

Ministry of Tourism and Environment, Albania

Project Reference No: 5386

ALBANIA: "BUILDING THE RESILIENCE OF KUNE-VAINI LAGOON THROUGH ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION (EbA)"

(SPECIAL CLIMATE CHANGE FUND)



POST TRAINING EVENT 3 REPORT (MAY 2019)

May 2019

Post Training Event 3 Report

Prepared by Jonathan McCue

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Executive Summary

Jonathan McCue (on behalf of Sustainable Seas Ltd) was contracted by the Ministry of Environment in Albania to complete the Ecosystem based Adaptation (EbA) aspects of the project entitled “**BUILDING THE RESILIENCE OF KUNE-VAINI LAGOON THROUGH ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION (EBA)**” (SPECIAL CLIMATE CHANGE FUND - SCCF)”. This consultancy aims to increase the capacity of government and local communities living nearby to the Kune-Vaini lagoon system (KVLS) to adapt to climate change using an integrated suite of adaptation interventions, including EbA.

This report is a non-contracted “Post Training Event 3 Report that helps to provide an overview of the training undertaken (14-16 May 2019), including an overview evaluation of the training event, its effectiveness and lessons learned as well as recommendations for the final training session scheduled for late 2019.

The text presented within this report is stand alone, and compliments the Training Reports 1 and 2 produced in August 2018 and November 2018 respectively. It may be used to help support the necessary deliverables highlighted above if appropriate.

Document History

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SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Overview

1.1.1 Consultancy Title

International Consultant - International Ecosystem-based Adaption Expert (IEbAE).

1.1.2 Project Objective

This consultancy represents a sub-part of the project which has an overarching objective to increase the capacity of government and local communities living nearby to the Kune-Vaini lagoon system (KVLS) to adapt to climate change using an integrated suite of adaptation interventions, including Ecosystem based Adaptation (EbA).

1.1.3 Project Deliverables (Outputs)

The following activities and outputs have been undertaken as part of this proposed consultancy (contract updated February 2019):

- 1st Deliverable: submission and approval of a detailed work plan for the assignment with clear milestones, subject of approval by the NPM and UNEP Task Manager, by end of May 2017; COMPLETE.
- 2nd Deliverable: provision of protocols for the implementation of EbA interventions, subject of approval by the NPM and UNEP Task Manager, by end of June 2017; COMPLETE
- 3rd Deliverable: provision of technical guidelines on EbA, subject of approval by the NPM and UNEP Task Manager, by end of November 2017; COMPLETE
- 4th Deliverable: provision of training materials and training of stakeholders (2 training sessions) on EbA, by May 2018; COMPLETE
- 5th Deliverable: provision of training materials and training of stakeholders (2 training sessions) on EbA, by December 2018; COMPLETE
- 6th Deliverable: provision of training materials and training of stakeholders (2 training sessions) on EbA, and Nationwide EbA upscaling strategy, by May 2019;; **(THIS REPORT)**
- 7th Deliverable: provision of training materials and training of stakeholders (2 training sessions) on EbA, by November 2019.

1.1.4 Expected Outcomes of this Training Aspect (6th Deliverable)

A third training event is scheduled for 14-16 May 2019 and this report presents the outcomes of that event. Its purpose (as per the other 2 training events) is to better engage local communities, stakeholders and practitioners within the KVLS area on the basic issues surrounding climate resilience and EbA as well as practical exercises regarding EbA protocol techniques.

1.1.5 Project Programme

The contracted timeline for the project is as follows:

- a) contract signature – 11 May 2017;
- b) delivery of all reports - by 30 April 2020 (as per the revised contract to the IEbAE).



1.2 Purpose of the Report

This Report summarises the approach and comments received (plus some lessons learned) from the approach taken. Importantly, its effectiveness and lessons learned are listed to help the Project Steering Committee and the IEbAE with the design of the final training event scheduled for May 2019.

