

Final Report

Project “Buna Delta Protection”

**Socio-economic analyses on human dependency on resources,
including agriculture/land use practices and water management
in BRVPL**

November 2018

Project area: Buna River Velipoje Protected Landscape (BRVPL), Albania

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Abbreviations

SLA	Sustainable Livelihood Approach
BRVPL	Buna River Velipoje Protected Landscape
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBO	Community Based Organization
DBPA	Directorate of Biodiversity and Protected Areas
MEA	Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
DFP	Directorate of Forests and Pastures
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KBA	Key Biodiversity Area
MTE	Ministry of Tourism and Environment of Albania
NAPA	National Agency for Protected Areas
RAPA	Regional Agency for Protected Areas
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PA	Protected Area
FG	Focus Group

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Final report

1. Introduction and general background

The study is part of the Buna Delta Protection Project whose goal is to ensure the long-term conservation of species and habitats in the Buna River Velipoje Protected Landscape (BRVPL) with particular emphasis on halting or significantly reducing unsustainable development and water abstraction. This research aims to link local economic activities with preserved coastal and wetland habitats in BRVPL using the livelihood approach to assess the socio-economic condition in Buna-Velipoje in relation to natural resources dependency.

This is a qualitative and social approach, allowing understanding the community and household development strategies, with drivers and dynamic of changes. This approach is in line with the project objectives (protection of the area while ensuring enhanced livelihood), TESSA method (qualitative method) and Albanian decentralized planning process (Local development planning of Shkoder Municipality). In order to address Socio-Economic issues and human well-being, sustainable tourism and land use practices will be introduced and promoted.

The diagnosis will aim at better understand, within the Buna-Velipoje context, Albania policy, and governance systems and sub-regional influence, the community and households socio-economic situation, trends and preferences. The analysis will focus on which groups, and how groups depend (advantage, benefits or constraints) on all types of capitals with a focus to natural capital and resources, including ecosystem services (synergy with TESSA approach). This approach plays an important role in the poor category, and because of the weak understanding of the links between ecosystems services and their impact on the environment is one of the reasons why this group is marginalized (Agarwala et al., 2014).

To specify which groups depend on which resources and the level of use/management of resources by the group, the Household approach will require the desegregation of the survey by poverty/Wealth group and by key livelihood profiles. Poverty/wealth situation will give the nature and capacity of the household to use/manage natural capital in relation to their household's assets (human, financial, physical, natural and social). Livelihood profile will indicate the key, preferred or alternative economic patterns and relationships with natural resources. In fine, this approach will allow the project to better design and target its actions.

The objectives of the study are to understand the Socio-Economic situation, trends and dynamic, with a focus on the importance of livelihood nature dependency. It should focus on the identification of the targets groups and their relation with habitats and natural resources. (local population, local authorities, decentralized sectors, universities, civil society, the

private sector, visitor) and also to identify beneficiaries of the outcomes and users of the results (knowledge, awareness, influence, decision-making like Municipality, RAPA/NAPA, project, village representatives etc.) and evaluating their effect on local people well-being.

2. Sustainable Livelihood framework

A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (including both material and social resources) and activities required for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, while not undermining the natural resource base (Chambers and Conway, 1992).

The Sustainable Livelihood Approach (SLA) “provides an understanding of the lives of poor and marginalized people by offering a means of poverty reduction” (Agarwala et al., 2014). The framework consists of context (shocks, trends, and seasonality and livelihood assets), livelihood strategies and livelihoods outcomes (Scoones, 2009). Livelihood is sustainable if it can access assets, cope with and recover from stress and shocks, maintain and enhance its capabilities and assets, and provide sustainable livelihood to future generations (Chambers and Conway, 1992).

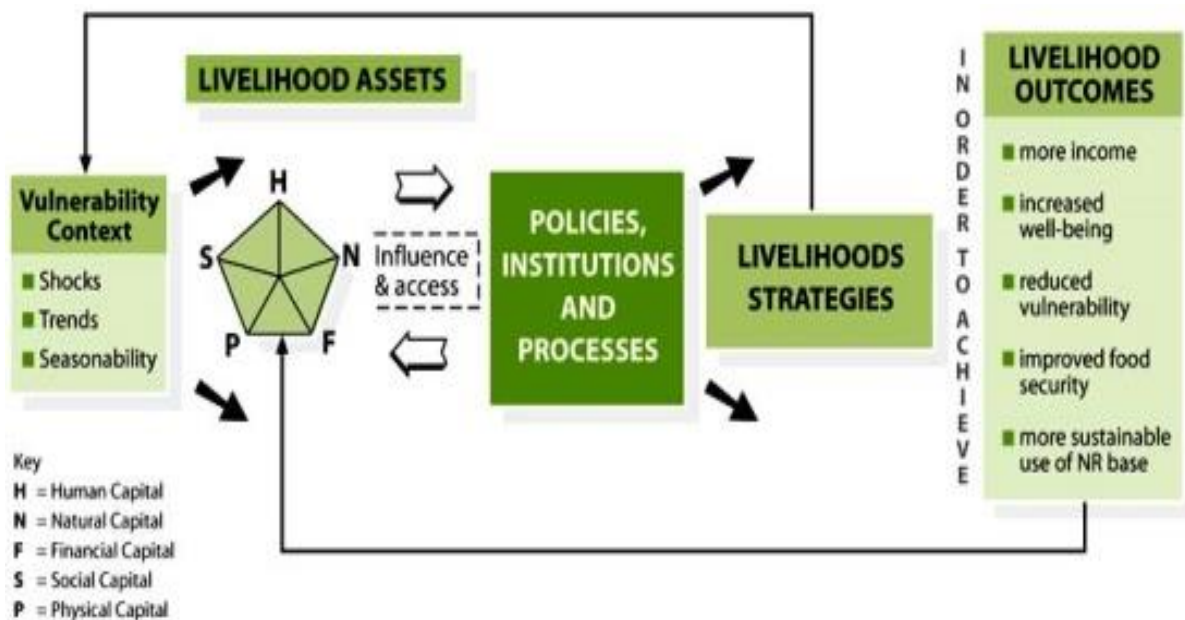


Figure 1: Sustainable Livelihood Framework (Source www.fao.org)

The assets in the framework include natural, social, physical, human and financial capital and are called factors of production (Theresa and Cramm, 2012). Natural capital – the natural resource stocks (soil, water, air, genetic resources, etc.) and environmental services

(hydrological cycle, pollution sinks, etc.) from which resource flows and services useful for livelihoods are derived, economic or financial capital – the capital base (cash, credit/debit, savings, and other economic assets, including basic infrastructure and production equipment and technologies) which are essential for the pursuit of any livelihood strategy, human capital – the skills, knowledge, ability to labor and good health and physical capability important for the successful pursuit of different livelihood strategies, social capital – social resources (networks, social claims, social relations, affiliations, associations) upon which people draw when pursuing different livelihood strategies requiring coordinated actions, savings, bank credit, remittances or pensions (Ellis and Allison, 2004).

The importance of policies, institutions, and processes cannot be overemphasized, because they operate at all levels, from the household to the international arena, and in all spheres, from the most private to the most public. They effectively determine *access* (to various types of capital, to livelihood strategies and to decision-making bodies and source of influence), *terms of exchange* between different types of capitals, and *returns* to any given livelihood strategy (DFID, 2000). Policies, institutions, and processes have a direct impact on whether people are able to achieve a feeling of inclusion and well-being. Because culture is included in this area they also count for other ‘unexplained’ differences in the ‘way things are done’ in different societies (DFID, 2000). Policies, institutions, and processes can determine access to assets and influence decision making processes

The vulnerability context frames the external environment in which people exist. Critical trends as well as shocks and seasonality, over which people have limited or no control, have a great influence on people’s livelihoods and on the wider availability of assets. Not all of the trends and seasonality must be considered as negative. Vulnerability emerges when human beings have to face harmful threat or shock with inadequate capacity to respond effectively. The difference between *risk* and *vulnerability* is of crucial relevance for assessing causes of poverty. A risk is defined as the likelihood of occurrence of (external) shocks and stresses plus their potential severity, whereas vulnerability is the degree of exposure to risk (hazard, shock) and uncertainty, and the capacity of households or individuals to prevent, mitigate or cope with risk.

Livelihood strategies comprise the range and combination of activities and choices that people make/undertake in order to achieve their livelihood goals. It should be understood as a dynamic process in which people combine activities to meet their various needs at different times. Different members of a household might live and work at different places, temporarily or permanently. (DFID, 2000) Livelihood strategies are directly dependent on asset status and policies, institutions and processes. Hence that poor people compete and that the livelihood strategy of one household might have an impact (positive or negative) on the livelihood strategy of another household.

Livelihood outcomes are the achievements or outputs of livelihood strategies, such as more income, increased well-being, reduce vulnerability, improved food security and more sustainable use of natural resources. When thinking about livelihood outcomes, the aims of a particular group, as well as the extent to which these are already being achieved, has to be understood.

3. Methodology

3.1 BRVPL Study area

Buna River Velipoja Protected Landscape (BVRPL) is a protected area that covers 23,027 hectares, which is 5% of the total Protected Areas in Albania. The park is located in the northwest of Albania and is in the border with Montenegro (to the west), Lake Shkodra (to the north) and the Adriatic Sea (to the south).

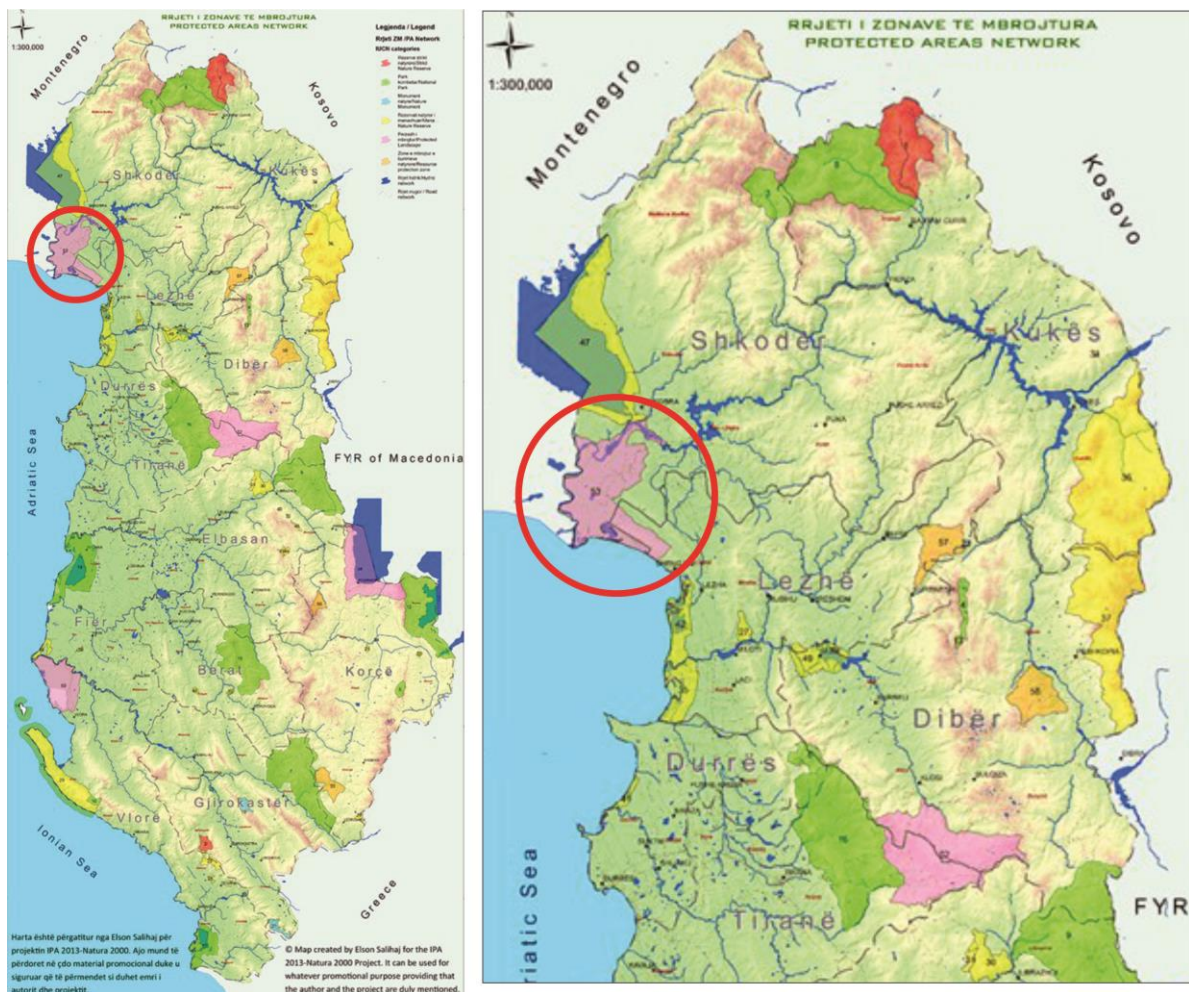


Figure 2: Location of BRVPL

BRVPL was declared a protected area in November of 2005 and is known for its high biodiversity. The landscape contains a variety of bird's migration, different types of fish species and some of the most important animal species in Europe. Here we can mention Sturgeon (*Acipenser sturio*), Phalacrocorax pygmeus, jackal (*Canis aureus*) and the globally endangered species European otter *Lutra Lutra*. The area is covered by Mediterranean vegetation, where the endangered species English oak (*Quercus robur*) can be found there.

The management of the area is done by the combination of local and governmental institutions. Key stakeholders involved in BRVPL are PA communities and landowners, civil society mostly represented by environmental NGOs, researchers, and academics, business

operators, local government and municipalities units, “policymakers” or central government together with state Agencies (Ministry of Tourism and Environment (MTE); National Agency of Protected Areas (NAPA); Ministry of Finance and Economy (MFE); Ministry of Urban Development (MUD); Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy (MIE); Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and Management PAs units). The combination and collaboration of all these stakeholders are crucial for sustainable development of livelihoods based on natural resources and the conservation of biodiversity in the area.



Figure 3: Map of BRVPL

3.2 Data collection

Data collection was realized through primary and secondary data analysis. Primary data analysis was gathered through face to face interviews, using a semi-structured questionnaire. The questionnaire used both open and close question and three categories were included in

the interviews: i) *Local People* that leave or were involved in socio-economic activities in the BRPL (rural communities, private sector, etc.), ii) *Local institutions* involved in the BRPL (local authorities, municipality, NGO, universities), iii) *BRPL Visitors and tourists*. Based on these categories four types of interviews were conducted; Household questionnaires with 144 numbers of respondents; 2 community questionnaires (focus group) one inland and the other coastal; 14 institutional questionnaires and 40 visitor questionnaires.

Focus group was the first step we implemented in the fieldwork. Two of FG's with representants from local communities were realized; one in the coastal area and one inland. The data from the communities' questionnaires (FG) brought us a broad picture of the BRVPL, main characteristics, issues, assets of the area, different activities that households use to support their livelihoods, difficulties, and problems they face in their everyday life.

