

Ministry of Tourism and Environment, Albania

Project Reference No: 5386

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

(SPECIAL CLIMATE CHANGE FUND)



POST TRAINING EVENT 1 REPORT (JUNE 2018)

July 2018

Post Training Event 1 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, 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 1 Report that helps to provide an overview of the training undertaken (26-28 June 2018), including an overview evaluation of the training event, its effectiveness and lessons learned as well as recommendations for follow-up training sessions later into 2018 and 2019.

The text presented within this report is stand alone, though maybe used to help support the necessary deliverables highlighted above if appropriate.

Document History

JOB NUMBER: SS17-004 Albania Kune-Vaini lagoon system EBA Expert		DOCUMENT REF: SS17-004 Albania Kune-Vaini lagoon system EBA Expert /Doc/001				
Revision	Purpose Description	Originated	Checked	Reviewed	Authorised	Date
1	Post Training Event 1 Report	JMcC	TBD	N.Tye (CTA)	V. Agasi	28/06/ 18

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 overall project which has an overall objective to increase the capacity of government and local communities living nearby The Kune-Vaini lagoon system (KVLS) to adapt to climate change using an integrated suite of adaptation interventions, including EbA.

1.1.4 Expected Outcomes of the Training Aspect

At the end of the national training event (26-28 June 2018) it is expected that the respective target audiences will have enhanced knowledge and an understanding of the key concepts (7 Steps) of EbA as outlined within the IEbAE produced Guideline Document and the use of this information to help inform coastal planning decisions in Albania. The target audience of the training comprised of members of staff of various Government Departments, students from the University of Tirana etc (see Appendix A).

1.1.5 Project Deliverables (Outputs)

The following activities and outputs have been undertaken as part of this proposed consultancy:

- 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;
- 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;
- 3rd Deliverable: provision of technical guidelines on EbA, subject of approval by the NPM and UNEP Task Manager, by end of November 2017;
- 4th Deliverable: provision of training materials and training of stakeholders (2 training sessions) on EbA, by May 2018 (THIS REPORT);
- 5th Deliverable: provision of training materials and training of stakeholders (2 training sessions) on EbA, by December 2018;
- 6th Deliverable: provision of training materials and training of stakeholders (2 training sessions) on EbA, and Nationwide EbA upscaling strategy, by May 2019;
- 7th Deliverable: provision of training materials and training of stakeholders (2 training sessions) on EbA, by June 2019.

1.1.6 Project Programme

The contracted timeline for the project is as follows:

a) contract signature – 11 May 2017;

b) delivery of all reports - by May 2019 (subject to project extention being discussed with the Project Steering Cmmittee on Friday 29 June 2018).

1.2 Purpose of the Report

This Report summarises the approach and comments received (plus some lessons learned) form the approach taken. Importantly, its effectiveness and lessons learned are listed to help the IC with the design of follow on training events later into 2018 and into 2019.

1.3 Report Structure

The structure of this report is set out below:

- Section 1 Introduction;
- Section 2 Training Approach;
- Section 3 Results of the Training;
- Section 4 Lessons Learned;
- Section 5 Recommendations

SECTION 2 - TRAINING APPROACH

2.1 Programme and Delivery

The training event commenced on Tuesday 26 June 2018 and finished on Thursday 28 June 2018. It was held at the Monarc Hotel, Tirana, Albania. With regard to timings, each day started at 09.00 and finished by 13.00. There was a lunch on days 1 and 2 after the presentations a comfort break of 25 minutes in the morning sessions. Thursday 28 June 2018 was a field day to the Kune Vain Lagoon System (KVLS). Annex B contains photographs of the field day.

