated rapidly without GEF support, as national resources are required elsewhere for extremely urgent interventions. These will serve as prototypes to be replicated at the national level, similar to those implemented in the other countries involved in the GEF project and will provide models for the entire Mediterranean basin.

These national actions are only one of the sub-sets of the regional action which will ensure the establishment of networks, create common information and evaluation systems, arrange for training activities and provide the required technical coordination.

Implementation arrangements

(a) At the local level

The project intends to be as much as possible *bottom-up*, providing for more local participation in the management and development of the selected sites. Involvement of local government (municipalities and communes), administrations (Regional Environmental Agencies, Agriculture, Water, Fishery and Forestry Directorates), and local people and NGOs will ensure the project implementation success in the selected sites. Public information and awareness activities to be developed during the project will support long term project implementation.

The Karaburun peninsula is already managed directly by the decentralised services of the Forestry Department. This management structure will be reinforced by the project.

For the lagoon, pending the adoption of the decrees classifying the sites and instituting a legally constituted management authority, a Narta lagoon management committee will be established and chaired by the Prefect. The committee will be serviced by the local Project Management Unit, established in Vlora. During this transitory phase, the Committee will be responsible for the delimitation of the site, contributing to the preparation of the classifying decree, and determining urgent actions to be taken. The Committee will also ensure the overall coherence of the government approach to the management of the Narta lagoon. (proposed Terms of reference in Annex IX).

Its proposed composition is as follows :

Prefect (Chairman)
The commune chairman
CEP
DGFP
DGF
Local planning council, Ministry of Construction
Territorial adjustment, Ministry of Tourism
Cadastra (District Council)
Environmental NGOs
Fisheries Cooperative
Association for pumps and irrigation
Ministry of Agriculture (Irrigation Dept)
Saline Company
Local University
Ministry of Defence

At the local level the various stakeholders will be united around a project which must become a collective one. The stakeholders concerned are administrative bodies (Ministries, development agencies, Governors, provinces, municipalities), users (farmers, hunters, fishermen, the aquaculture industry, the tourism industry, etc.), local people, NGOs, and the scientific community. This social dialogue, in addition to the fact that it will associate parties not necessarily accustomed to working together, will serve as a genuine experiment which will allow the project to be replicated on other sites or groups of sites on the national territory. This component is a vital one in order to achieve sustainable development, and guarantee the economic and social development of the country while also respecting the natural heritage, in particular its economic value as an indispensable asset.

A project management unit (PMU) will be established in Vlora, composed of one representative of NEA, GDFF and GDF and with secretarial, driver, and accounting support. This unit, based in the Regional Environment Agency office of the NEA, will be responsible for executing all the field components of the project, under the direction of the national coordinator, based in Tirana.

The director of the PMU manages all the funds for the project in accordance with an annual workplan agreed by the national steering committee, and submits three monthly financial and activity reports to UNDP and to the National Coordinator. He/She liaises with UNDP and the Regional Facilitator, prepares reports, and budgets and issues the necessary subcontracts, under the overall guidance of the National Coordinator.

The PMU provides the secretariat for the committee, organises its meetings, proposes the agenda and the working documents, and writes the minutes. The committee has no direct control over project funds, but agrees the way in which the PMU proposes to use them within the framework of the project document (work plan).

(b) At the national level

At the national level a coherent framework for action must be established taking into consideration the complexity and specificity of coastal zone and wetland biodiversity management. The issues at hand are essentially new issues and their solution require a revised approach, associating within a genuine land-management concept the various administrative organizations in charge of development and those entities entrusted with the management of the diverse types of resources constituting the national heritage in a long-term perspective.

The interdisciplinary approach implemented at the local level will also need to be implemented at the national level. The government, in addition to its responsibilities for defining the objectives, and its arbitration and regulatory functions, will need to harmonise the various interventions throughout the national territory.

At national level the project is under the overall supervision of an inter-ministerial steering committee composed of the following:

Committee for Environment Protection
Directorate General of Forests and pastures
Directorate General of Fisheries
Council of Territorial Planning (Ministry for Construction)
Ministry of Tourism
Ministry of Economic Co-operation and Development
UNDP

NEA will appoint a national coordinator to oversee the month-to-month activities of the PMU, which will be based in Vlora. The coordinator represents the NEA as national executant of the project. He/she assists in organising the workplan, discussing intersectoral initiatives with other concerned Ministries, agreeing project activities, selecting project executants, and reviewing the finances prospectively and retrospectively. These activities are generally prepared by the PMU. The coordinator is not expected to be a full-time project position.

The coordinator should have sufficient seniority within the government to manage such a complex intersectoral project, liaise with other ministries and have the ability to work effectively with the Vlora administration. He/she should also have the technical ability to guide the project activities at local and national level.

The DGFP and DGF will nominate a contact person in their central administrations, responsible for ensuring coordination with NEA in Tirana. In this way, NEA co-ordinates its activity with GDGP and GDF to fix objectives and priority actions, and to avoid overlapping competencies and competition.

5. Reasons for GEF assistance

The narrow Mediterranean coastline and its associated wetlands is a limited area increasingly colonised by human presence. The most frequent, and irreversible, trend is urbanisation which wipes out the potential for biodiversity and natural habitats.

This occupation of space is virtually irreversible as a return to natural habitats is largely impossible. At the other end of the spectrum, however, other dangerous threats, for example pollution, can be reversed with appropriate resources. It is therefore essential to develop planning and management policies, natural resource management and sustainable development initiatives that aim to limit the loss of natural habitats, especially wetlands.

All the beneficiaries of this project have ratified the Convention on Biological diversity, and the Ramsar Convention. This project also complies with principles of biodiversity protection, the GEF operational strategy and the programmes on coastal, marine and freshwater agreed at the second conference of the parties to CBD (Jakarta, Indonesia, Nov 1995).

The incremental contribution of the GEF and FFEM will accelerate the implementation of policies whose costs could not otherwise be carried by the states alone, considering the substantial funds committed by them to address existing brown issues.

In addition, the development of pilot management methods for the coastal zone, and the development of structured exchanges through a regional network, will allow a number of Mediterranean countries to avoid the need to reinvent the wheel in addressing their own national issues, hence promoting accelerated replication of experience gained elsewhere.

Albania has ratified the Convention on Biodiversity in 1994, as well as the Ramsar Convention. In addition, freshwater eco-systems are set as a priority concern for the next Conference of Parties of the CBD. The present project should therefore be seen as an important GEF contribution to upcoming freshwater ecosystem conservation and sustainable use issues.

6. Special considerations

During the implementation of the project, specific emphasis will be put on strengthening the dialogue, information exchange and cooperation among all the relevant stakeholders, including central and local governmental, non-governmental, academic, and private sectors.

The ultimate criteria of success will be how the results of the project will be incorporated in the broader development goals of Albania. The project tries to address this by establishing an institutional framework for cooperation and involvement of all the relevant partners.