1.3 Report Structure

The structure of this report is set out below:

- Section 1 – Introduction;
- Section 2 – Training Approach;
- Section 3 – Outcome of Training Event 3;
- Section 4 – Lessons Learned;
- Section 5 – Recommendations for the Final Training Event (November 2019).

SECTION 2 – TRAINING APPROACH

2.1 Programme and Delivery

The training event commenced on Tuesday 14 May 2019 and finished on the afternoon of Thursday 16 May 2019. It was held at the Hotel Gjetise in Lezhe, Albania. With regard to timings, each day started at circa 09.30 with presentations finishing by circa 14.00 when lunch was supplied on all days. A comfort break of 25 minutes was programmed within the morning sessions.

On Thursday 16 May 2019, a field morning was designed within the Kune Vain Lagoon System (KVLS) with a specific focus placed on key aspects of the KVLS. Annex B contains photographs of the technical presentations and associated field day.

A detailed timed agenda and training structure/purpose (with Activities listed), is presented in Tables 2.1 and 2.2.

To assist the smooth running of the course, for each day of the training, the following was provided by the Project Team:

- Auditorium /classroom seating at the Hotel Gyjetise, Lezhe;
- PowerPoint projector, cable and screen;
- Pens, note paper, hard copy print outs of all slides presented (all in Albanian);
- Wifi/internet (available though not required for the training).
- Certificates of attendance (see image below).
- Soft copies of all Power-Point presentations were also provided upon request to all participants at the end of the training upon request.



FIGURE 2.1: CERTIFICATE AWARDS (DAY 3) AND SAMPLE CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE.

TABLE 2.1: FINAL TRAINING AGENDA (DAY 1 OF TRAINING EVENT 3)

Venue: (Hotel Gjuetise in Lezhe, Albania)

Duration of Training: 3 days (including 1 field day)

AGENDA (Tues 14 May 2019)

PROGRAM		Speakers
08:30 – 9.30	Travelling to Kune-Vain Lagoon	
9.30 – 10.00	Registration	
10:00 – 10:15	Foreword <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of Training Program and Objectives • Introduction of Attendees and Speakers 	Mihallaq Qirjo REC Albania
10:15 – 11:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of implementing EbA in Albania; • Understanding adapting to Climate Change through implementing EbA; • Interconnection between human activities and ecosystems; Q & A	Prof. Sulejman Sulçe National EbA Expert
11:30 – 11:45	Coffee Break	
11:45 – 13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecosystem Services and their value/validation • Principals and Benefits of Adaptation to Climate Change based on Ecosystems • EbA Initiatives: case study – KV Lagoon Q & A	Prof. Sulejman Sulçe National EbA Expert
13:00 – 14:00	Drekë	
14:00 – 16:00	Possible benefits and challenges EbA implementation within the ecosystems of the Kune-Vain Lagoon and effective involvement of the Civil Society.	Pjetër Toni RAPA Lezhë
	7 steps to EbA (quick overview)	Prof. S.Sulce & F. Brahushi , EbA Experts
	Q & A	
16:00 – 16:30	Civil Society's Role in promoting EbA	Open Discussion
16:30 – 17.00	Closing/Wrap up of Day One	

TABLE 2.2: FINAL TRAINING AGENDA (DAY 2 OF TRAINING EVENT 3)

AGENDA (Wednesday 15 May 2019)

PROGRAM		Speakers
08:30-09:30	Travelling to Kune-Vain Lagoon	
09:30-10:00	Registration and Foreword for Day two	
10.00 – 11:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint Road Map for the Western Balkan Region: Accelerating Access to Climate Finance 	Dr. Etleva Cico National Small Business Expert
11.30 – 12.00	Coffee Break	
12.00 – 14.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of the Lagoon and Regional Agency of Protected Areas in Lezha Municipality Overview of the ecosystem of the Kune-Vain Lagoon and characteristics of the area Main Elements of Adaption based on EbA Principles What activities are being implemented to protect sea shore ecosystems and how? 	RAPA Lezhë Jak Gjini Environmental Expert
14:00 – 14.30	Conclusions and Training Wrap up	
15.00	Lunch	

Thursday 22 November: 09.30 start - Field Visit Day:

For 2 hours on Thursday 16 May, local area explanation of key features of the lagoon was communicated to attendees with a more detailed local explanation of the adaptive capacity of the KVLS ecosystem. Specific focus was placed on practical approaches towards adaptive planting techniques in saline conditions.