The number of the participants in the FGs were 6 participants in coastal area 6 (5 male and 1 female), and 10 participants in land area (9 men and 1 female). In both of them, female representation was low compared to the male one. The representants had a different economic profile, like farmers, salary, business, livestock, tourism, bar/restaurants, hotel, students, retired, jobless, seasonal worker, self-employment. This makes the interview even more interesting and with a large variety of answers and information for our study.

Visitor questionnaires were the second one to be realized because the tourism season was ending, but due to our surprise, the visitors were still coming in the area, especially in the coastal part. The duration of the interview was 20 minutes on average. The atmosphere of the collaboration was quite good and the visitors were very happy to share their opinion with us. The main objective of the questionnaires was to get general information of visitors perception on BRVLP or the visited part of BRVLP, pointing out the key criteria and elements of their decision to visit the site and being satisfied after the visit, and identifying in this way what has been perceived as positive and less positive during their visit.

Household questionnaires took the majority time of the fieldwork. Its main objective was to understand the livelihood components, functioning, and strategy of each specific socioeconomic group, assessing the nature and the level of use of natural resources, weighting them directly or indirectly in their overall production or income. The duration of one household questionnaire was on average of 1 hour and 15 minutes.

Institutional questionnaires were realized the last since we have to communicate the persons in advance and leave a meeting with them. The objective of this questionnaire was to get a general view of the institutional role and in BRLP and their perception about protection and development issues, also to identify key institutional stakeholders that may participate in the project implementation, or be consulted during participatory activities. The time duration of the questionnaire was 30 minutes at least.

Survey data were collected in October 2018. The fieldwork was realized by eight enumerators, which were trained for one week and after that tested and observed on site. They worked on pairs, one girl and one boy; one asked the questions and the other takes notes and observed the living condition and household situation, so we could get as much

information as possible. Secondary data were collected through the review of different kinds of literature like legal documents, academic and research papers, internet, journals and publications of national and international NGO's to provide the general background for the research and the study area.

3.3 Criteria

Three main types of criteria were taken into account during the selection of the respondents for the questionnaires, in order to present the high diversity of the socio-economic situation and its relation to natural resources, the beneficence and the interest on the ecosystem services: *Geographic localization, Socio-Economic conditions (or poverty/ wellbeing) and the Livelihood profile.*

Geographic localization criteria were used for communities, households and visitor interviews, while for *institutional interviews* the location was determined by the respondents, usually in their working office or environment. The total number of interviews realized with local institutions were 14, where 2 were realized with representatives of Shkodër municipality, 1 with a representative of RAPA, 5 with representatives of villages (2 coastal, 3 inland), 3 with representatives of NGO and 3 with representatives of universities.

Community interviews were realized *one in the coastal area*, with representatives from tourism value chain (agencies, restaurant, hotel, guesthouse, boat hire/guide, sport fishing, fishermen, tourists, etc.) and *one inland*, with their representatives (subsistence and commercial farmers, livestock herders, inland fishermen, business, salary employee, seasonal employee, artisans, secondary residence owners, households relying on pensions and remittance, visitors, etc.).

Household interviews were realized in 24 villages inside the BRVPL which cover the majority part of the area so we could have a better view of the situation and the main activity based on natural resources, their usages, and benefits. In total 144 interviews were conducted which correspond to a number of 6 interviews per villages. A total number of 40 *visitor interviews* were realized; 10 interviews inland in BRVPL with visitor/tourist (forest, marsh, bicycle trails, bird observatories); 15 interviews with beach tourist and 15 interviews with the educational visitor. Since there were no educational visitors at the tourist center, we realized the interviews with the school that had visited the site recently and conduct the interviews at schools area with teachers and scholars.

The second main criteria used were the *Socio-Economic-Poverty/well-being* criteria, which was used only for local people household survey. So, 25% or 36 of the interviews were conducted with poor Socio-Economic condition households, which can be defined as households that are not in the position to save money and can only cope with food sufficiency and basic needs in a normal year, and in a bad year, households active members need to find an economic alternative. 50% or 72 of the interviews were conducted with medium Socio-Economic households which can be defined as households that are in the position to progressively save some money, ensure food and basic needs every year but have difficulty to invest in the significant market-oriented economy (tourism, trade, commercial agriculture, and fishing, etc.)

While the other remaining 25% or 36 of the interviews were realized with well-off families, which can be defined as households that have already acquired several assets (food security,

good quality houses, vehicles, etc.) and get enough income to maintain and develop assets as well as to invest in other assets.

The third criteria that were implemented as the main selection criteria for local people household survey was the *Livelihood profile*. We have estimated about 15 possible key Livelihood groups covered by a minimum of three interviews; Pension and Remittance based economic livelihood); Salary-based economic livelihood (private or public); Self-employed/small business/trader/Transport/Taxi etc.; economic livelihood; Seasonal and temporary workers (agriculture, construction, etc.); small job opportunities based economic livelihood; Medium/big entrepreneur, business, company; Tourism sector-based livelihood (restaurant, bar, house, and car renting, tourist operator/agency, etc.); Artisans; Permanent commercial and intensive crop business Livelihood; Permanent commercial and intensive Livestock (Cattle. Goats/sheep, poultry, pigs); Permanent family agriculture and/or livestock, Permanent commercial fishing (Sea, River, Laguna, fish-farms); Tree, orchard, flower nurseries; Agro-processing; Mix Livelihood Agriculture-Non agriculture Livelihood; others)

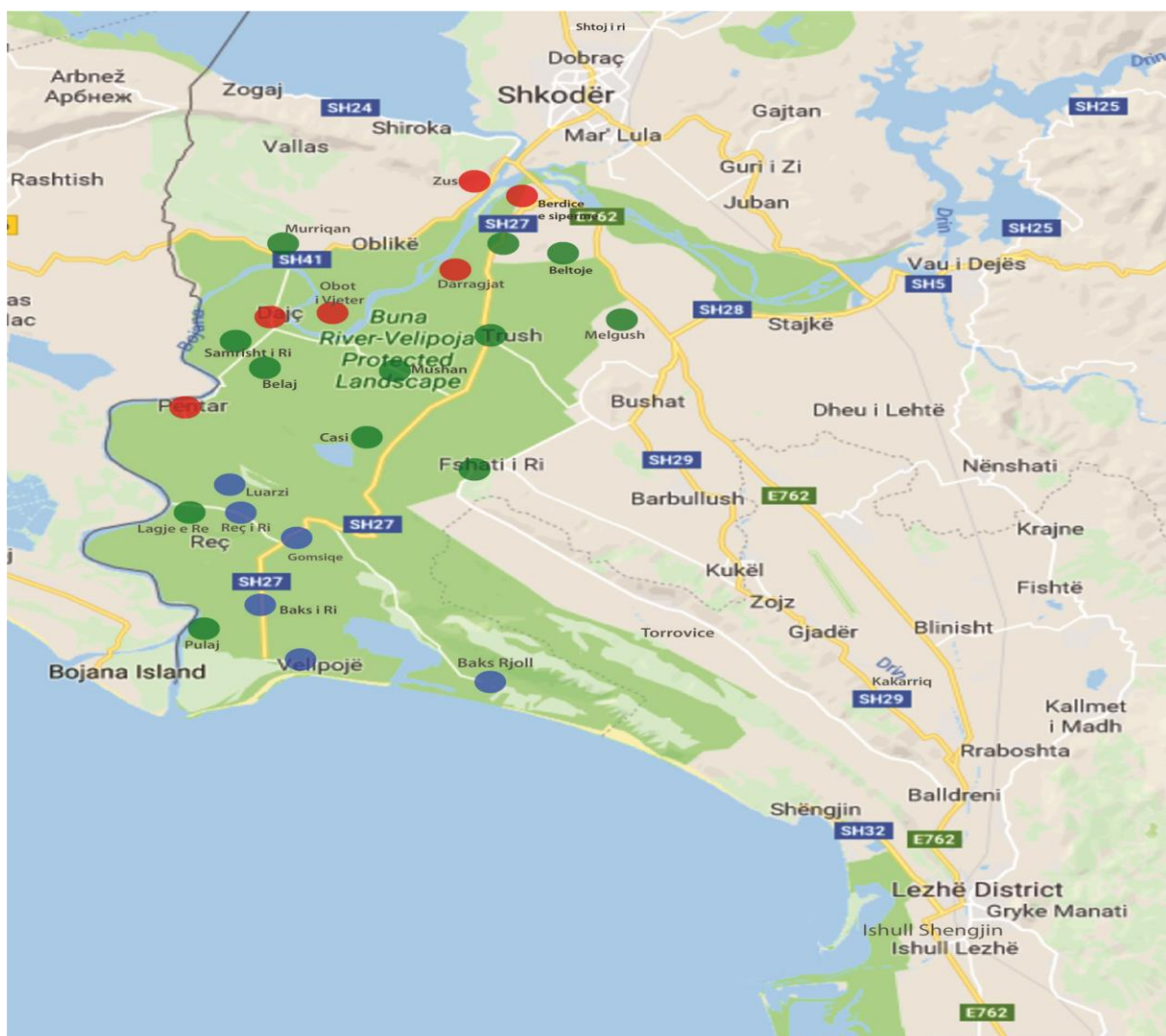


Figure 4: Villages where the household questionnaires were conducted

Sub-criteria were also used to select the local people household representants like *geomorphology characteristics* of their living area, *Urban-rural division*, *Gender*, and *Age*. According to the geomorphology sub-criteria, the BRVPL was divided into three areas, 50% of the interviews should be realized in a plain zone, 25% in coastal and the other 25% in the river or other zones. The division between urban and rural sub-criteria divided the villages in 80% rural and 20% urban. Also, 50% of the respondents should be more than 40 years and the other half less than 40 years, while 50% of them were women and the other 50% men.

Of course the two sub-criteria, the one of geomorphology characteristic and urban-rural have some difficulties to be specified because sometimes it was hard to tell the difference between a plain and river villages, because the majority part of the villages alongside the river has, in general, the same features, but we choose the economic activities and the usages the household did to the river as criteria to make the distinction. Also, the urban-rural divisions were hard to determine because the BRVPL is a rural area in general, except for Velipoja, but we can talk for villages more urbanized than the others, or that are pled to be urban areas in the future. According to these criteria and sub-criteria, we organized the fieldwork and conduct the interviews in the villages presented in the map below.

4. Data Analysis

This part will present the empirical findings collected from the fieldwork in BRVPL. The results show the respondents relation, opinion and suggestions about the area assets and their usages, the links in individual, community and institutional level, their roles and responsibilities, livelihood profiles, main economic activity conducted in the area, their perception and relation with ecosystem services, trends, and development.

It will be divided into four main sections, where each of them will present the findings from the Community (Focus group, Household, Institutional and Visitors questionnaires conducted in BRVPL).

4.1 Community profile in BRVPL

4.1.1 Main characteristics of the area and people

Buna Velipoja Protected Landscape is in general a rural area and only Velipoja can be considered an urban one. Many changes have occurred there after the 90'. Due to the lack of a strategic plan for development both urban and rural area were characterized by informal building distributed in a chaotic way, accompanied by lots of problems for the environment and people living there. In the recent years, Velipoja has become a tourism urban center for the region of Shkodra and the city nearby, characterized by an explosion in constructions and the high density of the people especially during the summer season, while inland areas are characterized by a low density of population.

In general, the area in BRVPL is rich in natural assets and is inhabited by the local population. There are also some people coming from the Northern part of Albania (mainly

from Dukagjin and Mirdita during the 80s, located there by the communist regime as a seasonal worker in cooperatives. According to the participant this population is now settled in the area and become part of the society, sharing the same environment with its goods and problems.

Due to its geographic position, climate, good soil, surface, and groundwater the area is more known for its agriculture and livestock, while the number of the family that uses fishery as their main livelihood activity has decreased the inconsiderable number recently. Fish activity in the inland area is practice more in the river, while the households in coastal area practice more lagoon fishing.

There is some new trend in agriculture, like pomegranates in the inland area in Oblike village, grape for wine and citrus tree farming in the coastal area, decorative tree plants and flowers(exported In Italy in Dajci municipality unit. The collection of the medical plant is common in the area, where Sage (Salvia is more collected because of the high demand in the market and is better paid. Recently people have started cultivating their own medical plant in the mountain area especially Salvia (Sage, making it a business and improving their earning. (A list of the villages and their main specifics information will be presented in Annex 1.

Social life in BRVPL is mainly based on family groups or the celebration of religious events, where people go to church or mosque. In general, there is a low level of trust between the individual in the community and also in a government institution and its politics. Historical, political and economic factors have played a crucial role in this. Trust is a very important component for a good society, the involvement, and integration of people in the community. Cultural activity is few, not to say inexistent with the exception of the agriculture products fairly developed only in the last two years and some festivals during the summer in Velipoja. The areas have good relation with Shkodra city. They usually go there to sell their agriculture products, to make shopping, to get a different document at the municipality office, and some of them are even employed there in Call-center or Bar/Restaurants. There is also good relation with Montenegro, where some of the local people are employed as a seasonal worker because they get better paid and have insurance coverage. Except for Tirana, the relation with other cities of Albania is poor.

After the 90' demographic changes have occurred in BRVPL. The number of the population has decreased, because of the migration. Low economy, high unemployment, and political situation are the main reason for this mobility. Emigration is a widespread phenomenon in the area where the preferred destination is Italy, Greece, and after the economic crisis in 2008, this trend changed. Western countries became the new destination for migration, with Germany as the leading destination, because of its higher demand for the workforce, easier procedures to get a visa and the network of Albanian living there which facilitate the mobility of newcomers. Several reasons influence this mobility like more job opportunity, better life, better wage, better health and education services, and better future for the children, no corruption, no flooding, less pollution, etc.

The first idea is to create a good condition for the rest of the family living in these houses and to have a comfortable place when they come for a vacation in their country. Another reason is that the majority parts of them think that after spending some years abroad, working and making money, they will return and retire there. But till now, not only none of these two

generations of migration returned to spend the rest of their life in these villages, but they are taking with them even those remaining the area.

The participants in the FGs had no idea about the management plan in the area. They mention only some investment done in road infrastructure from the central government and Shkodra municipality. In the inland area, they mention a project in 2012, aimed to protect the land from flooding, which improved the situation but didn't give it a definite solution. In the coastal area, they have constructed and improved the road that links Velipoja with the national road and Shkodra city, also they have invested in the pedestrian boulevard in beach site. All these investments are done to attract more tourists in the area.

4.1.2 Livelihood diversity in inland and coastal area

From the FG's discussion with local community different type of livelihood groups based on the use of resources or "capitals" were identified. They vary from coastal to the inland area. According to the participants, in the coastal area (Velipoja), 75% of household's activities were focus on tourism especially in beach tourism, where 50% were self-employment (20% of them have Bar/Restaurants, 20% have Hotel/Guesthouse, 10% have shops) and 25% were seasonal worker. The other remaining 25% was divided between 5% salary workers, 1% artisans, 10% jobless, 2% student and 8% retired people.