7. Co-ordination arrangements

Within the Committee for Environment Protection (NEA), it is essential to continue to improve inter-service collaboration on issues of mutual concern, especially establishing clear linkages between coastal zone management and nature conservation activities. Cross-sector linkages also need to be developed and strengthened. In putting in place integrated planning frameworks for coastal and wetlands management, the NEA will draw on a wide range of expertise, and ensure that other Ministries, as well as other governmental and non-governmental organizations participate actively in its design. This is important to promote support for the strategy and assure its approval at high level, as well as to facilitate its future implementation.

At the Mediterranean level, beside the constant information exchanges between the six participating countries/territories, the project will establish relations with the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSDD) of MAP, METAP, and the various programmes undertaken by a number of donors, as well as with initiatives targeting the Mediterranean region such as those undertaken by IUCN or conducted by the WWF. These networking activities will be one of the missions assigned to the Regional Facilitator

8. Counterpart support capacity

The Government of Albania has undertaken to make a national contribution to the implementation of this project. In view of the present financial difficulties faced by the country, this is a major indication of the degree of seriousness with which the Government is treating the present initiative.

In addition, the GDFF, GDF and NEA have all indicated their commitment to participate in the PMU in Vlora, and in the national coordination mechanism.

C. DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE

The project's overall development objective is to conserve globally endangered species and their habitats, recognising nature conservation as an integral part of sustainable human development while improving the capacity of governmental and non-governmental agencies to address biodiversity conservation issues.

D. IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVES OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES

1. Promotion and capacity building for the development of central policies and tools to address the policy-related root causes of the loss of wetland and coastal biodiversity.

The legal and policy framework which allows NEA and DGFP to regulate activities, and especially those impacting negatively on biodiversity conservation is still under development. Substantial progress is being made, through drafting of the appropriate laws, yet this effort should continue in order to provide the tools necessary for addressing

the root causes of biodiversity loss. These activities are necessarily dependent on prevailing political circumstances, and the volume of legislation being processed.

It is especially important that the considerable investment in the Coastal Zone Management Plan should be brought to fruition through its endorsement by the Council for Territorial planning. This will then allow elaboration of an appropriate Coastal Zone Management Law.

Output 1.1 Reinforcement of the legal framework required to establish a network of protected areas within Albania

The Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Law should be passed by the Council of Ministers in its present form. Provision is made for finalising certain components if changes to the draft are called for following review.

Activity 1.1.1 : Propose measures for addressing the gaps in the existing legal framework linking long term biodiversity protection to sustainable development in sites of central or regional importance for biodiversity.

Activity 1.1.2 : Drafting of legal text, once the Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Law is passed, providing the basis for the legal protection of the biodiversity at Narta and Karaburun, including the delimitation and zoning determined as a result of the biodiversity and socio-economic field studies, and making appropriate provision for an intersectoral management authority for the areas.

Responsible party: NEA + lawyers

Output 1.2 Reinforce the legal and information basis required for effective implementation of the Coastal zone management plan.

Activity 1.2.1 Supply examples of Mediterranean coastal zone planning legislation to NEA.

Responsible party: Regional facilitator

Activity 1.2.2: Definition of procedures allowing the acquisition of private or public lands by NEA for the specific purpose of protecting its coastal biodiversity in the long term through appropriate land-use policies.

Responsible party: NEA+ lawyers

Activity 1.2.3 : Mapping and digitising of land ownership distribution in Karaburun and Narta.

Responsible party: Forestry research Institute (Forestry lands) and concerned Ministry (private lands); digitising by private company

Activity 1.2.4 : Printing of awareness leaflets for the Vlora district concerning the content of the coastal zone management plan and the new biodiversity law, once these are approved by government.

Responsible party: consultant + NEA

Activity 1.2.5: Establish a national wetland policy through a series of technical working groups and workshops, as indicated by commitments under the Ramsar Convention

Responsible party: NEA

Activity 1.2.6: Print and distribute information concerning the strategy to decision-makers in government during a national seminar/workshop.

2. Protection and removal of root causes in key demonstration sites selected in view of their global significance and of the variety which they present in terms of threats and accompanying actions.

Conservation of threatened species requires knowledge of their distribution, the factors influencing their presence or 'absence' (e.g., grazing, hunting, etc.) and an understanding of how local land-use and economic activities interact with the species concerned.

This information provides the basis for designating the boundaries of the site, the activities to be permitted within different zones of the area (if appropriate) and the location and nature of management activities put into place by the management committee. Within the GEF framework, particular emphasis is put on identifying, managing and monitoring globally threatened species. The data gathered will also feed directly into the public awareness and education activities.

The creation of an informal, project specific, Biodiversity Working Group, chaired by a contracted co-ordinator, will allow collation of the field data in a standard format using the same digital base map, hence allowing data to be summarised under a GIS. This working group will continue to monitor biodiversity of the conservation area network, and will advise the site managers, and NEA on biodiversity issues as required.

Output 2.1 : Preliminary site diagnosis for Karaburun, Orikumi and Narta including extensive field assessment of biodiversity distribution (plants, reptiles, amphibians, birds, mammals), water quality, water regimes and socio-economic activities.

Activity 2.1.1: Create a digital base map (with grid squares) as the basis for a GIS system on which all other species/habitats/land-use/land ownership and physical features will be mapped and which will provide an essential spatial support to the management planning process.

Responsible party: Local consultant

Activity 2.1.2: Describe the medicinal plants used by local people in the project sites

Responsible party: University or NGO consultant

Activity 2.1.3: Describe the principal vegetation types, plot the distribution of globally threatened plants and design a simple monitoring system for these species.

Activity 2.1.4: Describe the mammals of the area, plot the distribution of globally threatened mammals and design a simple monitoring system for these species. This should include a survey of Monk seals and their breeding habitat at Karaburun, in association with the international Monk seal coordination group.

Activity 2.1.5: Describe the amphibians of the area, plot the distribution of globally threatened amphibians and design a simple monitoring system for these species.

Activity 2.1.6: Describe the reptiles of the area, plot the distribution of globally threatened reptiles and design a monitoring system for these species.

Activity 2.1.7: Describe the birds of the area, plot the distribution of globally threatened birds and design a monitoring system for these species.

Responsible party: Biodiversity coordinator with input from NGOs, universities and Museum of Natural History/PMU

Activity 2.1.8: undertake a PRA of socio-economic activities in the area with a particular focus on historical and present-day interactions between local people and the natural resources of the project sites.

Responsible party: NGO or university in association with NEA/PMU

Activity 2.1.9: Analyse nutrient content of sediments, distribution of aquatic macrophytes and algae and water quality of lakes Narta and Orikumi in order to assess the state of eutrophication of each lagoon.

Responsible party: International and local consultants

Output 2.2 : Establishment of an interim management committee for Narta and surrounding area. (NB Karabarun is already under the direct responsibility of the Forestry department).

Activity 2.2.1: Designation by the competent authority of the composition of the management committee. This structure will guide the studies and the development of the management plan planned under this project, and will, during the life of the project, be formalised as the core of the future management authority when the Narta and Orikumi conservation areas are established.

Activity 2.2.2 : A workshop will be held on Lake Narta including all involved ministries, NGOs, local economic actors, commune heads and concerned municipalities to discuss the management problems of Narta and Orikumi Lagoons.