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

TABLE 2.1: FINAL TRAINING AGENDA

"Enhancing resilience at the coast: Applying a Stepped Approach for Ecosystem Based Adaptation"

Venue: Conference Hall, Monarc Hotel (Tirana)

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

AGENDA (Tues 26 June 2018)

Time	Session and content	Presenter/Convener			
09.00am – 09.30am	Registration of Participants	Project Management Team			
09.30am – 09.35am	Welcome Address and Opening Remarks	Viola Agassi and Atifa Kassam			
	Ministry of Environment and UN Environment.				
09.35am – 09.45am	The Importance of EbA for Albania – setting the scene for the training event	REC Awareness Consultant			
9.45am – 10.30am	Step 1 "Exploring the Feasibility of EbA"	Mr.Sulce and Mr.Brahushi			
10.30 – 10.45	Questions and Discussion (including	g comfort break)			
10.45 – 11.30	Step 2 "Understanding Stakeholders, Climate and Institutional Profiles and Defining EbA Goals"	Mr.Sulce and Mr.Brahushi			
11.30-11.45	Questions and Comfort	 Break			
11.45 – 12.30	Step 3 "Assessing Vulnerability" for EbA	Mr.Sulce and Mr.Brahushi			
12.30 – 13.00	Questions and Outline for Day 2				
13.00	Lunch and Training Close				

AGENDA (Wed 27 June 2018)

Time	Session and content	Presenter/Convener
09.00am – 09.15am	Recap of Day 1 (Steps 1-3)	Jonathan McCue

Time	Session and content	Presenter/Convener
09.30am – 10.15am	Step 4 "Rapid Ecosystem Service Appraisals"	Mr.Sulce and Mr.Brahushi
10.15 – 10.30	Questions and Discussion (including comfort break)	
10.30 – 11.15	Step 5 "Developing an EbA Strategy, Adaptation Measures and Action Plan"	Mr.Sulce and Mr.Brahushi
11.15-11.30	Questions (including comfort break)	
11.30 – 12.15	Step 6 "Monitoring and Evaluation for Learning"	Mr.Sulce and Mr.Brahushi
12.15 - 12.30	Questions (including comfort break)	
12.30 – 13.15	Step 7 "Mainstreaming EbA and Financing/Upscaling Effective Approaches"	Mr.Sulce and Mr.Brahushi
13.15 – 13.30	Questions and Logistics for Day 3 (Field Visit)	
13.30	Lunch and Training Close	

Thursday 28 June: 09.30 start - Field Visit Day:

Transfer delegates to KV Lagoon. Local area explanation and a recap of topics taught during Days 1 and 2. Field sites visited to explain the adaptive capacity of the KV ecosystem. Specific focus shall be on the key climate adaptation elements of the EbA Guidance Manual and how separate "action plan" can (and should) be implemented to protect the wider coastal ecosystem.

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;
- Interpretation booth with real time translation;
- · PowerPoint projector, cable and screen;
- Pens, note paper, EbA Guideline (in Albanian) and bag for the participants;
- Wifi/internet.
- Vehicular transport arrangements for trainees (Thursday 28 June 2018;

Soft copies of all Power-Point presentations were provided to all participants at the end of the training along with a certificate of attendance (Signed by the IEbAE and the UN Environment Officer).

At the end of Day 2, a slideshow outlining the Day 3 field day was emailed to the attendees so help them gather ideas and questions prior to the field day. This was discussed in some detail before the lunch break on Day 2. The purpose of this slideshow was to get participants thinking in more detail about what they have learned (the 7 Steps) before the field trip. A key focus was placed on Step 1 in particular (undertaking a Strategic Landscape Analysis). In that way the question/answer sessions that were designed for the field day (during the trip) will be steered towards the guidelines content.

SECTION 3 – OUTCOME OF THE TRAINING EVENT 1

3.1 Trainee Observations and Comments

3.2.1 Day 1

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).

REC was then invited to present a strategic vision of the lagoon and the future role of EbA to help deliver a sustainable future for the coastal resources and communities present within it. Detail on the design of the project logo was discussed. The importance of ensuring environmentally friendly (low carbon) marketing and awareness materials used (sustainable materials and avoiding too much printing etc) in addition to the need to minimise the use of plastics was reaffirmed.