Tourism businesses concepts are simple and cheap. There is a lack of intentional collaboration between different sector like agriculture, fishery, cultural and educational site visit, nature-based activity, gastronomy, in order to create a chain of all these goods, so more people can profit and more sustainable use of the resources could be possible. Since the entire tourism activity takes place from June till September those household engaged in the tourism sector are affected by the seasonality, presenting another picture of their economic activity during the entire year. They stated that after the tourism season finished, some of them emigrate in Italy and work there during the winter, to return again in summer; the other people who remain in the site engaged themselves in different activities in agriculture, but there were also households that in the winter live with what they have gathered during the summer season.

Based on this information another picture of the livelihood strategies is presented. In the category of that 75 % engaged in the tourism sector, we have a 25 % of them leave with what they earn during the summer, while the other 50% is divided between 15 % cropping, 25 % livestock and 10% immigrant. To be mention here is that the majority of the large investment like big hotels, restaurants, apartments done on the beach site are from people that don't leave in the area. Many of them come from Shkodra, Lezha and few from other parts of Albania. Local people have mainly small and medium businesses.

While Inland area 20% of the local household were engaged inland cultivation, 13% livestock rearing, 5% fishery, 2% have Bar/Restaurants, 2 % shops, 5% trade, 10% salary based, 1% artisans, 2% small and medium business, 2% were students, 8% jobless, 30% retired. From the working category, approximately 70% of them works as a seasonal worker during the

summer in Velipoja and Montenegro, but the most preferred destination was the last one, because of the higher payment there and insurance coverage.

Based on this information more than 15 livelihood profile was identified in BRVPL, which were grouped in 6 main groups for the purpose of the study: cropping, livestock, fishery, tourism, non-Agriculture, and non-Fishery (salary, pension, remittances, trade, restaurants) and mix livelihood. According to Scoones (1998) “diversification may involve a wide income-earning portfolio to cover all types of shocks or stress or it may focus on developing responses to handle a particular type of common shocks or stress through well-developed coping mechanisms”. This rural livelihood diversification is defined as ‘the process by which households construct a diverse portfolio of activities and social support capabilities for survival in order to improve their standard of living’ (Ellis, 1998). Based on the information gathered from the FG’ more than 70% of the household in BRVPL conduct and combine different type of economic activity as a way to deal with seasonality and improve their household income.

4.1.3 Main assets in BRVPL and human dependency

When asked about the main assets and resources of BRVPL, participants from the coastal and inland areas responded that they have land, river, drinking water, hills, cropping products, forest, vegetables, lots of fruits and olives tree, mountain, hills, sea, beaches, wild animals, surface and groundwater, good soil, vegetable, livestock, olives, they were near the city and Shkodra Lake, near Montenegro and can access very easy the other parts of Albania.

Different action was taken by the local people have to evaluate these assets. For example in the coastal area except cultivating the land with fruits and olive trees, they have clean the beaches and have opened some of the irrigation channels with their own financial capital; while in the inland area they have increased the terraces with olives trees in the hill, planted the soil with vegetable, fodder, maize and have also done an official request to Shkodra municipality to fix the drinking water system and make the case public in television, but no result was available.

The participants stated that is important to further value these assets, but the role and presence of the state are mandatory because they don’t have the capacity and financial capital for such investments. They suggested that the government should open a market where they can sell their products, resolve definitely the flooding and legalization problems, create master plans for the further development of the area, protect the river from erosion, the forest from damages and fire, give subventions for tree planting and stop illegal fishing in the river with dynamite and generator.

Land, river, and forest were the main natural resources used by a local household in BRVPL in general, where land was in the first place and was mostly used for agriculture purpose, like livestock grazing or crops planting (maize, fodder, vegetable, fruits, olives, etc.). The river was used by both coastal and inland area for fishing and irrigation, but unlike inland area that

relies only on the river for fishing, coastal inhabitants use also the lagoon and sea, and according to the participant they were even more used than the river. According to the villagers, these are also the main natural resources that should be protected to ensure a good life and sustainable livelihood for them and future generations.

4.1.4 Ecosystem services

Millennium Ecosystem Assessment defines Ecosystem Services as “benefits people obtain from ecosystems. These include provisioning services, regulating services, supporting services and cultural services.” They are very important because affect the well-being of the people that rely on them. According to MA poorly managed ecosystems can lead to degradation and usually more affected by this phenomenon are the rural population in general where the poor category is more affected and have severe consequences than others. In this context, a well-managed ecosystem is very important because reduce vulnerability and risks for the rural population.

To evaluate the links between these people and ecosystem services in the questionnaires we asked the participants about the advantages and disadvantages they get from *habitats* and natural resources. In both coastal and inland area Landscape, Floodplain (agricultural land), Rangeland (grassland, scrublands, forest) and Hills were seen as key advantages habitats for household’s livelihood activities. The difference between coastal and inland area was that the former one evaluates Dunes, Wetlands (marsh, lagoon), Sea, Beaches as key advantages habitats, while the latter evaluate them as a secondary advantages habitats, because they don’t benefit directly, but they considered them as very important for the area.

Provisioning ecosystem services are products obtained by ecosystem services according to MA classification. Participants in the FG’s considered products like soil for agriculture and husbandry, surface freshwater, groundwater, sea fishes, inland fishes, woods for firewood and fencing, medicinal plants, wild edible plants, wild commercial plant, domestic animals and Fodder from floodplain as key advantages for their livelihoods activities, while domestic animals were considered as a medium advantages. According to the participants for them was more convenient to raise animals like cattle, even though they need a lot of effort, but the benefits were greater than those coming from planting the land, because they don’t need special equipment for that, don’t need a lot of investment and can have the product immediately, for example, milk and dairy products, which they can consume and sell.

Fodder from marshes and forest were considered as a secondary advantage, because for the most convenient was to feed their livestock in their own land. Also from wild birds, wild mammals, crustacean, mollusks, amphibians, wood for construction and sale, fiber, sand, gravel, stone, clay they get secondary advantages.

Regulation services according to MA are “the benefits obtained from the regulation of ecosystem processes”. Participants in FG’s stated they don’t get so many advantages from these services. Wind regulation, water epuration and groundwater recharge were considered as a medium advantage; freshwater epuration and sea tide regulation were considered a medium disadvantages, while coastal erosion was considered a key disadvantages. Very

important for the participants was the freshwater because it was polluted from the flooding and even though some intervention from the municipality has been one to clean it, the drinking water network is still with problems and there is no control for the water quality.

MA classify *Cultural services* as “nonmaterial benefits people obtain from ecosystems which are tightly bound to human values and behavior, as well as to human institutions and patterns of social, economic, and political organization”. From Landscape aesthetic, Inspiration, Sense of wilderness and quietness, Emotion and contemplation participants in both areas stated they get key advantages, while from Intangible cultural tradition (festival, specific agrarian and fishing technique, etc., gastronomy), tangible cultures (monuments, handicrafts, local animal variety, etc.) education and research they get secondary advantages because some of them are missing or are very few in number.

Both respondents from coastal and inland areas get key disadvantages from hunting sport because it is an illegal sport and is not allowed with the new law on hunting, so they do not practice it. But respondents stated that persons from Albania and foreigners still, get advantages from this sport despite the law.

When asked about fishing sports and Recreation (tourism) participants give different responses. Those in the coastal area get medium advantages from fishing sport because they can practice it not only in the river but also in sea and mainly in the lagoon, while participants from the inland area stated that they get secondary advantages because they practice the sport only in the river, and due to the extent fishing with dynamite and generator, there are no more fish left for them. One of the participants in the inland area declare that- “I have to walk for kilometers but no fish was available”. Also differently from participants in the inland area which sees the lack of recreation (tourism) as a disadvantage, those in the coastal area get key advantages from it, and to some extent, it is seen as the main contributor to the livelihood of the households in these areas.

Supporting services according to MA are services necessary for the production of all other ecosystem services and their impact on people is indirect or in the long term, so people usually don't realize how important they are as they do with provisioning, regulating and cultural services. When asked this question during the FG's participants answered that they get medium advantages from both of them, fish's reproduction and pollination.

4.1.5 Trends of habitats, natural, domesticated and cultural resources

When asked about the trends of habitats in the area respondents answered that Landscape integrity, Rangeland (grassland, forest), Beaches, marshes, lagoon (Villuni), forest, hills have a positive trend, while flood plain (agricultural cropland), river and dune have a seriously negative one. This negative effects in flood plain (agricultural cropland) are explained with flooding phenomenon that occurs in the area, destroying the fertility and increasing the pollution of the soil, making it less productive and in some the area near the coastal there are a sign of salted land; river negative trend is explained by the high pollution coming from the

sewage water of the Shkodra city that flows in the river and illegal fishing practiced there; while in coastal area dunes have negative trends because of the risk they face due to the high erosion happening every year. Also for them Groundwater resources, Surface water resources and wild medicinal plants have also negative trends, due to their increase uses by humans.

Natural and domestic resources that have a positive trend are Wild mammals, Wild water birds, Wild Sea birds, Wild inland birds, Frogs, reptiles, insects, sea fishes, aquaculture, mollusks, crustaceans, wild edible plants, wild commercial plants, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, and poultry. According to the participants freshwater fishing have a negative trend in the river, because there was no more fish remained due to the illegal fishing with generator and dynamite, while for those in the coastal area was a better situation because they have the lagoon and the sea.

According to the participants, cultural elements are those with more negative trends in the area. Except for festivals, landscape, traditional techniques, livestock special features to some extent which is seen as having a positive trend, the other elements like monuments, farming special features, traditional and sport hunting, traditional and sport fishing have a negative one. Solidarity also is seen to decrease in the area. The emigration phenomenon, political and economic situation have created a boundary for people in general and the phenomenon of individualism is increasing.

4.1.6 Main issues in BRVPL

4.1.6.1 Infrastructure

Infrastructure is one of the main issues in the area. Road infrastructure seems to be improved recently, to be mention here is the main road that connects the coastal area with the national road, which leads to Shkodra city and other parts of Albania. It passes through some villages, facilitating their mobility, but still, the road has a lack of signaling and sidewalks, which make it very dangerous for the local population. While is invested in the main road, villages streets still lack investments becoming an obstacle for the villagers' movement.

Another limitation of mobility in the area is the lack of access to public transport. Participants stated that only during the summer season they can find occasional transportation, in the winter those who don't have their means of transport are isolated. Villages lack of schools and health services and people have to travel somewhere else to find them. In this situation public transport plays an important role; its lack deteriorates the situation even more for those who do not have their mean of transport.

Another lack of infrastructure is the poor network of drinking water, the absence of a waste management plant for the treatment of solid waste. This makes pollution very high in the area but there is no regular quality control done till now to show the real situation. The survey for the water treatment plant is done but the project has not started yet, it is one of the main points of Shkodra municipality Strategic Plan 2030. The implementation of this project is very important for the future development of the area and locals well-being.



Figure 5 Photo by the enumerators in Cas

Also, both coastal and inland area there is a poor situation of irrigation and drainage channels. Some of them are not clean and in good condition becoming a reason for flooding, while in other parts they are missing. These make the situation worse, because in the winter they have more water than needed, while in summer they lack the water. The consequences affect not only crop production but also their livelihood as a whole.

4.1.6.2 Flooding

Flooding was seen as the main problem from the local stakeholders in this area, even though it is not a new phenomenon. It happens because of the high water flows from Drini river during its high water-periods in Buna river, and with the restriction of this flows from Shkodra Lake, the river exceeds its capacity causing the flooding in the area (Dhora 2007). The participants compared the situation with the communist regime, stating that recently floods occur more often and the consequences are more serious. Both coastal and inland areas are affected.

The negative impact people have from the flooding had different reasons. The damages were done by the flooding are not only visual one like the destruction of cropping products, livestock, soil, house damages, and material goods, but also and what is more worrying for the area is the invisible damages like pollution.

Another issue that arises after the flooding is the time spent to rehabilitate their farms and the need to manage their livestock to avoid mortality. People state that there is a proliferation of a type of mosquito after the flooding.

4.1.6.3 Pollution

Pollution is a big problem with BRVPL. Different sources of pollution are identified. The first one is the lack of wastewater treatment plant in Shkodra. Until now all the waste goes directly to the river and when flooding happens, accumulated garbage and pollution from urban canals go to flooded areas and pollutes farms, land, surface, and groundwater, making pollution very high after each flooding.

People in Oblike stated that the network of drinking water is polluted and need to be reconstructed from the beginning. Even after the municipality cleanses, the network of the drinking water still continues to be polluted and there is no regular water quality control to show the real situation. In coastal area due to the lack of the development plan, the high increase of population and extension of the informal buildings have deteriorated the situation even more. In both areas, the majority part of the people don't drink tap water and have resolved this issue buying the water, but not all the families can afford that. Also, river water is used only for irrigation, not for the bath.



Figure 6 Photo of the delta of Buna River by Jonada Vasili

Another way of pollution is through poor solid waste management. Recently the municipality has increased the number of garbage containers, but still, the problem is not resolved. Everywhere in the area garbage are present. In coastal area participants stated that the collection of the waste isn't done regularly or is done only once per week, but this is not

sufficient because the situation deteriorated during the peak season due to the high density of the population, where pollution is very high and it became a problem for the residents and for the tourists too. Participants in the inland area state that before due to the lack of the garbage containers and the collection network, people throw the waste in the river and some households in some villages are still practicing this method, as an easy way to get rid of them.

Pollution comes also from pesticides and chemical fertilizers from intensive vegetable gardens or cereals made in an extensive way. The problem of pollution goes even further. Even if the locals cultivate bio-crops, as they pretend, the products are still polluted because the land is polluted, and also the livestock products are the same. In this situation pollution is a problem for organic agriculture and agro-tourism and till now there are no crops quality controls in the area

4.1.6.4 Illegal fishing and hunting

Illegal fishing and hunting still remain one of the main pressures in the area. Despite the laws that exist for these two issues, they are still running. Hunting is more controlled and has improved a little bit recently, while illegal fishing with dynamite and generators has increased.

Participants in Focus groups reply that usually, those who use these fishing methods are not from the area. They stated that “to conduct this kind of activity people need to have a connection. Everyone knows about this illegal activity, the respective authority and the border police but they do nothing to stop them”. This illegal activity has affected their livelihood because due to the lack of fish in the water the numbers of households that practice fishing have decreased recently.

4.1.6.5 Political situation

The transition periods from the communist regime to a democratic system of government after the 90’ was accompanied by many problems, it looks like stabilized recently, but still, the roots of these problems are very deep. One of these problems is the lack of communication and the opposition between deferent political ideology orientations. In Albania every time that a political party came in power, it changes all employers in the administration and replaces them with its own supports. This creates difficulties for the implementation of the projects; lows and no one takes responsibility for their work.

In the elections of 2013, left parties came in power and it took a second mandate after four years. While Shkodra municipality is right-wing representatives, creating a long history of opposition with Tirana and this is still the case. Due to this opposition, there is a lack of communication between these two institutions, which create serious consequences for Shkodra municipality and its units, since municipalities in Albania mainly rely on central government finance and support. Shkodra municipality blames the local government that the situation has decreased even more their level of autonomy. This situation blocks initiatives, negotiations, and projects.

4.1.6.6 Emigration

Emigration has been an old phenomenon in the area, but economic, political and social problems occurred after the 1990's increase considerably the number of the people that leave the area. As was mentioned above, emigration is a widespread phenomenon and it can be said that it is a "way of life", since the rural life, and especially a farmer's life is very hard, full of work and struggle to create a good livelihood, migration is seen as the only way to escape from this life for the majority of the villagers in BRVPL.