Activity 2.2.3: Identification, and encouragement, of local NGOs to assist in public awareness activities and in surveillance of land-use within the area.

Responsible party: NEA + PMU

Output 2.3: Public awareness activities to sensitise local people and decision-makers of the importance of Lake Narta and Karabarun peninsula, and the natural environment in general.

Activity 2.3.1: Organise a "Nature of Lake Narta " event with the intention of not only improving awareness, but also to attract and identify enthusiastic amateurs willing to join NGOs, assist in surveys or in future awareness activities. Advertise widely in the local press.

Activity 2.3.2: Produce information materials, stickers, t-shirts and posters on Lake Narta and Karabarun and its importance for biodiversity. For schools and for the public.

Activity 2.3.3 : Establish a mobile exhibition which can be on display in the PMU meeting room and also used during school visits.

Activity 2.3.4: Make short videos of Narta and Karabarun and their biodiversity importance.

Responsible party: NGOs in association with NEA/PMU

Activity 2.3.5 : Develop educational materials for local schools, and interest local teachers in their use .

Activity 2.3.6 : Organise sensitisation activities for schools near the project sites through a local information focal point, initially at the PMU, and where possible, guided field visits by foresters, NGOs or PMU staff.

Activity 2.3.7 : Provide capacity building support, (training, study tours in the region) and equipment to local NGOs to allow them to be more effective at local level.

Responsible party: NGOs in association with NEA

Output 2.4: Establishment of a monitoring system for hydrology and water quality at Lake Narta in association with relevant institutions in order to develop a water balance model to guide decision-making.

Activity 2.4.1: Install hydrological monitoring equipment to monitor exchanges with the sea, water levels and local meteorology

Activity 2.4.2: Install piezometers around Lake Narta in order to measure groundwater depth and quality at regular intervals, especially in the zones affected by salinisation, or by potential mercury pollution.

Activity 2.4.3: Development of a simple model for the surface water balance of Lake Narta to assist future decision-making on management scenarios.

Responsible party: National Institute for Hydrometeorology

Output 2.5: Monitoring of globally threatened biodiversity to assess the impact of conservation activities.

Activity 2.5.1: Based on the results of the initial biodiversity survey, monitor globally threatened plants, reptiles, mammals and amphibians at appropriate frequency and at least once in the final year of the project.

Responsible party: Biodiversity working group

Output 2.6: Implementation of site management

Activity 2.6.1: While the lagoon is dry, and before reestablishment of the link with the sea, undertake a short study to determine the siting and design of breeding islands for colonial waterbirds, and to identify sources of appropriate substrates..

Activity 2.6.2: Construct islands according to feasibility study.

Responsible party: National Museum

Activity 2.6.3: Assess the distribution of mercury pollution spreading into soils, the lagoon and groundwater from the waste dump at Lake Narta and, if necessary, design and implement measures to counteract it.

Activity 2.6.4: Dredge the channel connecting Narta with the sea to re-establish hydrological exchange as quickly as possible (after construction of bird islands, above).

Activity 2.6.5: Undertake a feasibility study for permanently stabilising the channel connecting Narta with the sea.

Activity 2.6.6: Undertake a feasibility study for restoring freshwater inflow into Orikumi lagoon, including analysis of positive and negative consequences.

Responsible party: Hydrometeorological institute, local and international consultants

Activity 2.6.7: Implement tree-planting projects, using native species, compatible with biodiversity conservation around Lake Narta

Responsible party: DGFP

Activity 2.6.8: Construct a fish nursery to assist in repopulating the lagoon with local fish species.

Responsible party: DGF

Activity 2.6.9: Assess the numbers and origins of tourists using the different beaches during the summer months (years 1 and 4).

Activity 2.6.10: Undertake a feasibility study for the development of a tourism investment plan at Narta and Karabarun, taking into account the natural values of the area. These results will feed into the management plan.

Responsible party: PMU

Activity 2.6.11: Install appropriate signs around the sites to inform local people of the boundaries of the conservation area.

Responsible party: DGFP

Activity 2.6.12: Improve pastureland on Karaburun peninsula in collaboration with local people as part of a general initiative to reduce forest fires in the area

Responsible party: DGFP

Output 2.7: Development of a finalised management plan for Narta, Orikumi and Karaburun formally accepted and adopted by the appropriate authority.

Activity 2.7.1: bring together all the above information in a single, budgeted, plan to guide the future management of the site. In consultation with the coordination committee.

Responsible party: NEA, management committee, with international consultant

Activity 2.7.2: Formalise a management authority for each area, including local representation, and give it full legal weight.

Activity 2.7.3: Adoption of the proposed management actions by the relevant authority

Activity 2.7.4: Implement priority management measures

Responsible party: NEA/ Management authority

3. Contributing to "closing the Mediterranean circle" in terms of biodiversity protection and sustainable management of wetlands and coastal zones through cost-effective networking for transfer of lessons, interchange and training.

Albania can benefit substantially from the experience gained elsewhere in the Mediterranean region on biodiversity management issues, and this component will allow effective transfer of knowledge and know-how within the 6 participating countries/authority, and within the region as a whole. The design and teaching of the course will be undertaken by the training team, based at the regional coordination centre for the project.

Output 3.1 Training and technical exchange within the region

Regional experience in managing natural areas and in implementing coastal and wetland management policies will be useful while feeding into the same process within Albania. The regional training programme will be managed and implemented in collaboration with the regional facilitator and his/her training team.

Activity 3.1.1: Definition of training needs. Training needs will be addressed by the regional training team once the project team is constituted in Vlora and Tirana.

Responsible party: Regional facilitator

Activity 3.1.2: Undertake a training course in natural area management methods

Before launching the biodiversity inventory, the biodiversity group should be constituted, and a course held to learn, discuss and plan the biodiversity work. This course should include international management planning experts, and lay the foundations for the identification of biodiversity conservation priorities in the management plan.

The first course should coincide with the launch of the fieldwork, hence allowing international and Albanian experts to go to the field together to begin the inventory and discuss any difficulties which may arise.

Responsible party: NEA, Shkodra Forestry school and Regional coordination

Activity 3.1.3: Training in establishment of biodiversity monitoring procedures

Responsible party: NEA, Shkodra Forestry school and Regional coordination

Activity 3.1.4: Implementation of training activities defined by the training needs assessment

Responsible party: NEA, Shkodra Forestry school and Regional coordination

Activity 3.1.5: Participation in regional seminars. Six regional seminars are planned within the project (see regional project component), one of which will be organised in Albania, preferably in Vlora (activity 3.1.6). Albanians will participate in the other 5 seminars in each of the project countries/territory.