Points were raised regarding the series of Wetland Days (2 February) and Biodiversity Day to provide school children with the opportunities for bird watching. School exhibition events are being promoted. Training the teachers on EbA was emphasized as a critical future area of focus. As a result, field programmes have now started for students to undertake water quality monitoring (pH/temp/salinity etc) within the KV lagoon.

A key message from REC is to promote the projects tasks and activities to show the new techniques are positive, cost effective and sustainable for Albania. The projects website and social media platforms were discussed as powerful tools to promote the project.

Mr Sulejman Sulce and Mr Ferdi Brahushi delivered the details on Steps 1-3 as presented within the recently translated EbA Guideline. Questions posed following the 3 separate stepped presentations are set out below:

- Question 1: Drini River rehabilitation is critical to the health of the KV Lagoon System. If it dried out, then the KV system is at risk.
- Question 2: Drini River needs to be revitalised with fresh water which is seen as a critical
 aspect to ensure EbA approaches work in the KVLS. Biologists in Science Faculty of the
 University strongly believe this is a key factor of success. The lower part of eh watershed
 should be the focus as water levels continue to reduce ("A Donkeys voice does not reach
 Heaven"). Drini water levels are the driver for the success of any future KVLS EbA
 intervention.

3.2.2 Day 2

Mr Jonathan McCue provided an overview of what has been learned from Day 1 and what to expect from Day 2. Mr Sulejman Sulce and Mr Ferdi Brahushi delivered the details on Steps 4-7 as presented within the recently translated EbA Guideline. Questions posed following the 3 separate stepped presentations are set out below:

Question 1: How much erosion has been experienced at KVLS? Some measurements have been made but the historic evidence suggests that sediment mobility remains a challenge. A review of aerial images in 1961 show the loss to be not too significant though salt water intrusion has occurred. Reference made to 2 specific studies on Drini River (UNDP) estimated sea based erosion of more than 10 ha since 1961. Other areas show 450m of accretion (10km2) which demonstrates that sediment dynamics fluctuate significantly. River sediment contribution is of relevance to embrace within Albania coastal management. Interventions therefore should consider watershed interventions (ridge to reef concept).

 Question 2: KVLS demonstrates challenges with regards to sediment dynamics based on dams and also land use. Since 2009 at Drini, due to poor human impacts, erosion of up to 200m has taken place. At KVLS, the measurements are less though this fluctuates significantly. What is believed is that local understand that local storm surge events occur and the impact and frequency of large waves is increasing causing coastal flooding in new areas is taking place.

3.2.3 Day 3 (Field Day)

The design of the field day was quite loose and can be improved upon. Attendees were transported to the KVLS and given an introductory overview by the CTA Nick Tye. This attempted to tie in previous donor projects (UNDP project at Drini/Mati) and also chronological links to the 7 EbA Steps.

Participants then walked to strategic location for a technical discussion about the climate change related issues at KVLS. A subsequent walk to the coast ensued though no further collective discussion too place before departure.

SECTION 4 – LESSONS LEARNED

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

Training Planning

- Competing donor funded initiatives all appeared to be planned for the same calendar week. This is a
 challenge in Albania as national holiday periods seem to start in July and extend through to early
 September. The Project team were aware of this and selected the best week possible (pre-planning
 commenced in January 2018 to select a date).
- Embracing some of the latest project findings (from all aspects of the project) may have proven of value in the presentation and within the Field Day delivery (Day 3). Section 5 recommends that future training approaches could be supplemented with additional information as appropriate in future updates to the training approach.
- It would perhaps have helped the IC to have undertaken a pre-training competence questionnaire at least a week prior to the training event. These forms could have been submitted a month prior to the training to better ascertain who is to attend and their level of knowledge regarding different aspects of EbA or ICZM. Therefore, a longer period of consultation between the trainer and the trainees (virtual) would have been valuable to better capture experience levels prior to the training event.
- The high percentage of students (whilst positive) needs to be altered in the future to ensure that more public sector and private sector involvement takes place for training events.
- 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. An evaluation of responses needs to be undertaken by the Project team and appended to this Report if appropriate.
- Improved effort regards defining roles and responsibilities of the National Consultants for the field day (Day 3) was required.