A post training event questionnaire (outcome) was despatched for completion after the field mission (Day 3). This is useful to help capture what trainees thought about the delivery of the event. A total of 45 responses were collected and an evaluation of final responses is presented in Appendix B.

SECTION 3 – OUTCOME OF TRAINING EVENT 3

3.1 Trainee Observations and Comments Received

3.1.1 Day 1

Approximately 60 attendees were present for Day 1 (see Appendix A for complete listing).

Viola Agasi (National Project Manager) presented an overview to the Project and the role of the Ministry of Environment and supporting stakeholders (e.g.: University etc).

Mr Sulejman Sulce and Mr Ferdi Brahushi delivered the initial sessions (overview discussions on the key principles of climate change and EbA as presented within the recently translated EbA Training Manual (2018)). This starter session was purposely designed to be an easy to understand set of presentations for the local audience, outlining the key principles of CCA, EbA and how these should be considered within the context of KVLS and for Albania. Presentations included an overview of the importance of implementing EbA in Albania, understanding adapting to Climate Change through implementing EbA and the interconnection between human activities and ecosystems. These “grounding session presentations” are important to ensure that participants all have a consistent and general level of understanding of these topic areas. This session was designed to be targeted at all trainees especially those who have general responsibilities for aspects of ICZM, CCA or EbA related planning and/or assessment. Questions from attendees were received with regards to best ways/practices to deal with risks as result of climate change. Attendees from the community were also very open to sharing experiences in regards to ecosystem services and their gains plus how they perceive the impact that climate change has had by the way their lives have been affected.

Mr Sulejman Sulce and Mr Ferdi Brahushi also delivered the details (in partnership with RAPA – Pjeter Toni) details on ecosystem services and their value/validation, the principals and benefits of adaptation to climate change plus an outline of EbA Initiatives from KVLS. Dialog took place regarding how to set achievable targets on promotion of the lagoon (e.g.: local ecotourism developments and opportunities). Questions also were raised regarding communication improvements and options that maybe introduced to bridge gaps between RAPA , NAPA Central and Local Government. Discussion took place on the cooperation of local schools and central government for cleaning of the lagoon including the current role of the MoTE and Ministry of Agriculture towards helping with management of the lagoon as well as waste management in the area.

Finally details on EBA Guideline Steps 1-7 were presented within the recently translated EbA Guideline. It is pleasing to note that the delivery of these steps was made in a more participatory manner and technical details appeared to be kept to a minimum. New presentations given by Etleva Cico in particular appeared to be well tailored to the local situation in Lezhe so that the local attendees could better relate to the issues surrounding financing mechanisms (Step 7).

3.1.2 Day 2

Approximately 45 attendees were present for Day 2 (see Appendix A for complete listing).

Mrs Etleva Cico (local consultant) and Jak Gjini provided an interesting and engaging overview of what has been learned from Day 1 and the future issues facing KVLS. Mrs Etleva presented a Joint Road Map for the Western Balkan Region and focused on options for accelerating access to climate finance. Mr Jak Gjini talked about the Regional Agency of Protected Areas in Lezha Municipality and presented an overview of the ecosystem of the Kune-Vain Lagoon and characteristics of the area which included discussion on the main elements of adaptation based on EbA Principles and what activities are being implemented to protect sea shore ecosystems.

For the second time (first time in November 2018), a very interesting video from the 1960s (gained from Italian archives) was used by Mr Jak Gjini to convey the biodiversity (flora and fauna) levels that were present in KVLS over 40 years ago.