Responsible party: NEA and Regional coordination

Activity 3.1.6: Organisation of one regional seminar for all other participating countries

Activity 3.1.7: Regional web site initiative

Activity 3.1.8: Provision of information to biodiversity clearing house

Activity 3.1.9: Participation in regional advisory committee meetings (one per yr)

Responsible party : NEA and Regional coordination

E. INPUTS

GEF Contribution

	m/m	Unit cost US\$	Total US\$
International consultants			
Legal consultants	1	15 000	15 000
Technical assistance for project start up	2	15 000	30 000
Water specialists	4	15 000	60 000
Management and restauration specialist	8	15 000	120 000
National Wetland strategy	3	15 000	45 000
Tourism development	3	15 000	45 000
Administrative support personnel			
Accountant (1)	60	448	26 880
Secretaries (2)	120	384	46 080
Drivers (2)	120	294	35 328
Travel & Mission costs			
Duty Travel			35 000
Mission costs			20 000
UNDP mission cost			15 000
Long Term National Professionals			
National Coordinator (1)	60	704	42 240
PMU Director (1)	60	512	30 720
Forestry Officer (1)	60	448	26 880
Fishery Officer (1)	60	448	26 880
Short Term National Professionals			
Definition of legal procedures	3	700	2 100
National wetland strategy	7	700	4 900
Description fauna and flora	27	700	18 900
Survey and monitoring of species	23	700	16 100
Water specialists	11	700	7 700
Restoration of Orikumi lagoon	4	700	2 800
Development of 3 management plans	14	700	9 800
Study on island creation	1	1 500	1 500
Tourism development	9	700	6 300
Sub-contracts			
Sub-Contract A - Awareness			60 500
Sub-Contract B - Invest			158 000
Sub-Contract C - Surveys			53 000
Training			
NGO study tours			9 000
Start-up training			5 000
Specific Training (3)			36 000
Regional seminars			25 000

Equipment & Premises	
Tirana Office Utilities	10 000
Vlora Office Utilities	15 000
Books	5 000
Tirana Office rental	30 000
Vlora Office rental	30 000
Procurement of equipment (see below)	90 000
Operation & Maintenance of Equipment	
Tirana Office Telecom	25 000
Tirana Office fuel	8 910
Tirana Office Vehicle maintenance	7 150
Tirana Office Insurance	605
Vlora Office Telecom	25 000
Vlora Office fuel	8 910
Vlora Office Vehicle maintenance	7 150
Vlora Office Insurance	605
Vlora Office maintenance	1 495
Vehicle spare parts	4 000
Reporting Costs	
Mid Term Evaluation	10 000
Sundries & Miscellaneous	
Sundries	54 567
Management Actions	330 000
Project support services	51 000
TOTAL GEF CONTRIBUTION	1 751 000

National Contribution

National contribution is at equivalent of US\$150,000 and will be programmed towards the cost of national counterpart staff, office space and utilities.

Prerequisites:

1. Establishment of a Committee for the management of Lake Narta and the surrounding area, composed of representatives of all concerned ministries, and including universities and NGOs.
2. The Council for Territorial Planning will endorse the Coastal Zone Management Plan as the basis for sustainable development of the coastal zone within 6 months of project signature. This project will establish the sustainable development plan for the Karabarun Peninsula and Narta area, based on the additional detailed studies undertaken during the project.
3. The Council of Ministers and the Parliament shall pass the Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Law as a basis for biodiversity conservation and management in Albania within 12 months of project signature.

Assistance for the project will be provided only if the obligations and prerequisites stipulated above have been fulfilled or are likely to be fulfilled. When anticipated fulfilment of one or more prerequisites fails to materialize, UNDP may, at its discretion, either suspend or terminate its assistance.

H. PROJECT REVIEW, REPORTING AND EVALUATION

In view of the regional nature of the project and the specific linkages between the 6 countries/territories involved, special conditions for monitoring and reporting have been established.

As has already been described in the Regional Project Document, the Regional Facilitator will provide assistance and advice and will ensure the networking of the national projects. The Regional Facilitator will be responsible for drafting and submitting various technical reports to GEF/UNDP, to UNOPS and the FFEM. In addition the Regional Facilitator will also provide comments to national *Project Reviews* and will also attend the annual meeting of the Regional Advisory Committee.

Project Review –PR (also called TPR in regular national projects)

This project will be subject to annual Project Reviews (PR) which will take place at least every twelve months, with the first such meeting to take place within the first twelve months following actual project start-up.

The participants to these Annual Project Reviews (APR) will include: representatives of the Government, the implementing agency, UNDP, FFEM secretariat and/or the French Ministry of the Environment and the Regional Facilitator. Upon the initiative of the representatives of the Government, the implementing agency, UNDP or FFEM, two national coordinators for other countries or any other national or international actor participating in the regional project may be invited to attend.

Annual Performance Report

The Project Manager will be responsible for preparing and submitting to each Project Review (PR) an Annual Performance Report (APR). Other evaluation reports may be requested, as needed, during the implementation of the project. Each project partner (representatives of the Government, the implementing agency, UNDP, FFEM secretariat – under the Agence Française de Développement – and the Regional Facilitator) as well as the GEF/RBAS New York) will be provided with copies of the Evaluation Reports before the Project Reviews (PR).

The APRs from each national project component will be submitted to the Regional Facilitator, so that she/he may write a combined and summarized APR for the entire project to be submitted to GEF/RBAS.

A project completion report will be prepared to be discussed at the last Project Review (PR). This report will need to be prepared in advance, so as to enable the implementing agency to provide technical inputs and to make comments, at least four months before this last tripartite review.

Mid-term evaluation

The project will be subject to a mid-term evaluation, i.e. during the third year after actual project start-up. The organization, the terms of reference and the timing will be determined after consultation with the participants in the APR preceding the mid-term evaluation.

The consultants who will carry out this evaluation exercise will normally be selected from the GEF STAP roster after consultation with project partners. This evaluation will be independent. Particular attention will be paid to the selection of regional consultants to the extent possible. The evaluation team will consist of no more than 3 people. The same team will visit all of the countries participating in the project in order to produce a coherent evaluation. The results of the mid-term evaluation will be made publicly available according to the GEF's principles of transparency and free access.

Clearing House Mechanism

The National Coordinator will work with the project's national partners to establish biodiversity indicators and monitoring indicators during the first year of the project. These indicators will be submitted to the Regional Facilitator for his assent as to the type of biodiversity to be monitored, the frequency of the measurements and the periodicity of the reports to be submitted to him. This information will be shared with the focal point of the "Clearing House Mechanism", GEF / UNDP and the FFEM as well as the other project partners.

The monitoring information will be reviewed and summarized by the Project Manager and submitted to the Regional Facilitator for further analysis and review.

GEF Project Implementation Review

The project will also be subject to the GEF Project Implementation Review (PIR) process. This involves filling out a computerized questionnaire (to be submitted each year in July/August). In view of the fact that this regional project will be treated as a single entity, each national component, through its National Coordinator, will submit the information required by the Regional Facilitator in a timely manner so that the GEF PIR process may be completed on time.

FFEM monitoring of FFEM-funded project activities

It should be noted that FFEM will also monitor the project components it supports. The budgetary and financial monitoring will be conducted by the Agence Française de Développement (in Tunisia and Morocco) in parallel with the monitoring process described above, in conformity with FFEM procedures. It should be noted that FFEM has accepted the principle of joint monitoring of its contributions and will therefore participate as a full partner in all monitoring activities (APR, PR, PIR, and the Regional Advisory Committee meetings, etc).