Training Delivery

- More early discussion should have been carried out early on in the training delivery to stress that the
 focus of the training is on the principles of EbA and the steps that are required to implement it. Too
 much specific detail on KVLS (too soon into the training) inevitably leads to a focused debate on what
 should (or should not) be carried out at the site (EbA focused or not!). The focus on the KVLS should be
 taken forward just prior to the field day (Day 3).
- In many instances, the delivery of the slides was too academic and focused directly on KVLS as opposed to focusing on the key principles of each stage from a simplistic perspective. The delivery in parts appeared to be veering away from the message on the slides and instead focusing on the presenters' academic knowledge on topics such as vulnerability assessments (Step 3). A more robust practice-run of the delivery message should have been undertaken prior to the Day 1 event to ensure the correct message was relayed in an efficient and effective manner.
- The proposed approach to the training (due to time limitations) was perhaps a little too presentational with not enough time set aside for questions etc. The lack of questions received (see Section 3.2) was partly due to the attendance at the event (high percentage of students see Appendix A). More focus needs to be placed for the local training events in December 2018 on using a better variety of

practical and participatory leaning tools. Debate on the 7 Steps was encouraged and the end of each session did leave attendees with a list of questions to consider. The same approach was adopted prior to the field day (Day 3) to help elicit discussion.

- The frequency of questions raised by participants was poor during the 2 days of lectures and attempts were made by the IC to summarise each step at the end of each presentation to encourage discussion during coffee break or lunch. Despite this, the participants still found the training event informative and a good opportunity for networking and idea sharing. Moreover the training has proved useful for their overall personality and communication skills development (especially for the students present). 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.
- It could be justified that additional IC time would be beneficial to help prepare a simple "training summary flyer" that builds on this report, but is presented as broader stakeholder group (local level in KVLS) to outline the value of the training approach. It should not be forgotten that the design of the training was to be a "train the trainer" exercise, hence, a simplified version of the current training manual (possibly an interactive CD) could be produced in the future (see Section 5).
- Ideally, all trainees need to be present for all days of the training. The "flow" of the 3 day event helps to craft the "story" of EbA and also the critical cross cutting capacity expertise that is required. It is, however, understood that other demands on staff time exist and that taking 3 days out of key staff diaries is a challenge. The design of the training (being 3 morning periods as opposed to 3 full days) was purposely designed to address this concern.

SECTION 5 – RECOMMENDATIONS

Some simple recommendations with regards to the future delivery of similar training events (later into 2018 and into 2019) are presented below:

- As stated in Section 4, it is recommended that for future training events that a training "EbA
 Guidelines" is submitted to trainees (in soft copy) well ahead of time to help them all peruse the
 details ahead of the training course.
- Linked to the above recommendation, the delivery of the projects outputs must include an "Acceptance Test" with predefined and agreed performance criteria for the key stakeholders to accept and embrace. The acceptance test will take the form of interactive demonstrations and a performance assessment report generated from testing the approach over the course of one week. Following the successful completion of the Acceptance Test, a 10-day Training Session for target users and system administrators must be undertaken. It is therefore recommended that the EbA Training approach (possibly turned into a specific manual at a later stage) is prepared and updated accordingly to reflect the latest project findings.
- Continuity in presenting style is important so it may need to be considered that (for at least one
 aspect of future training exercises) and that the IC is included (where possible and appropriate) into
 the delivery of the training. This can then seek to ensure that broad attendance of key stakeholders is
 targeted at the outset of the training event.
- One recommendation to "test" engagement and awareness of EbA at the school level (via REC) could be to identify a specific school in KVLS who is prepared to embrace the delivery of a Participatory 3 Dimensional Model (P3DM) within a specific semester. Delivering this idea would require forward planning and engagement between Ministry of Environment, the Project Team and the local school, however, the exercise could prove a highly valuable mechanism to engage school children in the process of EbA planning (especially Steps 1-3), plus also providing the mechanism for Government of Albania staffs to be the "champions" of coastal EbA awareness programmes. This could also help with capacity building (professional development) within the Ministry of Environment.