In Oblike village, participants estimate that 70% of households have migrants, while in Velipoja they stated that the number is above 60%. This phenomenon was accompanied by positive and negative effects. The positive ones are the remittances that emigrants send to their family and the different culture they are exposed to and bring to the community. Remittances have been an important factor for the improvement of the household livelihood in BRVPL, and for some households, they are even the main means of their livelihood. In general, remittances are not invested in the business in the area; they are usually invested in building new houses or restoration of the older one.

Regardless of the positive effects of migration, the negative effects according to the villagers encompass the positive one. To be mentioned here are; decrease in size of the population, low workforce because the majority of those who emigrate are young people especially men between the age 20-35 which bring large fallow agriculture land surfaces, low birth rates, changes in the structure of the society with a high number of old people, which means the increase of the vulnerable category in the area. Another consequence of Emigration is the "brain drain" phenomenon, where the most qualified and educated people leave the area for a better life in another country.

There is no accurate data on the number of migrants in the area, so it is difficult to measure this phenomenon and its consequences. This makes it more difficult to measure the real financial capacity of one household, because in general remittances are not declared money, so one household can be classified as a poor one and profit from subventions in the state, while its real conditions are better, or this household can be classified as an agriculture one, while instead, they use crop production just for self-consumption and their real income is remittances. Emigration is a very important issue in the area and should be taken into consideration and more study from university, project, and state should be done to have a clear economic situation of the household in the area and number of the people leaving and working there.

4.2 Household questionnaire analysis

4.2.1 Household characteristics

In total 144 household questionnaires were conducted in the fieldwork, divided 50% woman and 50% men, 35 of the poor, 74 of them rich the other 35 better off. The minimum age was 24 years, and the maximum age was 67 years, with an average of 43.8 years. The maximum number of the households' member was 6 and the minimum number was 2, while the average

number of household members was 4.28 people. Figure 5 indicates that households with 4 and 5 members are more common in the area.

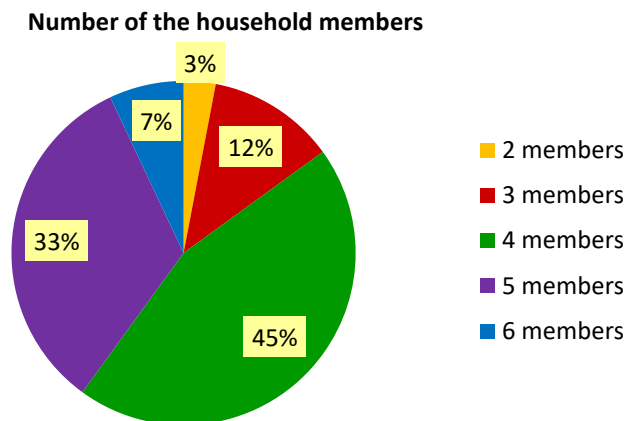


Figure 7 Household size

In general all the respondents have finished the primary education, but most respondents have finished the secondary education level, (41% male and 46% female), approximately one third of them have finished the high education level (34% male and 24%) female, while only a few have finished university (4% male and 3%).

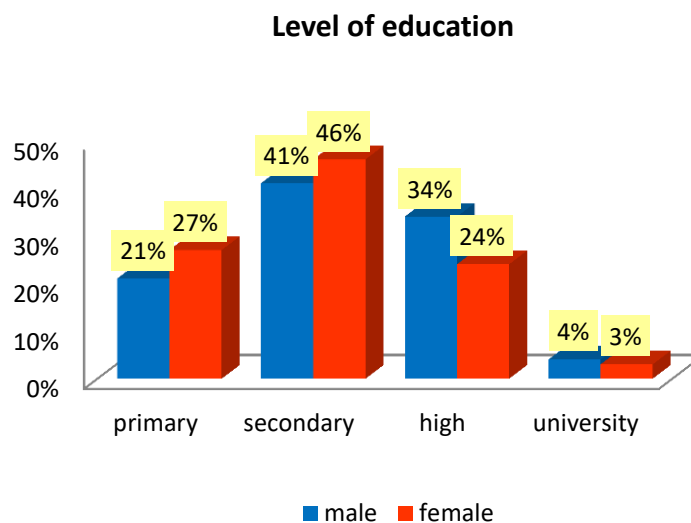


Figure 8 Level of education

The number of female finished the primary and secondary education level is higher than male, but it decreases in high school. This is related with early marriage in the rural area and the patriarchal concept of female working inside the house, but also in the poorer families, the lack of financial capital is often e key component that leads to this decision. While for the male is different, they represent the head of household so more educational level more income they can provide for the household. The data showed that the more educated a household is, the more possibility to access a wide range of income opportunity it has.

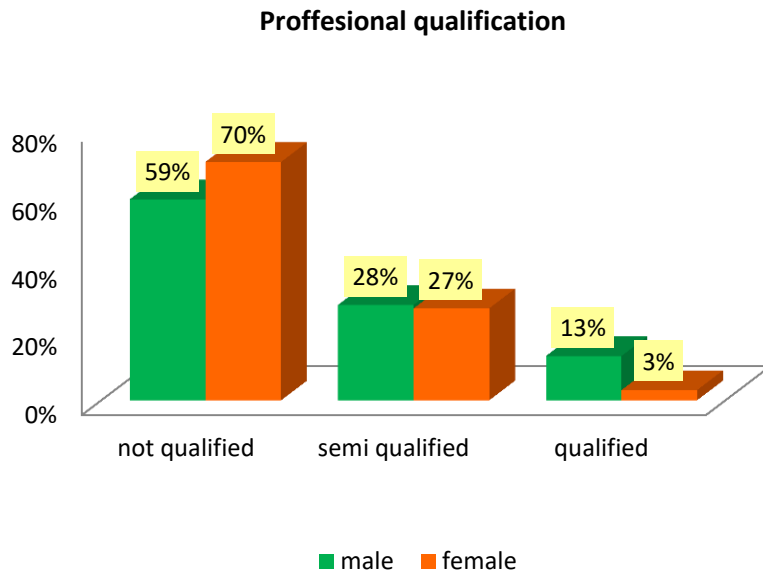


Figure 9 Professional qualification

When asked about professional qualification, respondents related it with their level of education, so based on this the following data were gathered; in general the number of unqualified respondents interviewed is very high, on average is more than 60% with a difference between male and female of 11%, where female have the largest percentages with 70%, while male 59%. The number of qualified persons interviewed is 13% for male and 3% for female, while in the semi-qualified category there is an equality between male and female, approximately 28% male and 27% female. According to these findings, men represent the largest number of household working outside the home is approximately 64%, while female the largest percentage engage in home working with 55%.

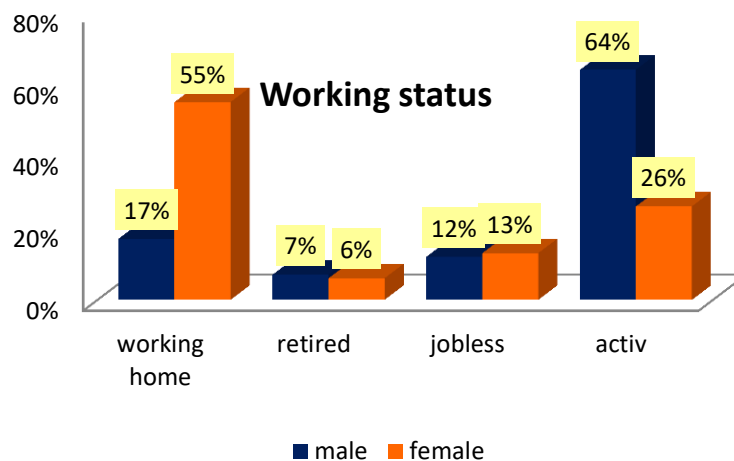


Figure 10 Working status

The concept of working home includes not only house works, but also small farms and livestock rising and grazing, which are seen as unpaid work, because usually are for self-consumption and sometimes for direct sales, while female working outside home and having active working status according to the respondents represent only 26% of the total number of female interviewed.

4.2.2 Physical Assets owned by local people

In general, all the households interviewed have their own house and 98% of them have agriculture land in BRVPL. The other 2 % remaining bought land or rented it. The household has acquired the land according to the Low nr 7501, which was created in 1991 after the communist regime collapsed. According to this Low, everyone that has been part and worked in the cooperative system would and those who have work in agriculture structures would profit and take part of the land, as stated by the low.

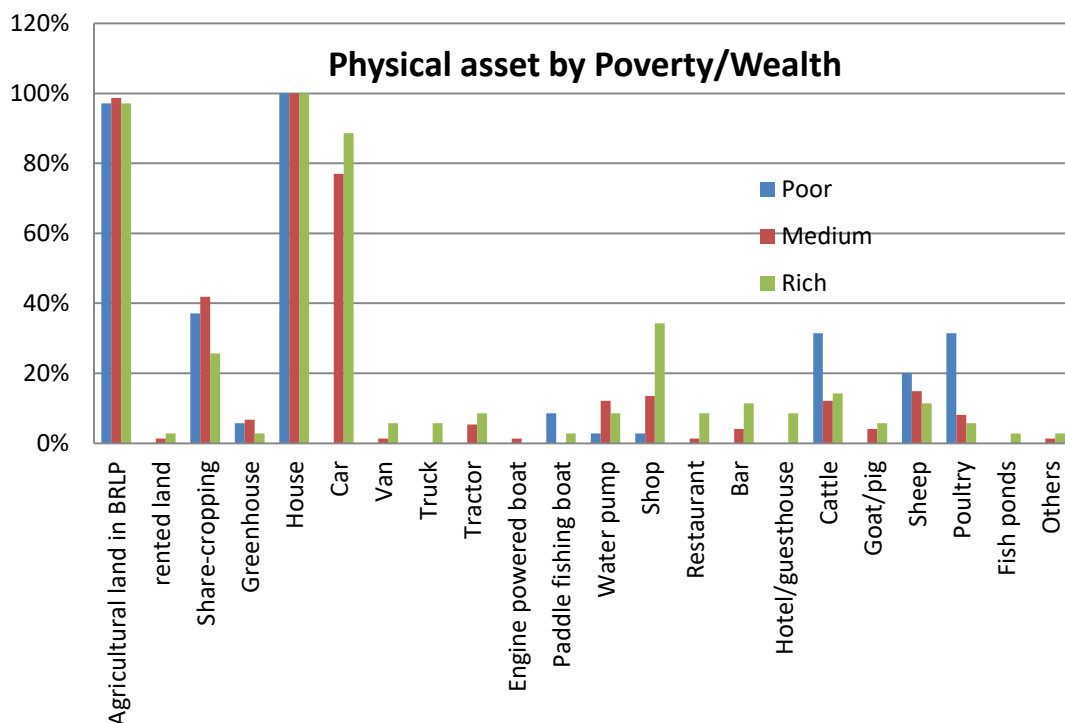


Figure 11 Assets owned by local household according to Wealth/Poor category

The Figure above shows the distribution of the physical assets by the different categories of households based on wealth/Poverty groups. The data showed that the better-off category has the majority part of the business like Bar, Restaurants, Shops, Van, Truck, Cars and Fish ponds. The medium category exceeds with a slight difference with two other categories in the agriculture land in BRVPL, greenhouse, and sharecropping. The poor have the highest number of the households that own paddle boat, cattle, sheep and poultry. The difference in domestic animal between poor category two others categories is the quantity they own, so the

percentage of the rich category that own cattle maybe less than those poor, but the number of cattle they are in possess is higher.

Since the majority parts of the households that live in the area have agricultural land, what makes the difference between them is the surface of the land they owned which is not the same according to Poverty/wealth category.

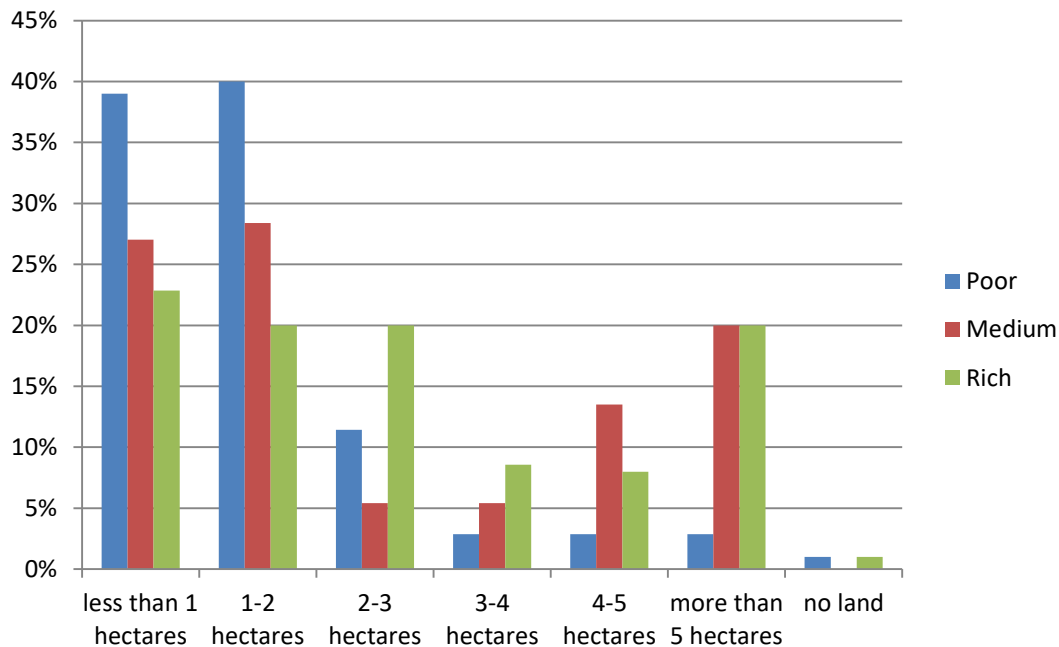


Figure 12 Agriculture land size owned by the household

According to the Figure 9, the poor category owned small surfaces of land compared to the other categories, approximately 79 % of the Poor category owned until 2 hectares, and the 21% of them owned more than two. Medium and Poor categories that have higher land surfaces than 2 hectares are more in number, where the rich have more surfaces from 2-4 hectares while the number of medium categories that have 5 hectares land is higher than the rich one. Also, the percentages of medium and rich categories that have more than 5 hectares owned land are the same. From the figure above, all the households in the medium category have land, while even though is in very low percentages; the households with no land are from Poor and Rich category.

Other data gathered from the questionnaire were the land planting and irrigation and usually, these two processes are combined together. In total 62% of the poor category plant and irrigate the land till 1 ha and 27% of them goes till 2 ha. 81% of the Medium category irrigate and plant till 1 ha, where 40% don't exceed this amount, while 21% of them go till 2 ha. In this category only 20% irrigate and plant more than 2 hectares; while the Rich category 77% of the plant and irrigate more than 1 ha, where 28% do less than 1 ha and 14% till 2 ha. In this category, there is a high percentage of those that plant and irrigate more than 2 ha, approximately 35% of them. This show the land distribution of the household units in BRVPL and the role the financial capital plays in the further investment of the land.