FFEM has entrusted the technical monitoring of the project to the Conservatoire du littoral, which will carry out these functions in Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia. The technical assistance missions will be coordinated in consultation with the Regional Facilitator, UNDP and Tour du Valat in a spirit of constructive partnership, so as to avoid redundancies and duplication of efforts.

UNDP monitoring of GEF-funded project activities

Ad hoc monitoring missions may be undertaken, in coordination with the Regional Facilitator, FFEM, Tour du Valat / Conservatoire du Littoral, by the UNDP/GEF group of New York in all countries concerned by the activities funded by UNDP/GEF (Albania, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority and Tunisia). The UNDP Country Offices in these countries/Authority will be responsible for day-to-day monitoring and dialogue with the national authorities during the implementation of the project.

Regional Advisory Committee annual meetings

The purpose of the annual meetings of the Regional Advisory Committee is to provide a forum for dialogue contributing to a project global strategic vision, and for exchanges of ideas between the participants in order to transfer good practices and the lessons learned within each of the Mediterranean countries. The Regional Advisory Committee may issue recommendations in line with project objectives. UNOPS and UNDP/GEF will implement them taking into consideration the existing conditions, the GEF eligibility criteria and the budget constraints.

The composition of the Regional Advisory Committee will include:

- One representative of each of the Ministries or entities in charge of the environment in each country/Authority (if possible the Chief or Assistant Chief of the delegation to the MAP meeting)
- The National Project Coordinator
- GEF/UNDP
- UNOPS
- FFEM/AFD
- French Environment Ministry
- The Coordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan or his representative
- The Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention or his representative
- Tour du Valat
- Conservatoire du Littoral

The *Regional Advisory Committee* may invite the participation, at their own expense, of other partners or qualified authorities: European Union, IUCN, WWF or any other person whose presence might be considered appropriate.

The expenses incurred by the members of the *Regional Advisory Committee* for their participation in the Committee's annual meeting are charged to their respective national budgets.

Financial Reporting

The Government will provide UNDP with certified periodic financial statements relating to the status of UNDP/GEF funds, including an annual audit of these financial statements, according to the procedures set out in Section 30503 of the UNDP Policies and Procedures Manual (PPM) and Section 10404 of the UNDP Finance Manual, and any revision of these Manuals. The audit will be conducted by the legally recognized auditor of the Government, or by a commercial auditor engaged by the Government.

I. LEGAL CONTEXT

This Project Document shall be the instrument referred to as such in Article I of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government of Albania and the United Nations Development Programme, signed by the Parties on June 17, 1991.

The composition of the Regional Advisory Committee will include:

- One representative of each of the Ministers or entities in charge of the environment in each country/Authority (if possible the Chief or Assistant Chief of the delegation to the MAP meeting)
- The National Project Coordinator
- GELVINDA
- WHP
- FRENCH
- French Development Ministry
- The Coordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan or his representative
- The Secretary General of the Regional Convention or his representative
- Towards Vain
- Co-ordinator de l'Institut

J. BUDGET

The Regional Advisory Committee may invite the participation, at their own expense, of other partners or qualified individuals: European Union, IUCN, WWF or any other person whose presence might be considered appropriate.

The expenses incurred by the members of the Regional Advisory Committee for their participation in the Committee's annual meetings are charged to their respective national budgets.

The Government will provide UNDP with certified periodic financial statements relating to its share of UNDP/GEF funds, including an annual audit of these financial statements, according to the procedures set out in Section 30521 of the UNDP Policy and Procedures Manual (PPM) and Section 10404 of the UNDP Finance Manual, and any revision of these Manuals. The audit will be conducted by the locally recognized auditor of the Government or by a contractual auditor engaged by the Government.

I. LEGAL CONTEXT

This Project Document shall be the instrument referred to as such in Article I of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government of Albania and the United Nations Development Programme, signed by the Parties on June 17, 1991.

J.	Budget	Code	Description	Total		Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4		Year 5	
				m/m	US\$	m/m	US\$	m/m	US\$	m/m	US\$	m/m	US\$	m/m	US\$
		11.51	Legal consultants	1	15,000	1	15,000								
		11.52	Technical assistance for project start up	2	30,000	2	30,000								
		11.53	Water specialists	4	60,000	2	30,000	2	30,000						
		11.54	Management and restoration specialist	8	120,000	2	30,000	3	45,000	3	45,000				
		11.55	National Wetland strategy	3	45,000	1	15,000	2	30,000						
		11.56	Tourism development	3	45,000	1	15,000	1	15,000			1	15,000		
		11.99	Subtotal consultants	21	315,000	9	135,000	8	120,000	3	45,000	1	15,000		
		13.01	Accountant (1)	60	26,880	12	4,200	12	5,040	12	5,460	12	5,880	12	6,300
		13.02	Secretaries (2)	120	46,080	24	7,200	24	8,640	24	9,360	24	10,080	24	10,800
		13.03	Drivers (2)	120	35,328	24	5,520	24	6,624	24	7,176	24	7,728	24	8,280
		13.99	Subtotal administrative support	300	108,288	60	16,920	60	20,304	60	21,996	60	23,688	60	25,380
		15.01	Duty Travel		35,000		7,000		7,000		7,000		7,000		7,000
		15.99	Subtotal duty travel		35,000		7,000		7,000		7,000		7,000		7,000
		16.01	Mission costs		20,000		4,000		4,000		4,000		4,000		4,000
		16.02	UNDP mission cost		15,000						15,000				
		16.99	Subtotal mission costs		35,000		4,000		4,000		19,000		4,000		4,000
		17.01	National Coordinator (1)	60	42,240	12	6,600	12	7,920	12	8,580	12	9,240	12	9,900
		17.02	PMU Director (1)	60	30,720	12	4,800	12	5,760	12	6,240	12	6,720	12	7,200
		17.03	Forestry Officer (1)	60	26,880	12	4,200	12	5,040	12	5,460	12	5,880	12	6,300
		17.04	Fishery Officer (1)	60	26,880	12	4,200	12	5,040	12	5,460	12	5,880	12	6,300
		17.51	Definition of legal procedures	3	2,100	3	2,100								
		17.52	National wetland strategy	7	4,900	4	2,800	3	2,100						
		17.53	Description fauna and flora	27	18,900	20	14,000	7	4,900						
		17.54	Survey and monitoring of species	23	16,100	3	2,100	6	4,200	5	3,500	5	3,500	4	2,800
		17.55	Water specialists	11	7,700	7	4,900	4	2,800						
		17.56	Restoration of Orikumu lagoon	4	2,800			4	2,800						
		17.57	Development of 3 management plans	14	9,800	3	2,100	9	6,300	2	1,400				
		17.58	Study on island creation	1	1,500			1	1,500						