3.1.3 Day 3 (Field Day)

The design of the field day was improved upon from the June and November 2018 training field day. Participants were transported to the RAPA offices in KVLS, and then walked to nearby location where the planting of local tree saplings was demonstrated. Collective discussion took place on approaches on how to simplify EbA communication and the analogy was used that it is similar to restoring an old house. The use of promotion materials is needed with improved cooperation needed with schools to share knowledge in regards to CC and EbA. Interactive discussion took place on the following issues:

- Local kids no knowledge of the lagoon and its biodiversity.
- Technology has lost communities knowledge and interest of nature.
- Promote the lagoon to the community first and then to tourists.
- The community has to understand better the nature/the lagoon/the biodiversity and the real value that they have on their way of life.

It was concluded that Kune-Vain Lagoon needs to be put on the map. Very little knowledge of the location/what it offers/benefits is in the public domain and this situation needs to improve.

Photographs of the field day are included in Appendix B.

3.2 Lessons Learned

Simple lessons learned with regards to the planning and delivery of the training event is presented below:

- The use of historical videos showing the biodiversity levels of KVLS was a very interesting and useful tool to use for the local audience, this approach helped considerably to show the historical approaches to conservation management and the current challenges that face KVLS.
- The delivery of the presentations was an improvement on the previous 2 training missions (June 2018 and November 2018) and it was reflected in very good engagement from local community and local government members. The approach was more appreciative of the levels of understanding that the audience had on the concept of EbA and the presenters should be thanked for their attempts to improve their delivery approach on this matter.
- As per Training Event 2 (November 2018), debate on the 7 Steps still needs to be encouraged and the end of each session (Day 2) with the presenters maybe needing to leave attendees with a list of locally specific questions to consider. The same approach was adopted prior to the field day (Day 3) to help elicit discussion. The most important lesson from this training event was that there is additional value to be gained from encouraging a mixed audience to attend training events where feasible (local residents, business plus public sector staffs etc).
- The training venue was excellent (Hotel Gjetise in Lezhe) and provided the services required for a successful training event. No complaints appear to have been received from attendees on this matter.



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APPENDIX B: TRAINING EVENT AND FIELD DAY PHOTOS

Days 1 and 2



Day 1: Presentations from Professor Sulejman Sulje



Day 2: Attendees

Day 3 (Field Day)



Attendee Group Photo (RAPA offices).



Group discussion



Group access to key EbA sites in KVLS

APPENDIX C: POST TRAINING EVALUATION SHEET

"BUILDING THE RESILIENCE OF KUNE-VAINI LAGOON THROUGH ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION (EbA)"

TRAINING EVALUATION FORM

Course participants were encouraged to reflect on their progress and provide comments within the final session of the course. In addition all attendees were asked to complete a Training Evaluation Form (see below). These were dispatched at the end of the training event and collated by the Project team for subsequent analysis. A total of 45 responses were collected and the findings are presented below. Participants were asked to score the training across a range of criteria as follows.

Instructions: Please indicate your level of agreement with the statements listed below by placing a tick (v) in the relevant box

	Very true	Partly true	Neutral	Partly false	Very false	N/A
1. The course content was relevant to me /my job	44	1				
2. Purpose and objectives were clear	44	1				
3. Facilitator was engaging	44	1				
4. Facilitator was sufficiently knowledgeable	44	1				
5. Materials used and the EbA “steps” presented were understandable and useful	43	2				
6. Module length of time was sufficient	44	1				
7. Timing was properly managed	44	1				
8. Participants had good opportunity to express themselves	43	1	1			
9. Participation and interaction was encouraged	44	1				
10. The venue (room and hotel/food etc) was acceptable.	43	1	1			
11. My knowledge on EbA approaches has improved following this course.	44	1				



Any other comments.....

The final collated results above suggest that the training event has been of value to the local community and was relevant to their work. The results imply that the training delivery, content, approach and venue were excellent or very good.