4.2.3 Natural resource on BRVPL

4.2.3.1 Main assets/positive features of your area

When asked about the main assets of the area, the respondents stated that Buna river was in the first place with 81% of respondents. Also important for them was the land with 59% of the respondents, then come flora with 42%, the landscape with 39%, Hill with 33%, fresh air and forest with 30%.

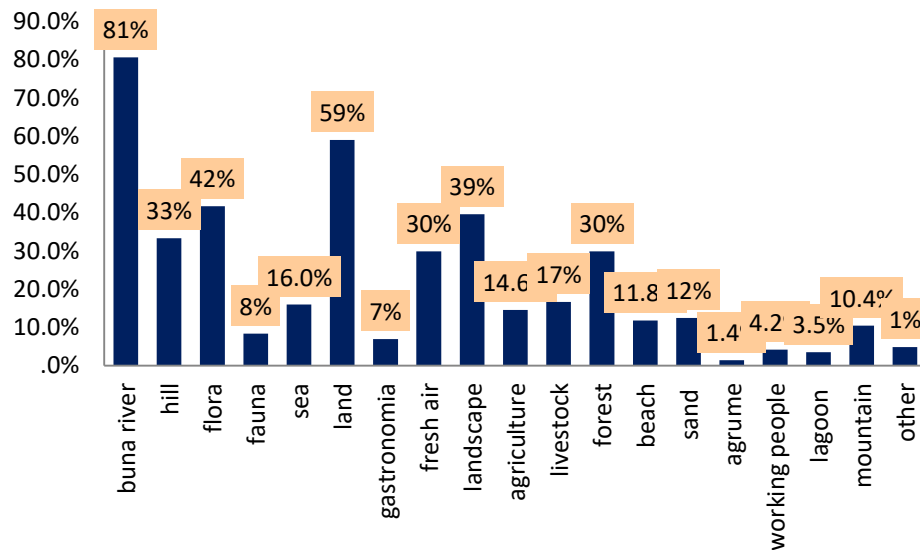


Figure 13 Main assets in BRVPL according to the households

The respondents declare that they as a community were lucky leaving in this area because they have lots of natural assets which they have not evaluated in the proper way and further action should be done in this respect. More than 80% of the respondents stated that is very important the awareness of the inhabitants to protected these assets and not to pollute the environment. More than 60% of the respondent asked for the presence of the state, because of the area lack of investment in infrastructure, like irrigation and drainage channels, sanitation network, public transport, hospitals, schools; things that can be done only if the state help and invest in the area.

Also very important for the respondents was the promotion of the area, which according to them was still poor and more effort should be put to make the area and its natural assets known in national and international level.

4.2.3.2 Main problems of BRVPL

The respondents stated that the area has a lot of problems, but some of them need immediate solutions because they affect their well-being and some of them rescue their life too. Flooding was seen as one of the main problems with 57% of the respondents stating that the majority difficulties in the area come from this phenomenon and it's the consequences remain

for long period and some of them can't be repaired like the loose of livestock during the flooding.

47% of the respondents considered unemployment an important problem in BRVPL and linked it with high migration and the low economic situation in the area. The lack of public transport was considered as another important from 34% of the respondents which hinders the further development of the people and area.

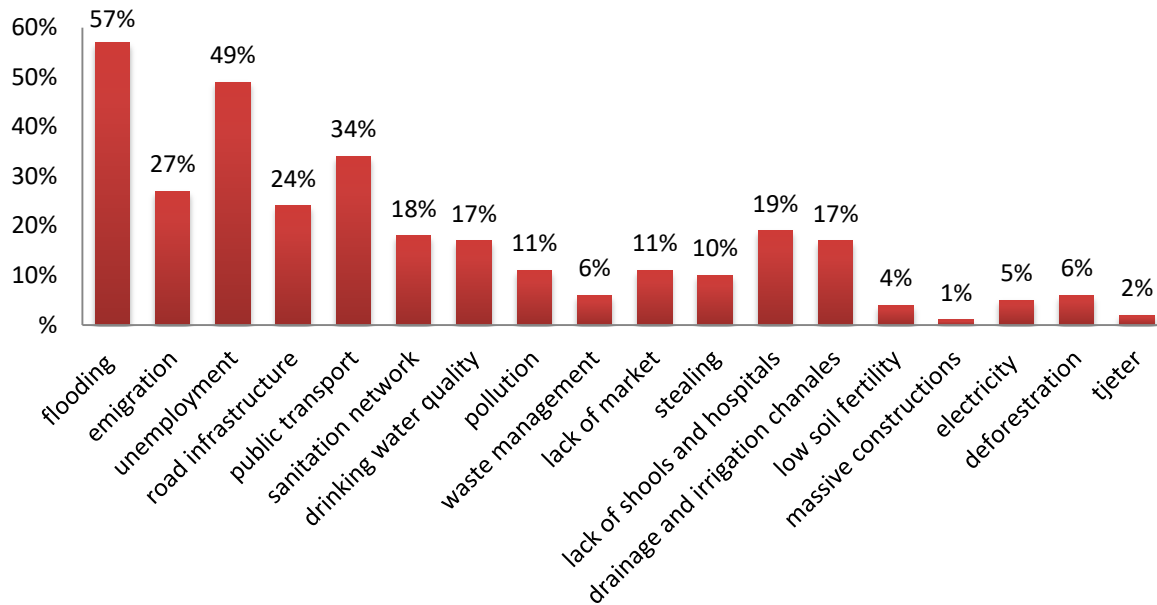


Figure 14 Main Problem in BRVPL

Even though the emigration was more a cause, it has become a problem for the area, because the high number of the young male population leaving the area, have affected the family structure, decrease the number of birth and the workforce, leaving the majority part of the land unplanted. Also road infrastructure, sanitation network, and lack of public services, drinking water quality, and drainage an irrigation channels were considered important problems.

What was considered as a new problem in the area was the increasing number of business and apartment stealing. 10% of the respondents declared that this was an increasing trend. The reasons why it happens was the low economic situation in the area and high unemployment. Since the majority of the houses are uninhabited due to the high migration or inhabited by elderly people, this makes the area even more exposed to this phenomenon.

When asked about the main priority of protection or development in the area, respondents stated that most important for them was the employment, irrigation and drainage channels, sanitaria network, infrastructure and the solution from the flooding. If these issues were resolved than the area will have an opportunity to develop further and the number of

migration would decrease. Also, they considered very importantly the subventions from the state so they can invest in agriculture.

4.2.3.3 Main natural resources used by households according to their poverty/wealth category

In general river, land and forest are the main natural resources used by more than 50% of the households in BRVPL; mountain, hills, flora, and sea are used on average from 10% till maximum 30% of the households; fishes, marshes and fauna are used by less than 10% of the households while dunes are the natural resources households used less, only by medium (1%) and better off (3%) category of households.

From the data gathered, the poor and medium category, in general, have approximately the same level of use of natural resources, while the better off category exceeds them with more than 10% in use of river and forest, but is 8% lower from them in the usages of the land. Better off category, with a slight difference than the other two categories, usage more sea, mountain, and hills, while they have a noticeable difference in the usages of the marshes and medical plants. The poor category exceeds medium and better off category only in fishing (28%) and flora (17%) natural assets.

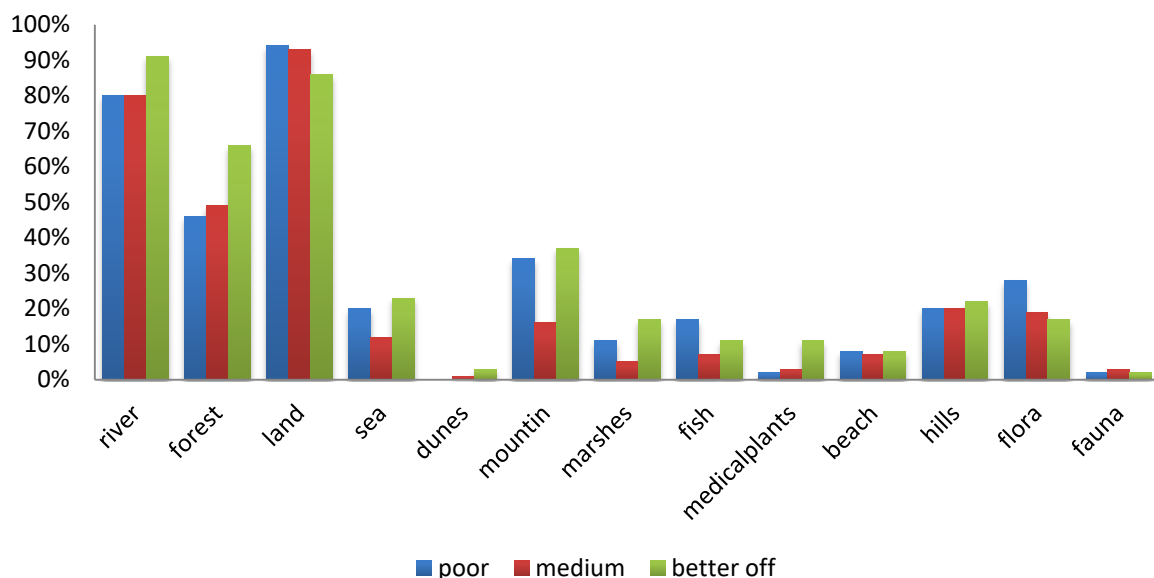


Figure 15 Natural resources used by households according to their Poverty/wealth category

Mainly the river was used by the household for fishing (56%) and less for irrigation (38%); land was used mainly by 90% of the respondents for cultivation of plants for self-consumption and only 42% of them used it for grazing livestock; forest was mainly used by 50% of the respondents for wood for firewood and 2% use it for cycling and fresh air. Sea, beaches, marshes, and dunes were mainly used as tourism attractiveness, which contributes in the increasing of the income for the households which economy depends on tourism sector; hills were mainly used as olive trees terraces and for livestock grazing, while medical plants were mainly used for trade.

When asked about most important natural resources to be protected in their village to ensure good life and sustainable livelihood the respondents give approximately the same answer as above, they related it with the usages they do to the natural resource, so what is vital for their livelihood should also be protected for a sustainable livelihood for them and for the future generation.

Land, river, and forest were considered from the majority part of the respondents as the most important natural resources that should be protected in the area. Even though hills, mountain, and flora were considered as a very important natural asset which should be protected to ensure good life and sustainable livelihoods, they come in the second place, while in the third place were sea, marshes, fauna, beaches, lagoon, and dunes.

4.2.3.4 Main pressures on the natural resources

Main pressures in the area considered by the respondents were pollution with 59%, illegal fishing with 54%, governance with 45%, the decline of the population with 43% and waste management with 42%. Also, law enforcement was considered an important pressure, because the respondents declare that law is not equal to everyone, for those who have friends the law doesn't work like the case of illegal fishing.

Security was another pressure for local households. Especially in the recent years, with the decreasing number of the population due to migration and increase number elderly people that leave alone or uninhabited houses, this has increased the number of property stealing in the area. Also, the stealing of the business has increased, especially in the beach area, where the majority part of the business close in the winter. According to MA, security is one of the five components people need to ensure their well-being, and when it decreases can lead to the opposite effect which is the increase of the ill-being of the people.

Population decline is a phenomenon happening in BRVPL villages in general as a consequence of migration, but what is pressure in one area might not be in another, like the case of Velipoja, which in contrast to the other part of BRVPL suffer from high population density which has increased very rapidly in recent years, and to some extent even destroying the natural resources, becoming one of the main pressure this area have to face.

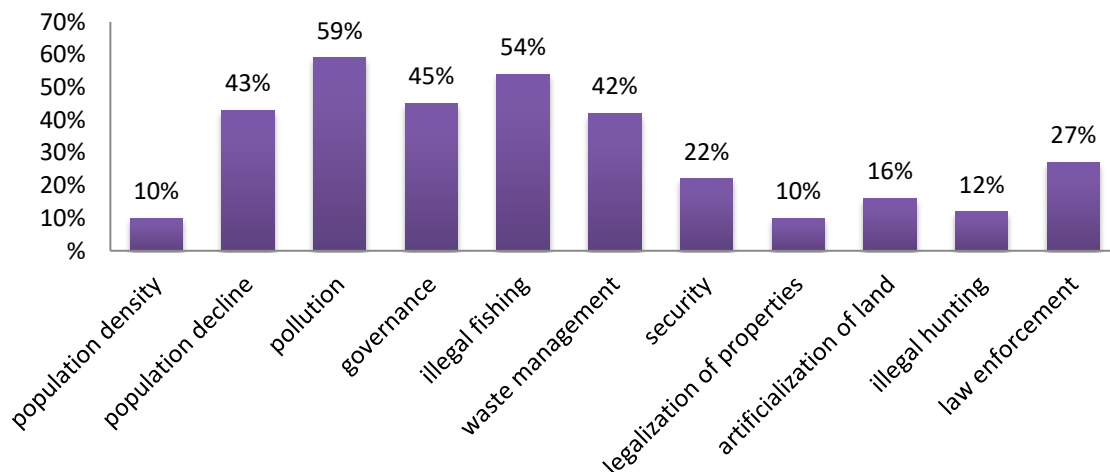


Figure 16 Main pressures on natural resources in BRVPL

Artificialization of land, illegal hunting and legalization of properties were also considered pressure for BVPL, where the last one needs an immediate solution from the state since it affects people to finance and investment, becoming an obstacle for their livelihoods and the improvement of their well-being

4.2.4 Financial asset

4.2.4.1 Saving/investment cycles and priorities

When asked how they will spend 120 euro the majority part of the respondents 65% of them stated that they will use it for food, 11% of them were going to use it for paying electricity and water bill so they can have some expensive less, 5% will be used for children school to buy books and other material needed, 4% will buy clothes, 1% will use them for firewood and the other 1% will use it for fishing equipment. According to the respondent's answer, they said that with that amount of money they can improve food quality and eat a little bit better or get read of some monthly expenses that sometimes can't be afforded from them.

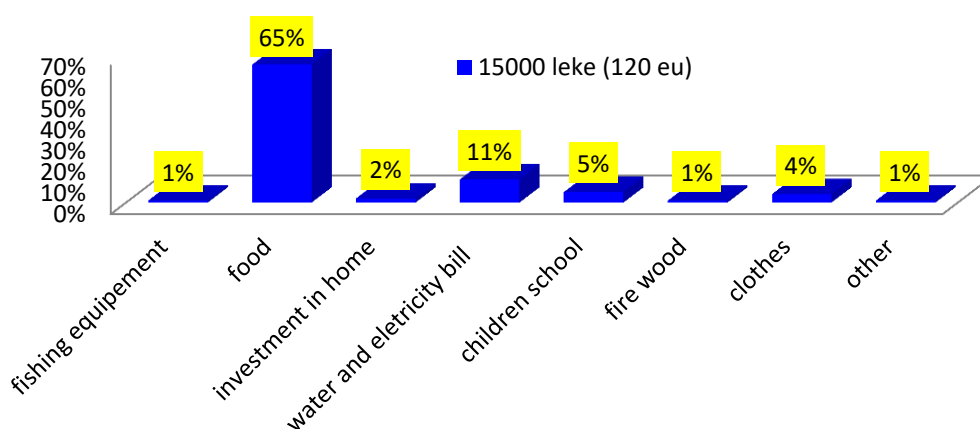


Figure 17 Households spending of 120 euro

Increasing the amount of money, changed the way people thought to spend them. The numbers of households which will be going to use the money for foods significantly decrease from 65% in 1% and the number of those who were going to invest in their home for better living condition increased from 2% in 29%.