41.01	Tirana Office Utilities	10,000	2,500	2,500	2,000	1,500	1,500
41.02	Vlora Office Utilities	15,000	4,000	3,000	3,000	2,500	2,500
41.03	Books	5,000	2,000	1,500	1,000	500	
41.99	Subtotal Expendable equipment	30,000	8,500	7,000	6,000	4,500	4,000
43.01	Tirana Office rental	30,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
43.02	Vlora Office rental	30,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
43.99	Subtotal Premises	60,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
45.01	Computer materiel	15,000	10,000	3,000	2,000		
45.02	Photocopy machine (1)	4,500	4,500				
45.03	Communication set	1,000	1,000				
45.04	Office stationary	6,000	6,000				
45.99	Subtotal Local procurement	26,500	21,500	3,000	2,000		
47.01	Four-wheel drive (1)	25,000	25,000				
47.02	Saloon car (1)	15,000	15,000				
47.03	Motocross bikes 125cc (3)	10,500	10,500				
47.04	Binoculars and telescopes	3,000	1,500				
47.05	Meteorology station (1)	10,000	10,000				
47.99	Subtotal Int'l Procurement	63,500	61,500	12,000			
49.00	Component total	180,000	93,500	34,000	20,000	16,500	16,000
51.01	Tirana Office Telecom	25,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
51.02	Tirana Office fuel	8,910	1,620	1,620	1,620	2,025	2,025
51.03	Tirana Office Vehicle maintenance	7,150	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,625	1,625
51.04	Tirana Office Insurance	605	110	110	110	138	138
51.05	Vlora Office Telecom	25,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
51.06	Vlora Office fuel	8,910	1,620	1,620	1,620	2,025	2,025
51.07	Vlora Office Vehicle maintenance	7,150	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,625	1,625
51.08	Vlora Office Insurance	605	110	110	110	138	138
51.09	Vlora Office maintenance	1,495	1,000	110	110	138	138
51.10	Vehicle spare parts	4,000	800	800	800	800	800
51.99	Subtotal Op & Maint of Equipment	88,825	17,860	16,970	16,970	18,513	18,513
52.01	Mid Term Evaluation	10,000			10,000		
52.99	Subtotal reporting costs	10,000			10,000		

53.01	Sundries		54,567		6,800		6,800		7,667		6,800		6,800
53.02	Management Actions		330,000				95,000		170,000		45,000		20,000
53.99	Subtotal Sundries		384,567		6,800		101,800		177,667		51,800		26,800
54.01	Project support services		51,000		51,000								
54.99	Subtotal Project Support Services		51,000		51,000								
59.00	Component total		534,392		75,660		118,770		204,637		70,313		45,313
60.00	BUDGET TOTAL		1,751,000		1,121,400		453,321		91,177		228,321		113,177

K. ANNEXES

Annex I. Work Plan

Conservation of Wetland and Coastal Ecosystems in the Mediterranean Region ALB/97/G33/A/1G/99																						
N°	Objectives	Activities	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				Year 5			
			1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
3	Objective 1	Output 1.1	<i>Reinforcement of the legal framework for protected areas</i>																			
4			1.1.1/Gap assessment and proposals																			
5			1.1.2/Drafting of legal text																			
7	Objective 1	Output 1.2	<i>Reinforce legal and information basis for implementing coastal plan</i>																			
8			1.2.1/Supply examples of Mediterranean coastal zone planning																			
9			1.2.2/Definition of procedures for land acquisition																			
10			1.2.3/ Map and digitise land ownership																			
11			1.2.4/ Print awareness leaflets																			
12			1.2.5/ Establish national wetland policy																			
13			1.2.6/ Print and distribute information on national policy																			
15	Objective 2	Output 2.1	<i>Preliminary site diagnosis</i>																			
16			2.1.1/ Create a GIS base for mapping all spatial information																			
17			2.1.2/ Describe medicinal plants																			
18			2.1.3/ Describe vegetation types																			
19			2.1.4/ Describe mammals, especially Monk seals																			
20			2.1.5/ Describe amphibians																			
21			2.1.6/ Describe reptiles																			
22			2.1.7/ Describe birds																			
23			2.1.8/ Undertake PRA of local activities																			
24			2.1.9/ Analyse nutrient content of sediments + water quality																			
27	Objective 2	Output 2.2	<i>Establishment of interim management committee</i>																			
28			2.2.1/Designation of competent authority																			

Conservation of wetland and coastal ecosystems in the Mediterranean region

ALB/97/G33/A/1G/99

N°	Objectives	Activities	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				Year 5			
			1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
70.																						
71.																						
72.	Objective 3	Output 3.1																				
		Training programmes and technical exchanges																				
73.		3.1.1/ Definition of training needs																				
74.		3.1.2/ Training in natural area management methods																				
75.		3.1.3/ Training in establishment of monitoring procedures																				
76.		3.1.4/ Implementation of training activities																				
77.		3.1.5/ Participation in five regional seminars																				
78.		3.1.6/ Organisation of one regional seminar for all other participating countries																				
79.		3.1.7/ Regional web site initiative																				
80.		3.1.8 Provision of information to biodiversity clearing house																				
81.		3.1.9 Participation in regional advisory committee meetings (one per yr)																				

* timing of activities 3.1.5 – 3.1.9 to be determined through consultation at regional level

ANNEX III. Training programme

Training is an essential component of this project as its success or failure hinges on the ability of the site managers to address the threats to the different sites in a sustainable manner. This will, in many cases, require personnel to acquire new skills and especially to develop the habit of intersectoral collaboration and decision-making in their daily activities. The programme has components aimed at training of trainers, but will also directly train national staff through an appropriate training focal point. The training programme does not aim to train large numbers of people in generalities, but rather to assist either specialists to adapt their knowledge to new situations, or to give generalists some specific understanding of how to manage coastal and wetland sites. Cross-cultural (inter-disciplinary) training will be emphasized as an aid to multi-sectoral planning.

The training component of the programme has four main aims:

1. Support to the development of a training focal point for protected areas management in each country.
2. Training as a means to acquire knowledge and methodologies appropriate to intersectoral management planning for coastal and wetland areas.
3. Training as a tool within the site management process (i.e as an opportunity to put stakeholders around a table and to promote exchanges on a topic of common concern as a way to remove obstacles in the management process "creating a common culture").
4. Promote the capacity of a national institution to provide training sessions for wetland and coastal conservation

For the training programme to be effective, it requires to be clearly focussed on needs at local level. These needs can be expected to evolve during the project cycle, and the intervention of the training activities must therefore be developed and applied on an annual basis. For example, when the site management committees are convened, a training session may be organised in order to create a "common culture", and to help the local dynamics of management plan preparation and implementation. The precise needs of the members of that committee can only clearly be identified once it is established.

The training programme will emphasise a hands-on practical problem-solving style, with "general knowledge" issues kept to a minimum. This means that it will also be strictly targeted at those who will use their improved skills in their daily work. Selection of the profile of trainees will therefore be decided in consultation with the regional training team to ensure maximum effectiveness.

The regional team will provide the design, content and material for the local training courses, while all the local costs will be covered by the national budget. To facilitate the implementation of the courses and improve capacity-building at national level, a training focal point will be designated by the National Project Director. This focal point will be responsible for mobilising national experts to deal with different themes, when such expertise is available locally, and for ensuring the smooth local logistics of the training operation.

