

HOW EFFECTIVE ARE ALBANIAN PROTECTED AREAS?

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Why the spotlight on Albania?

- 5,500 plant species and 15,600 species of animals
- Approximately 30% of all European flora species
- Recently increased protected area coverage from 5.2% to 16% of its territory
- Protected areas are the cornerstones of nature conservation and an effective means to conserve the biodiversity of ecosystems
- The European Union is supporting the project NaturAL in recognition of Albania's contribution to European and global biodiversity

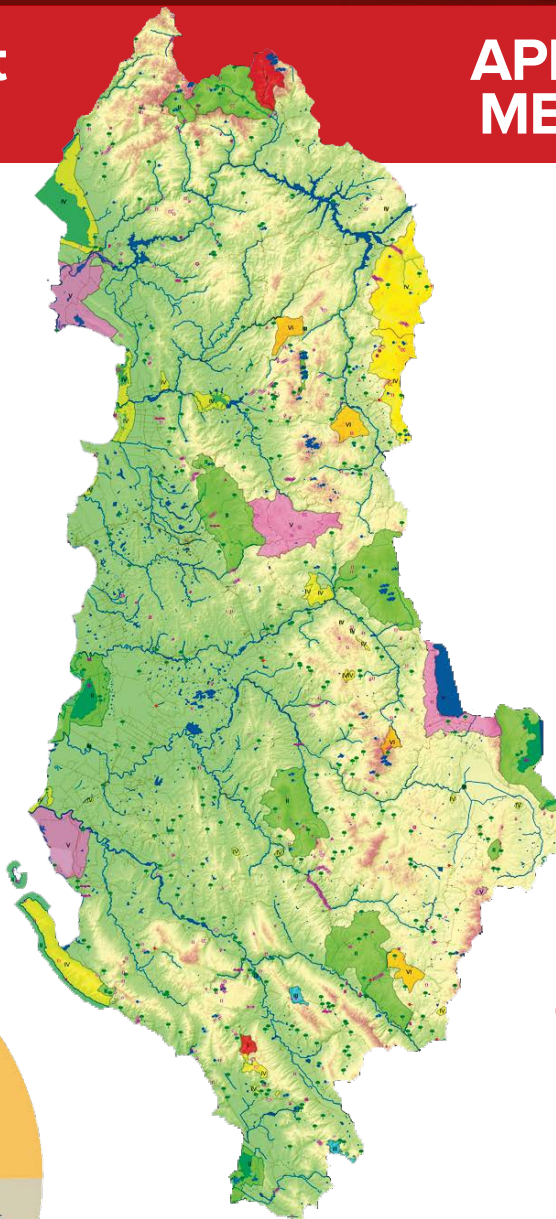
APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

The assessment follows the IUCN Framework for assessing Protected Area Management Effectiveness (IUCN PAME Framework)

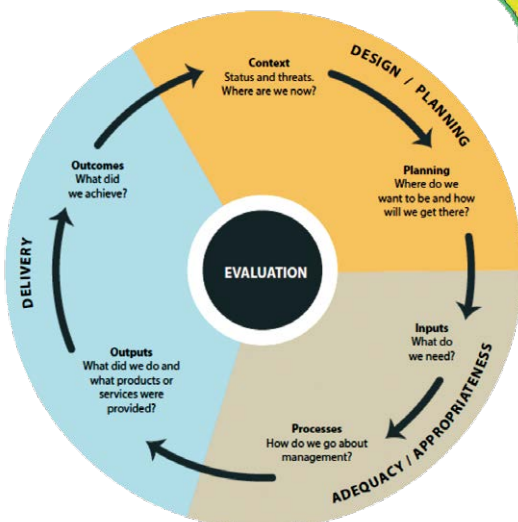
The Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) includes all stages of the Protected Area Management Effectiveness (PAME) Framework but emphasises **context, planning, inputs** and **process**

The METT has two main sections: datasheets that record information about each site, including the threats it faces, and an Assessment Form comprised of 30 questions

Assessments were carried out by protected area managers that are organized in 12 Regional Administrations of Protected Areas



IUCN PAME Framework



- Strict Nature Reserve
- National Park
- Monument of Nature
- Managed Nature Reserve
- Protected Landscape
- Resource Protection Area

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS FROM THE INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS IN ALBANIA USING THE MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS TRACKING TOOL

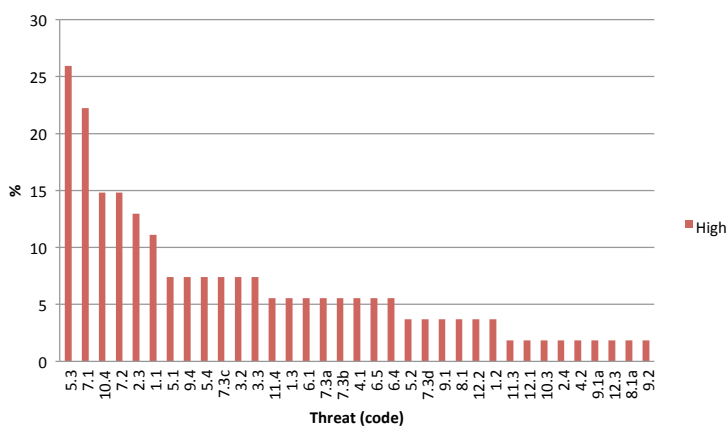
ASSESSMENT FORM RESULTS

- The highest percentage of poor results is observed with respect to budget availability, security and management, availability and maintenance of equipment
- Excellent results were reported on the legal status of protected areas and condition of values
- Results by the IUCN PAME Framework indicate poor results prevail in all stages except Context
- National parks average better results than other categories on all IUCN PAME Framework stages