Approximately 16% of the respondents answered they were going to invest in agriculture, 14% of them will invest in an actual business for further improvement, 11% of them will invest in livestock, 10% will use them for children education, 9% will open a new business and 6% will buy clothes. In general, 50% of them were going to invest the money in small economic activities so they can generate more money and improve their economic condition.

Comparing to the previous figure the number of those respondents who wanted to invest in children education increased from 5% went to 10%, while those who were going to spend the money on clothes have a slight decrease from 6% it went 4%.

Two other categories rise when increasing the amount of money, even in small percentages they give important information. Approximately 2% of the respondents will buy a motorcycle as a way to resolve the transport, so they can access more easily the other parts of the area and also the city, while the other category represented by 2% declared they will use the money to pay their debt

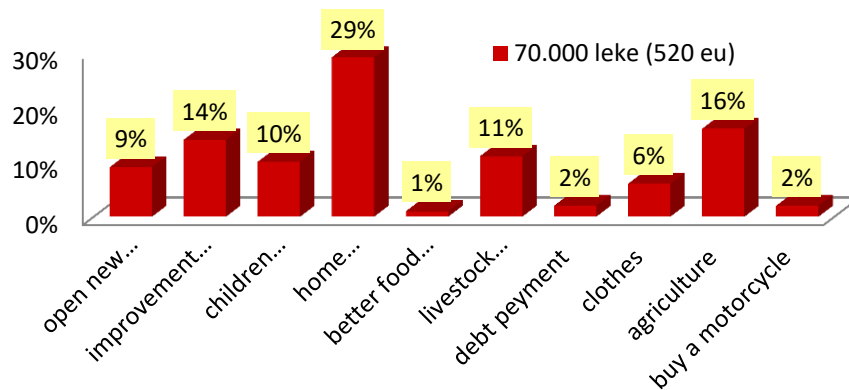


Figure 18 Households spending of 520 euro

In general, with the increasing the amount of money in 3000 euro the percentages of those respondents who wanted to invest in economic activity approximately remain the same, 50%., where approximately 34% of the respondents declared that they wanted to open a business so they can have a better job and can generate more income for the family, 9% would invest in livestock, 5% would invest in agriculture and there is a 2% who state that they will invest the money in buying a new boat, so they can improve their fishing activity.

The number of those who wanted to invest in agriculture decreased significantly compared to the previous figure, from 16% to 5%, while livestock has a slight decrease with 3% but remains higher than agriculture 9%.

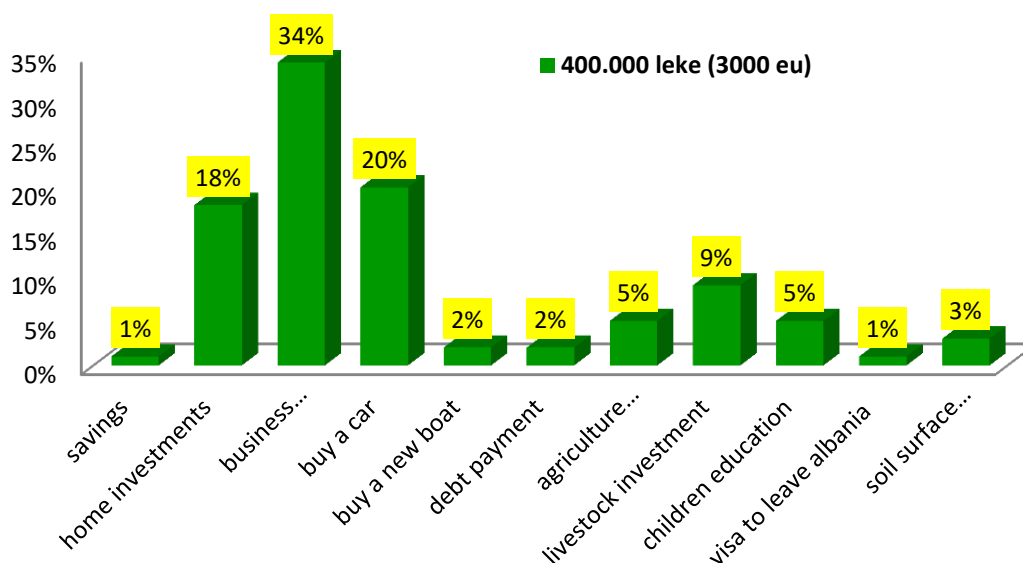


Figure 19 Households spending of 3000 euro

Comparing with the previous figure, approximately 20% of the respondents declare they wanted to buy a car to resolve the transportation issue and be independent to move, why not to go to the city and sell their products too. With the increasing the amount of money the number of people that were going to invest in children education decrease in 5%, on the same level as the amount 120 euro.

Approximately 3% of the respondents stated that with more money they will invest in soil surface elevation as a solution for protecting agriculture products from flooding, 1% of them declare that they will start saving and 2% declare that will use the amount of money to pay the debt. This category was in the same percentages as it was when respondents were offered 520 euro to spend. An interesting category which came in light with the increasing the amount of money is those who want to leave not only from the area but from Albania. Even in small percentages (1%), this data gives us important information to understand the situation in the area and what kind of solution people need for a better life.

In the last question of the investment cycle the households were asked how they would like the village use 8000 euro to improve the livelihood of people in the area. Approximately 28% of them wanted this money to be invested in new business, mainly in fabrics, so people can have a possibility to be employed; 13% of the respondents stated that this money should be used to improve the sanitation system; 10% of them wanted road construction inside the villages, in every neighborhood because this will reduce the mud and pollution; 9% of the respondents wanted the improvement of the irrigation systems.

Between 3%-5% of them wanted electrical circuit, markets for products, garbage containers, road signs, health center, sidewalks, and river bad arrangement. In this percentage category were also those who wanted assistance for family in needs and playground for children. The percentages of those who wanted improvement of school condition was 2%, while there was another 1% who wanted cultural center to improve life quality in the village.

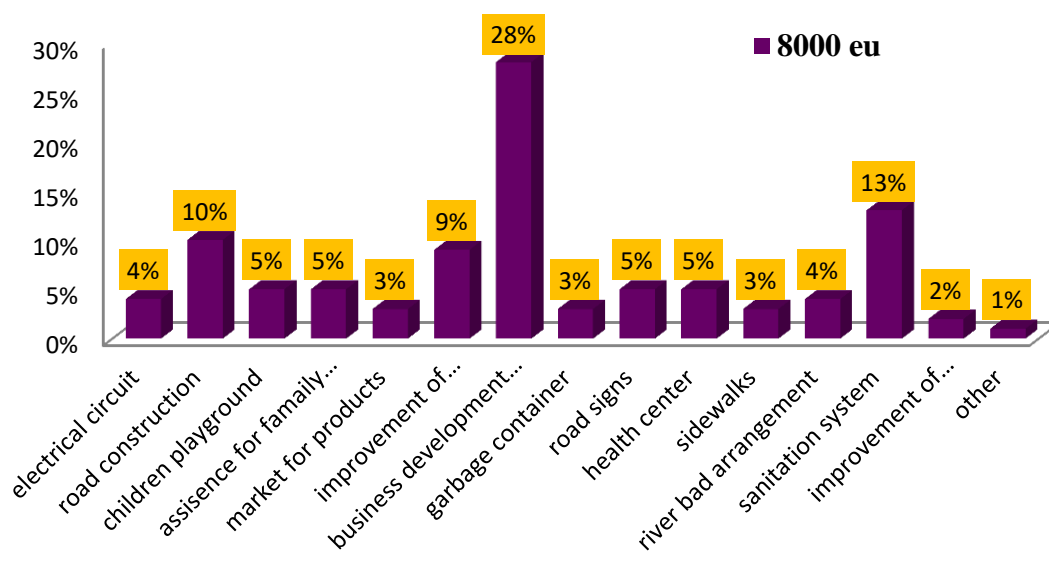


Figure 20 How the household would like 8000 euro to be spent for the village

When asked about the kind of activities they wanted to enhance for their medium-long term livelihood development the majority part of the respondents 69% of them answered market to sell their products, 62% of them wanted the protection of natural resources because their livelihood depends on them, 58% wanted public transport because this

would increase their opportunity to find a better job, 45% wanted the increase of agriculture activity, 41 % of them wanted the increase in livestock activity and 38% of them wanted more promotion of the area as a way to increase the tourism activity.

While activity to be reduced for their livelihood activities development in the medium-long term were flooding, pollution, illegal fishing, river erosion, deforestation, and plants burning. According to the respondents, these activities damage their livelihood well-being not only in the present but will makes the situation worse in the future.

4.2.4.2 Economic livelihood groups in BRVPL

After evaluating and analyzing all the livelihoods economic activities conducting in the area based on the percentages given by the households during the interviews, 15 main economic livelihood groups were identified according to their poverty/ wealth categories which they belong. In the table below are presented the results of the survey starting from poor category to the better off. Also inside one wealth/ poverty category a total of seven subcategories were identified and used for the division of economic livelihoods groups. The poor category was represented by two subcategories, poor and medium-poor; Medium category was represented by three categories, poor-medium, medium-medium, and rich medium; while the Better or Rich category was represented by two subcategories, rich-medium and rich.

Table 1 Economic livelihood groups in BRVPL and Poverty/Wealth category

Economic livelihood groups in BRVPL	Wealth/poverty Situation
Social assistance, pension, remittance, seasonal agriculture employment	Poor
Permanent family agriculture employment+ pension+ pluriactivity	Poor-Medium
Permanent family livestock employment+ pension+ pluriactivity	Poor-Medium
Self-employment+ pluriactivity +others	Medium-Poor
Seasonal non agriculture employment+ pensions+ pluriactivity	Medium-Poor
Commercial Fishing+ pluriactivity +others	Medium-Poor
Commercial agriculture +others	Medium-medium
Pluriactivity agricultural and non-agricultural	Medium-medium
Small business+ pluriactivity+ other	Medium-medium
Renting houses+ pluriactivity +others	Medium Rich
Remittances +pluriactivity +others	Medium Rich
Salary+pensions+ pluriactivity	Medium Rich
Commercial livestock+ others	Rich medium
tourism sector+ others	Rich medium
tree, orchard, flowers+ others	Rich medium
Large business + salary, remittances, pension+ pluriactivity	Rich

From the data gathered in the fieldwork, 50% of the livelihoods groups lie in Poor category which is divided in Poor that represents 15%of the livelihoods groups living in BRVPL and Poor Medium with 35%; in the Medium category lie 41% of the livelihoods groups, which are divided into 20% Medium-poor, 13% medium-Medium, 8% Medium-Rich; while the Rich category represents only 9% of the livelihoods group, where 8% is Rich-Medium and

only 1% can be categorized as Rich. The 15 economic livelihood group are presented in percentages in the figure below.

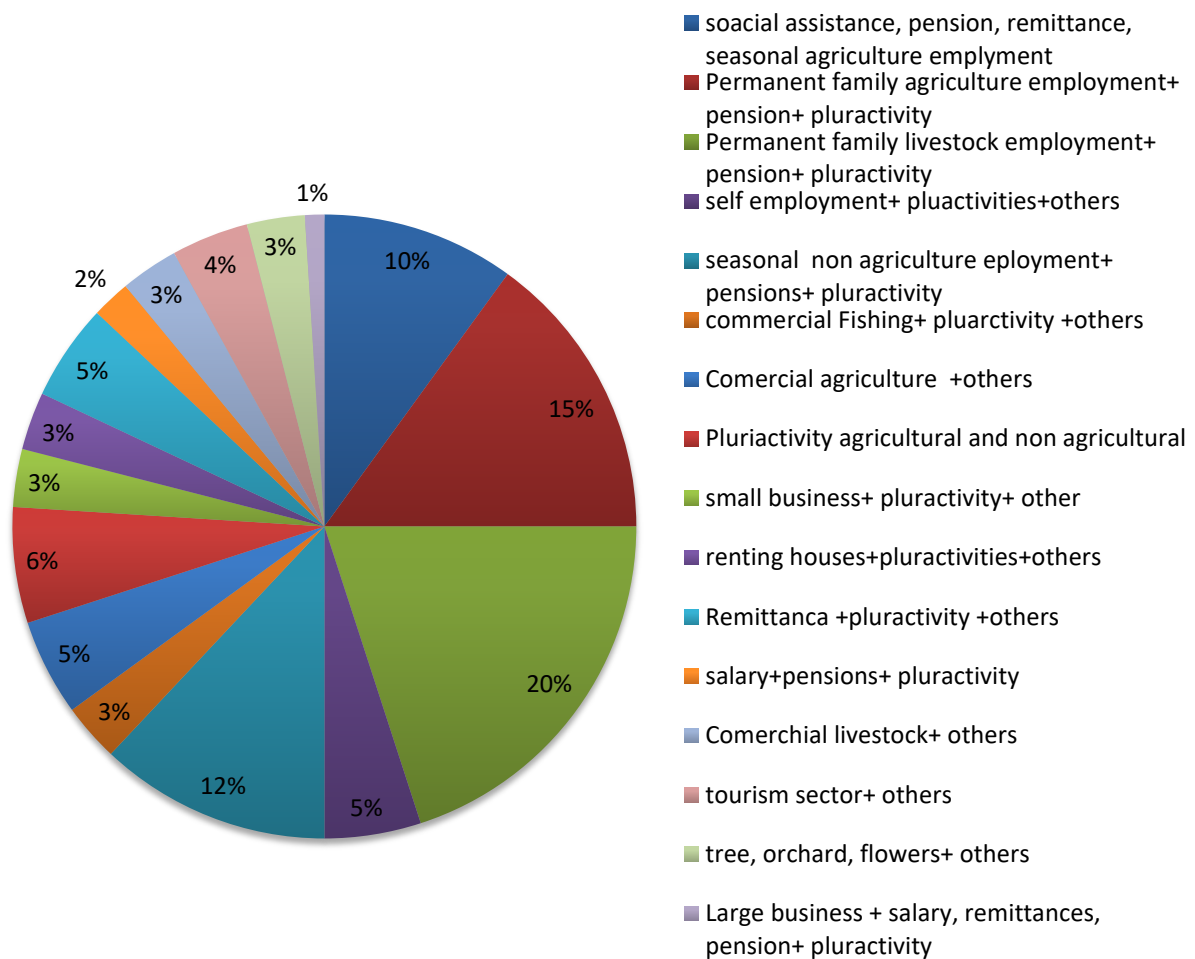


Figure 21 Economic livelihood groups in BRVPL and their percentages

4.2.5 Economic livelihood groups and their relation with ecosystem services

Economic Livelihood activities are closely related to ecosystem services and according to MA, they are classified as benefits people obtain from ecosystems. To ensure a sustainable livelihood for households and for the future generation the relation between them and ecosystem services are very important because it has a direct impact on human well-being through their provisioning, regulating, cultural, and supporting services.