In addition to the local courses, six regional courses will be held on the following themes:

1. Designing a national wetland strategy
2. Coastal zone planning tools
3. Integrated management planning
4. EIA techniques for Mediterranean wetlands
5. Design of public awareness programmes
6. Organising applied research on biodiversity conservation

These courses will be geared towards information, knowledge and understanding existing tools and methods, and will improve the participants' awareness of similar activities ongoing at a regional level. Information materials and documentation will be distributed at these meetings. Countries other than the beneficiaries may also participate with the agreement of the regional facilitator if they cover costs, in order to promote the regional nature of the action.

The content and design of the courses will be defined by the regional team, who will establish the nature of the key target beneficiaries, define training needs and select candidates with the required profile in consultation with the National Project Director.

One course will be held in each participating country/Authority at or near a project site and will hence allow project participants to familiarize themselves with other sites in the network.

Item	Quantity	Unit	Value
Local transport of equipment			
Motorcycle (1)	1	PMU	3,100
Motorcycle (2)	1	PMU	2,200
Motorcycle (3)	1	PMU	1,900
Motorcycle (4)	1	PMU	4,100
Motorcycle (5)	1	PMU	1,700
Motorcycle (6)	1	PMU	500
Motorcycle (7)	1	PMU	1,900
Motorcycle (8)	1	PMU	1,100
Motorcycle (9)	1	PMU	2,200
Motorcycle (10)	1	PMU	2,000
Motorcycle (11)	1	PMU	1,500
Motorcycle (12)	1	PMU	2,000
Motorcycle (13)	1	PMU	2,000
Motorcycle (14)	1	PMU	1,800
Motorcycle (15)	1	PMU	1,800
Motorcycle (16)	1	PMU	1,800
Motorcycle (17)	1	PMU	1,800
Motorcycle (18)	1	PMU	1,800
Motorcycle (19)	1	PMU	1,800
Motorcycle (20)	1	PMU	1,800
Motorcycle (21)	1	PMU	1,800
Motorcycle (22)	1	PMU	1,800
Motorcycle (23)	1	PMU	1,800
Motorcycle (24)	1	PMU	1,800
Motorcycle (25)	1	PMU	1,800
Motorcycle (26)	1	PMU	1,800
Motorcycle (27)	1	PMU	1,800
Motorcycle (28)	1	PMU	1,800
Motorcycle (29)	1	PMU	1,800
Motorcycle (30)	1	PMU	1,800
Motorcycle (31)	1	PMU	1,800
Motorcycle (32)	1	PMU	1,800
Motorcycle (33)	1	PMU	1,800
Motorcycle (34)	1	PMU	1,800
Motorcycle (35)	1	PMU	1,800
Motorcycle (36)	1	PMU	1,800
Motorcycle (37)	1	PMU	1,800
Motorcycle (38)	1	PMU	1,800
Motorcycle (39)	1	PMU	1,800
Motorcycle (40)	1	PMU	1,800
Motorcycle (41)	1	PMU	1,800
Motorcycle (42)	1	PMU	1,800
Motorcycle (43)	1	PMU	1,800
Motorcycle (44)	1	PMU	1,800
Motorcycle (45)	1	PMU	1,800
Motorcycle (46)	1	PMU	1,800
Motorcycle (47)	1	PMU	1,800
Motorcycle (48)	1	PMU	1,800
Motorcycle (49)	1	PMU	1,800
Motorcycle (50)	1	PMU	1,800

ANNEX IV. Equipment requirements

Local procurement of equipment	Destination	Cost
Computers PC Pentium 200 (6)	PMU/project director	9 000
Printers (2)	PMU	3 100
Modem (1)	PMU	250
Installation computer network	PMU	1 000
Photocopy machine (1)	PMU	4 500
UPS (6)	PMU	1 740
Telephone set (1)	PMU	225
Fax (1)	PMU	700
Heaters (4)	PMU	400
Desks (8)	PMU	1 300
Chairs (16)	PMU	1 100
Meeting table (1)	PMU	250
Storage units (8)	PMU	2 000
Locally produced shelves (1)	PMU	750
Int'l Procurement < \$70,000		
Four-wheel drive (1)	PMU	25 000
Saloon car (1)	NEA Project Director	18 000
Motocross bikes 125cc (3)	DGF/Wardens	10 500
Binoculars (6)	DGF/Wardens	1 500
Telescope + tripod (2)	DGF/Wardens	2 600
Meteorology station (1)	Institute of hydrometeorology	10 000
Books	PMU/DGF	5 000

The equipment provided remains the property of UNDP for the duration of the project. Its upkeep and maintenance is the responsibility of the organisation to which it is attributed unless otherwise specified. After the end of the project the equipment will belong to the national organization which is the beneficiary of the equipment.

Specifications

Saloon Car : Engine less than 1500 cc/4 doors/2WD/4 passengers

4X4 : Diesel powered/ 6 cylinders/2 or 4 doors

Motocross bikes : Engine less than 200 cc/ all terrain

Computer : IBM compatible/166Mhz/2 Giga HD/ 32 MB RAM/ VGA or SVGA screen 14"/Modem 56600 Bp/CD Rom 8X reader/ Black and white printer

Binoculars 10X40, roof prism, rubber armoured.

Telescope 20-60X zoom, 60 mm aperture

Tripod : 3 directional head, telescopic legs (clips or screw tightening), minimum 180 cm height

ANNEX V. Job Descriptions

Terms of Reference - Director PMU

The Director of the PMU is the key focal point for the project at local level and his/her tasks are as follows:

- > Ensure timely implementation of the different project activities
- > Supervise and coordinate the issuing of subcontracts for each of the project activities in close consultation with UNDP and the National coordinator.
- > Provide the secretariat for the Narta and surrounding area management committee, draft the agenda in collaboration with the Chairperson and write minutes of the discussions.
- > Circulate information concerning the project, its activities, and the wider activities of other Ministries specifically concerning lake Narta and Karaburun.
- > Assist and advise the local NGOs in the implementation of their activities under the project.
- > Write all the necessary reports required within the UNDP project cycle and any others, as requested.
- > Maintain regular contact with the project Regional facilitator and draw on the regional network for advice and information which would improve project implementation at the project sites.
- > Participate in the planned regional seminars, and organise one such seminar in Vlora for the other regional participants.

Qualifications

- > A University higher degree (Masters or PhD) in Environmental science, Agriculture or Forestry.
- > Experience of project management, preferably in an environmental field.
- > Experience of working with NGOs
- > Familiarity with the Vlora District, its people and its politics is essential
- > Ability to communicate and work effectively with a wide range of project partners.
- > Capacity to write reports and manage budgets
- > Fluent in English, French an advantage.