THREATS

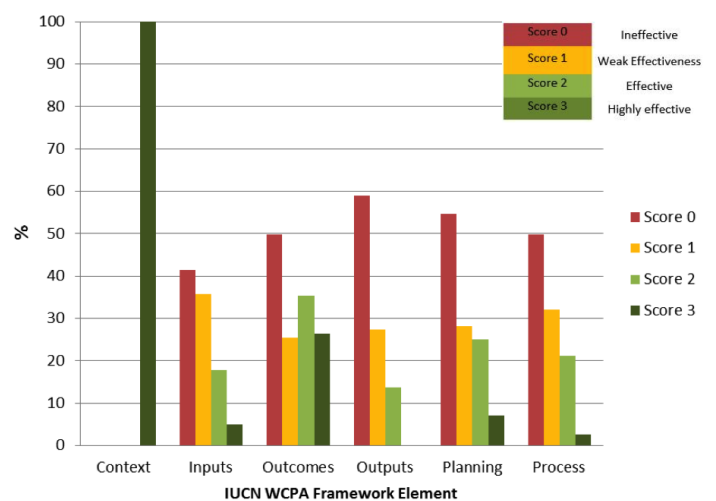
- Wildfires were identified as the most common threat to protected areas in Albania
- Logging and wood harvesting ranked as the most serious threat that causes degradation of the natural values in protected areas
- Threats related to the use of biological resources affect the majority of protected areas

Ranking of the threats expressed as % of protected areas in which they have been identified as a high-level threat

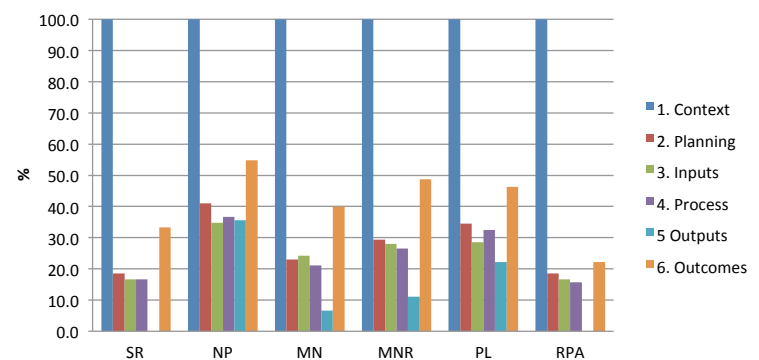


- | | |
|---|--|
| 5.3 Logging and wood harvesting | 7.3b Isolation from other natural habitat (e.g. deforestation, dams without effective aquatic wildlife passages) |
| 7.1 Fire and fire suppression (including arson) | 1.2 Commercial and industrial areas |
| 10.4 Erosion and siltation/ deposition (e.g. shoreline or riverbed changes) | 12.2 Natural deterioration of important cultural site values |
| 7.2 Dams, hydrological modification and water management/use | 5.2 Gathering terrestrial plants or plant products (non-timber) |
| 2.3 Livestock farming and grazing | 7.3d Loss of keystone species (e.g. top predators, pollinators etc.) |
| 1.1 Housing and settlement | 8.1 Invasive non-native/alien plants (weeds) |
| 3.2 Mining and quarrying | 9.1 Household sewage and urban waste water |
| 3.3 Energy generation, including from hydropower dams | 10.3 Avalanches/landslides |
| 5.1 Hunting, killing and collecting terrestrial animals (including killing of animals as a result of human/wildlife conflict) | 11.3 Temperature extremes |
| 5.4 Fishing, killing and harvesting aquatic resources | 12.1 Loss of cultural links, traditional knowledge and/or management practices |
| 7.3c Other 'edge effects' on park values | 12.3 Destruction of cultural heritage buildings, gardens, sites etc. |
| 9.4 Garbage and solid waste | 2.4 Marine and freshwater aquaculture |
| 1.3 Tourism and recreation infrastructure | 4.2 Utility and service lines (e.g. electricity cables, telephone lines) |
| 11.4 Storms and flooding | 8.1a Invasive non-native/alien animals |
| 4.1 Roads and railroads (include road-killed animals) | 9.1a Sewage and waste water from protected area facilities (e.g. toilets, hotels, etc.) |
| 6.1 Recreational activities and tourism | 9.2 Industrial, mining and military effluents and discharges (e.g. poor water quality discharge from dams, e.g. unnatural temperatures, deoxygenated, other pollution) |
| 6.4 Activities of protected area managers (e.g. construction or vehicle use, artificial watering points and dams) | |
| 6.5 Deliberate vandalism, destructive activities or threats to protected area staff and visitors | |
| 7.3a Increased fragmentation within protected area | |

Distribution of scores per IUCN PAME Framework element (% of the maximum scores)



Distribution of scores per IUCN PAME Framework element disaggregated by protected areas category (% of the maximum scores)



The regular use of the METT can help protected area managers reflect on ongoing challenges and improve communication and cooperation with stakeholders.



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