In general provisioning, regulating and cultural services are more touchable for the people and higher percentages of responses, while supporting services aren't connected directly with their livelihood and for this reason many of the households don't evaluate them as something very important for their livelihoods that's why they have the lowest percentages, even though they are the basis for the better function of all the other ecosystem services.

From the data gathered during the interview, the majority part of the respondents evaluates that they take more than 50% advantages from the habitats like landscape, floodplain, rangeland, hills; average advantages from wetlands, sea, beaches and low advantages from dunes and resident area.

In the provisioning services the respondents take key advantages with more than 50% from Soil for agriculture and husbandry, domestic animals, surface freshwater, wood for firewood, fodder for domestic animals from floodplain; medium disadvantages

from groundwater, sea fishes, inland fishes, wood for construction, wood for fencing, wood for sale, wild edible plants, medical plants, wild commercial plants, sand, and gravel; while they take secondary advantages from Crustacean, Mollusks, wild birds, wild mammals, reptiles, amphibians, Fodder for domestic animals from marshes, fodder for domestic animals from forest, fiber, stone, and clay.

From the regulating services respondents declare they take medium advantages from wind regulation, sea tide regulation, ground recharge, freshwater, and water epuration while they take secondary advantages from coastal erosion.

In general cultural services have a low percentage, only landscape aesthetic was perceived from 58% of the respondents as a key advantage; while Intangible cultural tradition (festival, specific agrarian, and fishing techniques, etc., gastronomy), Tangible cultures (monuments, handicrafts, local animal variety, etc.), Sport hunting, Sportfishing, Inspiration, Sense of wilderness, quietness, Emotion, contemplation, Recreation (tourism) were perceived as a medium-low advantage. When asked about education and research the respondents stated that they just get secondary advantages from them.

All the results gathered from the interviews are presented in detail in the table below, which specify also the percentage estimated for each component of the ecosystem services and habitats.

Table 2 Percentages of Cases based on Advantages they take from ecosystem services and habitats

Percentages of Cases based on Advantages they take from ecosystem services and habitats		
Habitats	Landscape	97%
	Floodplain (agricultural land)	92%
	Rangeland (grassland, shrubland, forest)	55%
	Wetlands (marsh, lagoon)	24%
	Dunes	9%
	Hills	57%
	Sea	15%
	Beaches	16%
	Residence area	9%
Provisioning services	Soil for agriculture and husbandry	64%
	Domestic animals	72%
	Surface Freshwater	55%
	Groundwater	47%
	Sea fishes	32%
	Inland fishes	49%
	Crustacean	20%
	Mollusks	16%
	Wild birds	18%
	Wild mammals	13%
	Reptiles	3%
	Amphibians	8%
	Wood In general	60%
	Wood construction	36%
	Wood for firewood	58%
	Wood for fencing	38%

	Wood For sale	23%
	Fodder for domestic animals From floodplain	68%
	Fodder for domestic animals From marshes	2%
	Fodder for domestic animals From forest	5%
	Fiber	5%
	Medicinal plants	38%
	Wild edible plants	44%
	Wild commercial plant	33%
	Sand	35%
	Gravel	26%
	Stone	18%
	Clay	7%
Regulating services	Wind regulation	40%
	Sea tide regulation	33%
	Fresh water epuration	35%
	Coastal erosion	13%
	Groundwater recharge	35%
	Water epuration	46%
Cultural services	Landscape aesthetic	58%
	Recreation (tourism)	27%
	Education	16%
	Research	5%
	Intangible cultural tradition (festival, specific agrarian and fishing technique, etc., gastronomy)	31%
	Tangible cultures (monuments, handicrafts, local animal variety, etc.)	24%
	Sport hunting	22%
	Sport fishing	25%
	Inspiration	22%
	Sense of wilderness, quietness	24%
	Emotion, contemplation	25%
Supporting services	Fishes reproduction	19%
	Pollination	20%

Until now we have identified and analyzed the natural resources used by the household in BRVPL, their main economic livelihood groups and key advantages they take from ecosystem services. In this section, we go a step further and estimate the direct contribution that economic livelihood groups make in ecosystem services.

This data are very important to estimate the group that has a major impact on the ecosystem services because they show us where to intervene to improve the ecosystem situation when it needed. The findings below show us that only small percentages of the households have the highest impact on the ecosystem services.

From the data gathered, the three economic livelihood of Rich-Medium category Commercial livestock+ others, tourism sector+ others, tree, orchard, flowers+ others have the highest direct contribution with 82%; in the second place is the Medium category where Commercial agriculture +others have a direct contribution of 75%, Fishing+ Pluriactivity +others

livelihood group with 35% and Pluriactivity agricultural and non-agricultural livelihood group with 25% and all the other groups are less 7 %; while the Poor have a direct contribution to ecosystem services of less than 4%.

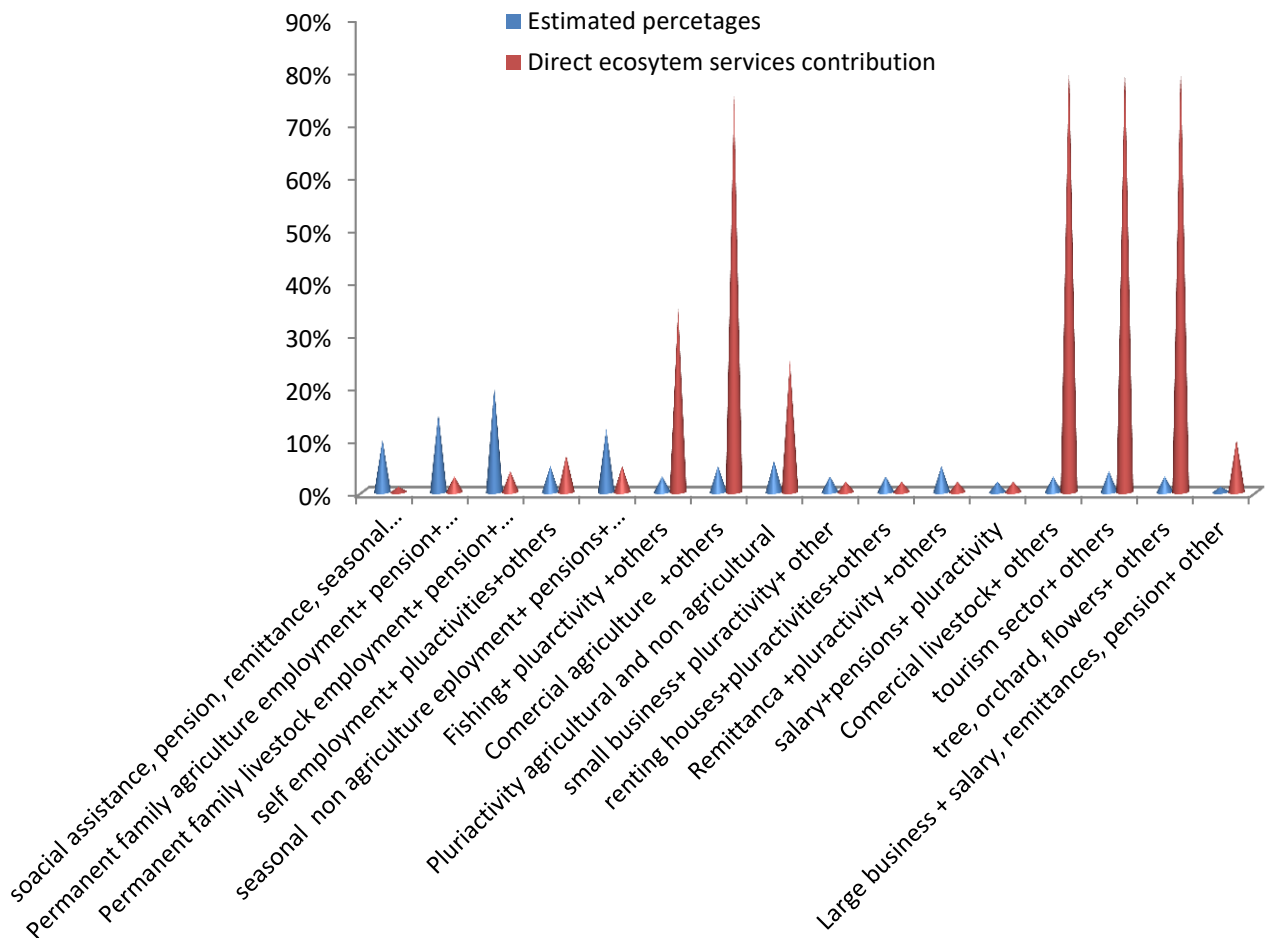


Figure 22 Economic livelihood groups and their contribution to ecosystem services

4.2.6 Habitats, natural and cultural resources trends

When asked about the trends of habitats, natural and cultural resources there were some variation in the respondents' answers. According to 65% of the respondents, the forest was the habitat that has the most positive trends, while 28% of the respondents thought that Floodplain has the lowest positive trends. Beaches and Marshes were considered from more than 50% of the respondents as having positive trends while approximately 40%-50% of them considered the same for Landscape integrity, Rangeland, Lagoon, Dune and Hill and only 37% of them stated that the river has a positive trend.

At natural resources and biodiversity category domestic animals were considered as having the most positive trends, were cattle was predominant with 83% of the respondents stating that; sheep, goat, pigs were seen as positive trends from more than 60% of the responders; Wild animals, Birds, Frogs, Reptiles, Sea Fishes, Molluscs, Crustaceans were considered as having positive trends from 50%-60%; Wild edible and commercial plants, Groundwater, and surface water resources were seen as positive trends from 35%-45% of the respondents; and less positive trends have Wild medicinal plants, Aquaculture, Freshwater fishes with more than 20% of the respondents stated that.

The category of cultural elements, in general, has the lowest percentages of positive trends. According to 51% of the respondents' Livestock special features have the positive and in the second place was the landscape with 45% of the respondents stating that. Traditional techniques were still running in the area and according to 42% of the respondents, this element will have a positive trend while more than 20% believe the same for Farming special feature and festivals.

A very important component for a good life in one society is solidarity, which is the tie that bound people that have same interests, objectives and a sense of kindness towards each other. Only 31% of the respondents see this element as a positive trend, which is very low and indicate that individualism is very high. According to MA one of the elements that characterized the well-being of society is a good social relations (including social cohesion, mutual respect, good gender and family relations, and the ability to help others and provide for children).

Traditional and sport fishing, Monuments and Traditional and sport hunting were the cultural elements that have the lowest percentages of the respondents believing in their positive trends, where Traditional and sport hunting was less represented with only 10% of the respondents stating that.

Table 3 Trends of habitats, natural and cultural resources

Positive trends in percentages of habitats, natural and cultural resources		
Habitats	Landscape integrity	42%
	Flood plain (agricultural crop land)	28%
	Rangeland (grassland, forest)	44%
	Beaches	56%
	Marshes	52%
	Lagoon (Villuni)	48%
	Forest	65%
	Dune	48%
	River	37%
	Hill	45%
	Natural resources & biodiversity	Groundwater resources
Surface water resources		38%
Wild mammals		56%
Wild water birds		62%
Wild Sea birds		68%
Wild inland birds		55%
Frogs		52%
Reptiles		58%
Insects		53%
Sea fishes		55%
Freshwater fishes		23%
Aquaculture		24%

	Mollusks	51%
	Crustaceans	53%
	Wild edible plants	43%
	Wild commercial plants	45%
	Wild medicinal plants	28%
	Cattle	83%
	Sheep/goats	65%
	Pigs	61%
	Poultry	71%
Cultural elements	Landscape	45%
	Monuments	15%
	Festivals	23%
	Traditional techniques	42%
	Farming special features	26%
	Livestock special features	51%
	Traditional and sport hunting	10%
	Traditional and sport fishing	18%
	Solidarity	31%

4.2.7 Social Assets

According to DFID social capital is defined as social resources upon which people draw in pursuit of their livelihood objectives which are developed through networks and connectedness, membership of more formalized groups and relationships of trust, reciprocity, and exchanges that facilitate co-operation and reduce transaction costs and may provide the basis for informal safety nets amongst the poor. All these elements are connected together and give people access and influence on institutions and which means people can affect and be part of transforming structures and processes.

Social capital is a very important element for the well-being of the individual in a given society. According to DFID, it can help to increase people's incomes and rates of saving (financial capital) improving the management of common resources (natural capital), maintenance of shared infrastructure (physical capital) and facilitate the share of that knowledge (human capital).

In general people in BRVPL have high relationships inside the family and to some extent with their friends and their near neighbor, but these relationships weakened when it comes to people from other neighborhoods or foreigners. Despite their good relation, the level of trust between them, in general, is very low; even if they stay together they don't trust each other. This is a very important element because by the end the society is just network of people cooperating together and based on the level they trust each other depend also on the future of their society and well-being of their households, as an integral part of this society.

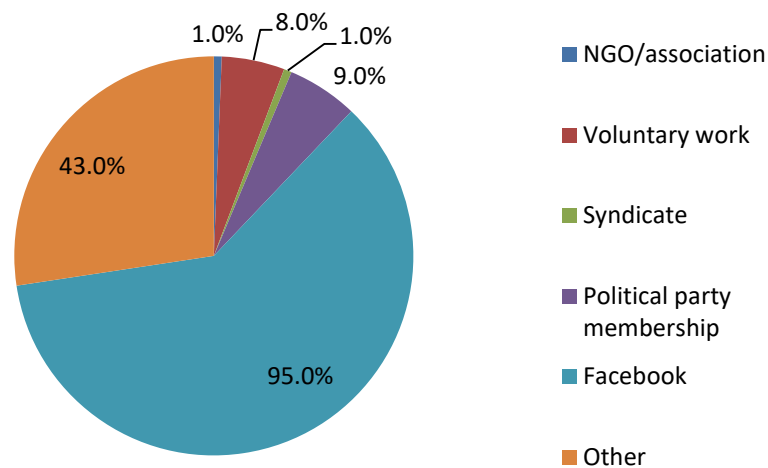


Figure 23 Social Assets

From the data gathered during the interviews, 95% of all the respondents have a Facebook, which was used to connect and communicate with relatives and friends; 43% of the respondents stated that except Facebook they also used other forms of social media like WhatsApp, Instagram and Messenger; while few percentages of people were engaged in political party membership (9%), voluntary work (8%), syndicate (1%) and NGO's (1%). According to Putnam, R. (2000), the loss in number and membership in the civil organization, labor unions, voluntary works decrease the social capital, putting democracy in danger because people do not participate in social interaction and civic discussion. According to him, the main cause for the decline of the social capital in a given society is the technology, which he explains as "individualizing" people leisure time via television and the internet.

In the figure below we make the division of Social asset by poverty/wealth category, to see which group have the heights access in this asset. The data showed that the Better off category has the highest percentages of social assets, while the poor have the lowest.