The post is based in Vlora and reports to the National Coordinator

Terms of Reference - Legal experts

The Legal expert(s) will work in close collaboration with NEA and undertake the following activities :

1. Review and analyse existing legislation (property rights, nature protection, water and wetlands, urban planning, coastal planning, tourism, waste disposal., etc.) and identify the components of this legislation which may be immediately applied for the protection of sensitive natural areas.
2. Draft legal text providing the basis for the legal protection of the biodiversity at Lake Narta and Karaburun, including the delimitation and zoning determined as a result of the biodiversity and socio-economic field studies, and making appropriate provision for an intersectoral management authority for the area.
3. Propose measures for addressing the gaps in the existing legal framework linking long term biodiversity protection to sustainable development in sites of central or regional importance for biodiversity.
4. Define legal procedures allowing the acquisition of private lands by the NEA or DGFP for the specific purpose of protecting its coastal biodiversity in the long term through appropriate land-use policies.

It is essential that the process draws on experience elsewhere in the Mediterranean region, and funds are available for the necessary study tours. Contact should also be made with the IUCN environmental Law Centre in Bonn, and the Conservatoire du Littoral in France, via the regional facilitator.

Terms of Reference - Site Diagnosis

The site diagnosis is an important stage in the development of a management plan for a natural area.

There are four principal objectives:

1. Determine the distribution of threatened species, where possible their number, and hence identify the important areas for each species or group of species
2. Identify and measure the specific threats to each of the species and their habitats (eg. overgrazing, hunting, etc)
3. Define and implement a monitoring system for the monitoring of key parameters which have an impact on the species' habitat or the species themselves.
4. Constitute a small biodiversity working group which can advise the managers of the site in their specialist field.

It is important that each group specialist (plants, birds, reptiles etc) should create links with the international NGOs and universities working on similar topics. Knowledge of biodiversity is a direct function of the time spent in the field. Every effort should therefore be made to mobilise students from Tirana and Vlora to assist with this work. It may also be possible to encourage visits from international naturalists, on a volunteer basis, which will help constitute the necessary information base.

Regional facilitator	Provide a model baseline document for all countries This will be presented at the first meeting of the biodiversity working group
Biodiversity coordinator	Coordinate the field activities of the team Organise the digitised map at an appropriate scale compiles the final report, incorporating all the group accounts Make proposals for zoning of the sites and the limit of the conservation areas, based on biodiversity distribution Provide the linkage between the biodiversity working group and NEA and with the management committee
Botanist(s)	Establish the distribution of threatened flora Make a map of the principal vegetation communities Define and implement a monitoring system for threatened flora Identify the factors (positive and negative)influencing the distributions of the threatened species
Reptile and amphibian expert (s)	Establish the distribution of reptiles and amphibians with particular attention to those that are globally threatened Define and implement a monitoring system for threatened reptiles and amphibians Identify the factors (positive and negative)influencing the distributions of the threatened species
Ornithologist(s)	Establish the distribution of breeding and migratory birds with particular attention to those that are globally threatened Define and implement a monitoring system for threatened birds Identify the factors (positive and negative) influencing the distribution of the threatened species
Mammologist	Establish the distribution of mammals with particular attention to those that are globally threatened Define and implement a monitoring system for threatened mammals Identify the factors (positive and negative)influencing the distributions of the threatened species

Terms of Reference - Warden

Duties

- > Conservation of all the natural resources of Narta/Karaburun through daily visits in the field.
- > Protection of fauna and flora from illegal activities.
- > Participation in organising and executing rehabilitation schemes
- > Participation in public awareness activities with NGOs

Qualifications

- > A University degree, or forestry diploma, preferably in an environmental area
- > Calm personality with rigorous standards
- > Resident of the immediate area

Terms of Reference - PRA study

The PRA is a well known and fairly standard process. the most important element here is that special emphasis be put on the relationships between local people and the natural environment of the project sites as a resource for example for grazing, wood supply, medicinal plants water, etc, rather than a full review of development needs in for example, agriculture, as is often the case. The PRA should also look at the attitudes of local people to the project sites.

It is essential not to raise expectations that all the issues raised will be addressed by the project.

The report will be published in English.

Terms of Reference - Medicinal plants

- > Review, through meetings with local people, the use of natural plants from the area of Karaburun and Narta for medicinal, or other, purposes.
- > Examine whether the available plants can satisfy the demand, and the extent of their commercialisation.
- > Assess the negative and positive factors affecting these plant species, and indicate their approximate distribution within the ecosystem.

The report will be published in English.

ANNEX VI. Proposed Composition and Terms of Reference of the Committee for the management of Lake Narta and the surrounding area

This committee is responsible for ensuring a co-ordinated government policy towards lake Narta and the surrounding area. It is chaired by the Prefect (or his nominee) and includes :

The commune chairman
Local planning council, Ministry of Construction
NEA
DGFP
DGF
Territorial adjustment, Ministry of Tourism
Cadastra (District Council)
Environmental NGOs
Fisheries Cooperative
Association for pumps and irrigation
Ministry of Agriculture (Irrigation Dept)
Saline Company
Local University
Ministry of Defence

The PMU provides the secretariat for the committee, organises its meetings, proposes the agenda and the working documents, and writes the minutes.

The committee has no direct control over project funds, but agrees the way in which the PMU proposes to use them (work plan).

The mandate of the Committee is "to ensure the sustainable development of Lake Narta and the surrounding area, and the conservation of its biodiversity".

Its terms of reference are as follows:

- > Review the technical reports produced by the project and accept, or reject, their recommendations.
- > Create a framework for an exchange of views and the harmonisation of sectoral activities planned by each of the committee members.
- > Agree the annual work plan of the project and examine linkages with other ongoing projects.
- > Guide the development of a management plan to create a framework for future management of the area
- > Put in place a delimited conservation area, with legal weight, where nature conservation is given due priority.
- > Ensure that the views of local people are fully taken into account in the management process
- > Stimulate the search for additional funds to implement the proposals emanating from the different technical reports.
- > Prepare an annual report which summarises the activities of the committee.

The committee may request qualified experts, or relevant institutions, to participate in its work.

Minutes are kept of each meeting and circulated to members and to central level.

The Committee is chaired by the Prefect and meets at least twice per year, at the initiative of the Chairman.

These outline terms of reference should be reviewed at the first meeting of the Committee.

ANNEX VII. Pre-qualification criteria for NGOs

The NGOs shall be subject to the following pre-qualification criteria to become eligible for participation in this project.

- > have strong, grass-roots connections with local communities around Vlora.
- > have elements of an organisational mission and/or vision that is participative and which addresses environmental protection
- > have extensive experience in organising local campaigns for public awareness or clean-up activities
- > have an immaculate record with respect to transparency, substantive and financial, and accountability when working under subcontract.

NGOs may form partnerships in order to satisfy these criteria.

These prequalification criteria shall be published in newspapers in Albanian during the prequalification process.

The NGOs shall be subject to the following pre-qualification criteria to become eligible for participation in this project:

- > have strong past record cooperation with local communities and NGOs
- > have a clear organizational mission and vision that is participative and which addresses environmental protection
- > have extensive experience in organizing local campaigns for public awareness or clean-up activities
- > have an impeccable record with respect to transparency, substance and financial, and accountability when working under subcontract

NGOs may form partnerships in order to satisfy these criteria.

These pre-qualification criteria shall be published in newspapers in Albania during the pre-qualification process.