Next Step Ideas (for Follow on Training)

• Step 1- a good exercise to introduce maybe to get attendees to prepare a simple "Theory of Change" guide handout for the field mission and we can "walk" the trainees through this. One good

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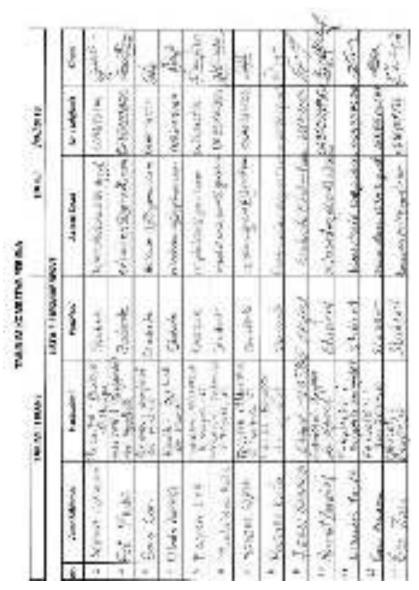
document to help is prepared by Conservation International in 2013 as follows:

- For Step 4, one strong suggestion is to design the next training event (for local implementers) that focuses on the TESSA (Toolkit for Ecosystem Service Site based Assessment) approach for coastal sites. The project team can introduce this approach to a basic level and use this to promote its purpose through a specific training event on TESSA (as a "starter" training assessment) that focuses on coastal protection and ecosystem services. This can be developed into a more formal local training event (2 or 3 day event at separate local field locations).
- In the Step 5 presentation, additional slides were introduced by the IC (Sides 21-31. These were not included in the EbA Guideline though the Step 5 (EbA Strategy and Action Plan) approach will need to follow these new "sub-steps" to help with the production of an EbA Strategy and Action Plan. These extra slides could (or should) be included as an extra Annex to the current June 2018 EbA Guidelines later in the project (within the next update possibly as an online version).

Finally, a point was raised by the National Consultants to stablish whether there is any appetite for carrying out follow on training (especially the use of the TESSA approach) elsewhere in Albania and maybe linking up with a different Mediterranean country to exchange ideas and practices. This is something for consideration by the Project Steering Committee.

APPENDIX A: TRAINING EVENT PHOTOGRAPHS

Training Attendees







Appendix B: Training Event and Field Day Photos

Days 1 and 2



Day 3 (Field Day)







Appendix C: Post Training Evaluation Sheet

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

TRAINING EVALUATION FORM

To help with future update and design of training events, participants are now asked to score the training on a scale of 1-5 across a range of criteria as follows. Course participants are now encouraged to reflect on how their knowledge of Ecosystem based Adaptation (EbA) has improved. Please answer the following 11 key questions.

instructions. Figure indicate your level of agreement is to the recommon listed below by placing a fact (f) in the relevant best

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

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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
The course content was relevant to me /my job	29	4				
Purpose and objectives were clear	33					
3. Facilitator was engaging	26	7				
4. Facilitator was sufficiently knowledgeable	28	5				
5. Materials used and the EbA "steps" presented were	29	4				

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understandable and useful					
6. Module length of time was sufficient	25	8			
7. Timing was properly managed	27	6			
8. Participants had good opportunity to express themselves	27	6			
9. Participation and interaction was encouraged	30	3			
10. The venue (room and hotel/food etc) was acceptable.	26	6	1		
11. My knowledge on EbA approaches has improved following this course.	29	4			

For further comments you can write in few words;

It was a good experience on EbA, very helpful to organize works on monitoring space in the near future of the lagoon. More funds and works on protection of delta river Drini and coastal area in Kune Vain Lagoon. The training session have to be longer to get the proper information.