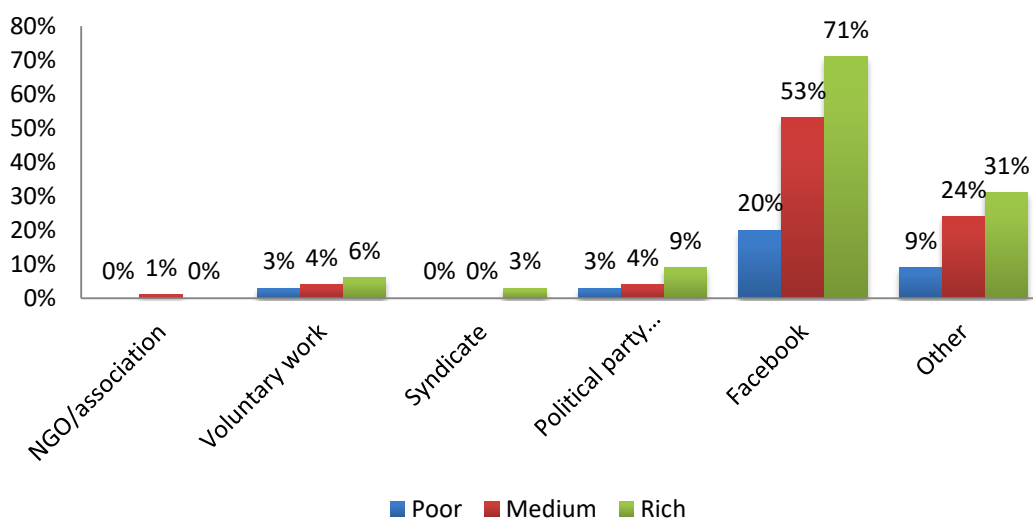


Figure 24 Social capital according to Poverty/Wealth category

All the forms of capital analyzed in BRVPL are presented in the Asset Pentagon according to Poverty/ wealth category. This final picture gives us a general and a better understanding of the distribution of the assets between Poor, Medium and Better off households.

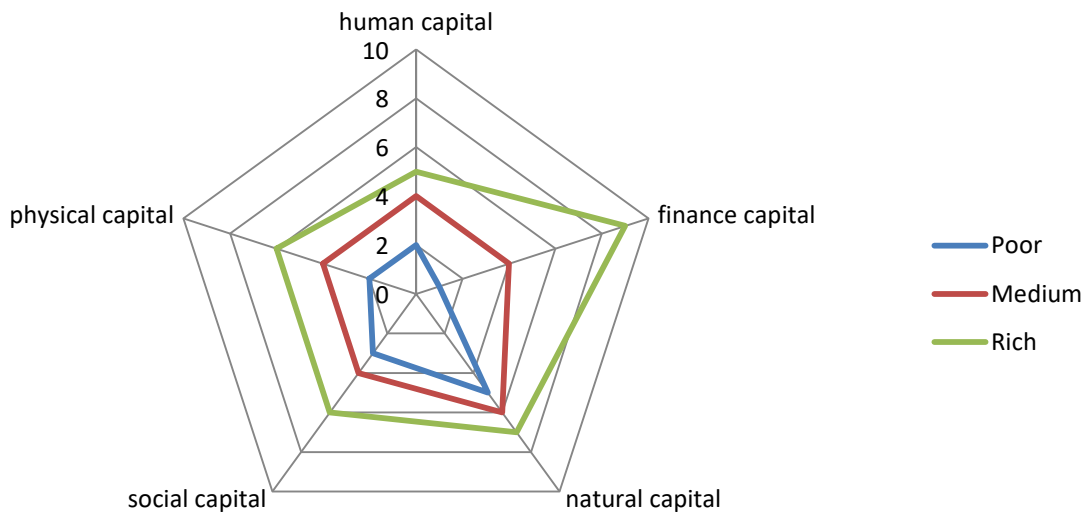


Figure 25 Asset pentagon by Poverty/ Wealth category

4.3 Institutional questionnaires analysis

4.3.1 Legal framework and key institutions in BVPL

DFID (2000) define institution in the context of the livelihoods approach “as the rules and norms that shape our behavior, while the policy is the course of action designed to achieve particular goals or targets”. According to DFID, “institution, organization and policy are always in the process of changing and through these processes they can determine access to assets and influence decision- making processes”. The role of the legal framework is very important in regulating the actions of all these actors and the members of society.

The new law of “Protected Areas” in Albania was finally approved in 2017. The main objectives of the law are the announcement, storage, administration, management, sustainable use of protected environmental areas and their natural and biological resources, based on the principle of sustainable development, to ensure the fulfillment of environmental, economic and social functions of cultural heritage, in the interest of the whole society, as well as defining the responsibilities of public institutions and private physical/legal entities for their conservation and sustainable management.

The purpose of this law was to provide special protection for the protected environmental areas and important biodiversity and nature components through: the proclamation of protected environmental areas which have particular importance because of their natural,

economic or social aspect, as part of the natural and cultural heritage of the environment; the development and protection of environmental areas, as national assets of particular importance for the rare and irreplaceable values in natural equilibrium and biodiversity as a liability in the interest of present and future generations; Facilitating the conditions for sustainable development, the promotion, and evaluation of ecosystem services; Information and education of the public on the condition and usefulness of the protected environmental areas.

Based on the legal framework the key stakeholders that operate in BRVPL are: Ministry of Tourism and Environment, National Agency of Protected Areas in Albania, Regional Agencies of Protected areas in Albania, Municipality of Shkodra, Management Committees, local and national NGO's, villages and university representatives. They can be categorized as national and locals stakeholders, but also as governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. The legal framework defines also the power, function and the role they have, which are presented and summarized briefly below.

Ministry of Tourism and Environment is the central policy-making institution responsible for the protection and administration of protected areas in Albania. According to the Law of "Protected Areas" the main tasks of the ministry are: identification of measures related to the management of existing protected areas, their classification, ecological network, "Ramsar" areas, identification of new zones and procedures for their announcement; Coordination of work for conducting studies, consultations and mapping for the announcement of new protected areas; coordination of work on the identification and evaluation of habitats of conservation interest for wild fauna species; provision and preparation of national policies for the management of the protected area network; proposal for the addition of protected areas and their inclusion in the national network; contributing and coordinating the work for the preparation of management plans for the protected areas for their implementation; approval and publication of the plan of zones to be declared protected in the following year; adopting the objectives for monitoring the protected areas and coordinating the work for their realization. Also, the Ministry of Tourism and Environment works and cooperates with the Ministry of Finance and Economy, Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, local government bodies, relevant research institutes, and civil society.

National Agency of Protected Areas (NAPA) is established in February 2015 as an institution under the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, which created the first independent administration of protected areas in the country. The National Agency on Protected Areas (NAPA) is the central state institution responsible for administration and managing the national system of protected areas.

The main tasks of NAPA according to the Law of Protected Areas include: a) Continuously leading, directing, organizing and controlling of the structures of protected areas under its authority; b) updating and intensifying the content of conservation and management of areas, through the development of contemporary concepts, practices, and schemes used by advanced sites in working with protected areas; c) management and administration of the network of protected areas, habitats and natural and semi-natural species of conservation

interest, in accordance with the Albanian environmental legislation, as well as with international environmental conventions and agreements; d) Creation and implementation of a standardized and formatted documentary system with which the management structures of protected areas work throughout the territory of the Republic of Albania; e) creation of the National Protected Areas File, Portal and Database, as a separate part of the Portal, the National Environmental File; f) performing periodic analyses and generalizations on the basic problems of protected areas and continuous information of the Minister; g) Creation and implementation of a methodology for drafting protected area management plans; h) revitalizing environmental education and raising awareness of local communities and the general public about protected areas; i) Promotion of forms, methods, rational ways for collecting registration, processing and dissemination of information on protected areas; j) approval of activities in protected areas as part of the process of issuing environmental permits for activities having an impact on the environment in protected areas; k) supporting and developing sustainable economic activities within protected areas in cooperation with the State Aid Commission; l) financial management of the protected areas network.

While in the central level AKZM has the status of the General Directorate, at the local level it is organized in 12 Regional Administrations for Protected Areas (RAPAs), which comprise the specialized institutional network for the protection and further development of protected areas. RAPA Shkoder is responsible for the management of BRVPL.

Shkodra Municipality is responsible for the administration of the territory of BRVPL municipality units and their villages since the established in 2014 of the Law nr. 115 for the “Administrative-territorial division”, while their role and functions, in general, are defined in the Law nr. 139 established in 2015 “On the Local Self-Government”. According to this Law, the basic functions of the municipality and it's representative's units are:

a) *infrastructure and public services*: Production, treatment, transmission, and supply of drinking water; Collection, removal and treatment of wastewater; Collection and removal of rainwater and flood protection in residential areas; Construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance of local roads and road signage, sidewalks and local public squares; Lighting of public spaces; Local public transport; Construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance of public cemeteries, as well as the provision of public burial services; Public decor service; Parks, gardens and public green spaces; Collection, disposal and treatment of solid and household waste; Construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of pre-university education system educational buildings, with the exception of vocational schools; Administration and regulation of preschool the education system in kindergartens and kindergartens; Construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of primary health care buildings and development of educational and promotional activities at the local level related to health protection, as well as administration of centers and other services in the field of public health, as appropriately defined by law; Planning, administration, development, and control of the territory in the manner prescribed by law.

b) *Social services*: creating and administering social services at the local level for the needy, the disabled, children, women, household heads, battered women, victims of trafficking, mothers or parents with many children, the elderly, etc., as provided by law; Construction and administration of housing for social housing, in the manner prescribed by law; Construction

and administration of local social service delivery centers; Establishment, in cooperation with the ministry responsible for social welfare, of the social fund for the financing of services, in the manner prescribed by law.

c) *Culture, sport and entertainment services* Developing, protecting and promoting the values and cultural heritage of local interest, as well as administering facilities related to the exercise of these functions; Organizing cultural activities and promoting national and local identity, as well as administering facilities related to the exercise of these functions; Development, protection, and promotion of libraries and reading facilities for the general education of citizens; Organization of sports, leisure and entertainment activities, development and administration of institutions and facilities related to the exercise of these functions.

d) *Environmental protection*: Ensuring, at the local level measures to protect air, soil and water quality from pollution; Provision, at the local level, of measures for protection against acoustic pollution; Development of educational and promotional activities at the local level related to environmental protection.

e) *agriculture, rural development, public forest and pastures, nature, and biodiversity*; Administration, use and maintenance of irrigation and drainage infrastructure, transferred to their ownership, in the manner prescribed by law; Administration and protection of agricultural lands and other categories of resources, such as useless lands, etc., in the manner prescribed by law; Establishment and administration of the local agricultural and rural information and advisory system, in accordance with the legislation in force; Creation and administration of local agricultural and rural development grant schemes funded by the local budget and / or co-financed by third parties, ensuring gender-balanced access; Administration of the public forest and pasture fund, according to the legislation in force; Protection of nature and biodiversity, according to the legislation in force.

f) *Economic development*: Drafting strategic development plans and programs for local economic development; Establishment and functioning of public markets and trade network; Support for small business development through promotional activities, such as fairs and advertising in public places; Organizing services in support of local economic development, such as information on businesses, promotional activities, making public assets available, etc.; Publication of informative brochures, creation of economic profile portals etc. 6. Providing financial grants to support small and medium-sized business activities as provided in the applicable legislation, ensuring gender-balanced access.

g) *public Safety*: Civil protection at the local level, and administration of the relevant structures, in the manner prescribed by law; Guaranteeing the service of fire fighting at the local level, and the administration of relevant structures, in the manner prescribed by law; Ensuring the smooth running of community relations, preventing and mediating conflict resolution in the community; Prevention of administrative violations, strengthening, inspection and monitoring of the implementation of regulations and acts of local self-government units within their local jurisdiction and in accordance with legal provisions.

The role of the municipality and its administrative units, their functions and responsibility in PA's, are defined by the Law of Protected Areas in 2015, where the cooperation with RAPA and the central administration of the PA is mandatory. According to the PA's Law, municipality through the Environmental Protection has the right to require from its entities

operating in the territory to strictly apply the requirements of environmental legislation in their activities.

Management committees are created to follow and supervise the implementation of management plans in protected areas. They are composed of municipality representatives where the PA is located, AKZM, local institutions that have direct connections with them, such as agriculture, tourism, infrastructure, civil society, representatives of forest and pastures owners located in PA's and headed by the prefect. The committees are proposed by the Minister of Environment and their composition, functions, duties, and responsibilities should be approved by the Council of Ministers. The committees haven't started their work yet until now is done only a pre-contract meeting with the other stakeholders.

Local and National NGO's that contribute to their activities in BRVPL are the stakeholders that represent the civil society, focusing on the main environmental issues of the area. They have high interest and are a strong supporter of BRVPL.

University representatives are engaged in different research issues in PA's offering their knowledge and work to have a better understanding of the area. They are mainly contracted by NGOs and only a few of them work as independent research, because of the lack of finance they have to continue by their own. Despite the work done till now, there is a lack of research in the BRVPL, where lots of issues are still uncovered and need further investigation.

4.3.2 Institutions interview analysis

For the purpose of our study, we conducted the interviews with the local institutions, which included both categories, governmental and non-governmental one. They were representants of RAPA, Municipality, Villages, NGO's and the University of Shkodra. The main idea was to catch the dynamics of the development and the relation these institutions have with each other, the knowledge they have about protection and development issues, but also to have a better view of the role these institutions play in the protected areas. This helps us to identify the key local stakeholders, which may participate in the project implementation or be consulted during participatory activities. Below we are going to present the findings from the interviews with this institution representants, while further detail about the persons who participated in these interviews can be found in the table in Annex 2.

4.3.2.1 RAPA

The interview with the representing of RAPA Shkoder was realized with its director, Agim Dardha. According to him RAPA Shkoder is the institution responsible for the management and monitoring of the BRVPL. Its main objective is the protection of the area from fires, digging, illegal hunting etc. The management plan of BRVPL was finally approved by the ministry of Environment in July 2018 and is in the first step of implementation. This was the best thing done since 2015 till nowadays from central and local government together, with the collaboration of the project assistance.

The action carried out by RAPA since 2015 was the continuing monitoring of the area for the violation of the law for conducting illegal activities in PA, placing the information sign especially alongside the Buna River banks and cleaning the trails in natural reserve in Velipoja. According to Rapa director the most important lesson they have learned from the local people is that locals should be more aware of protection and the damages they cause in the environment.

Main assets of the area are Landscape, Flora and Fauna, while the most important natural resources and ecosystem services are: Beaches which offers seasonal employment for the local people; Fishing which can bring more income to the households; Agriculture as one of the main activity people conduct in the area to secure their everyday food products.

The main pressures on the natural resources in BRLP are flooding, artificialization of the land and Global warming; while the main issue to be solved in BRLP is the market where the households can sell their agricultural products and road infrastructure, which will contribute in the improvement of their well-being.

The five most important natural resources to be protected to ensure good life and sustainable livelihood for the people in the BRVPL and for future generations are the river and natural reserve for tourism development, fishing in the sea and river, apiculture in Dajc, Oblike and Pentar villages, agriculture and livestock presented almost in all the protected area.

According to RAPA director, local people have overexploited the natural resources in general in BRVPL where river and forest are the most used together with fishing in sea and inland area. In agriculture land is the natural resource used more for vegetables, fodder and in some villages for commercial plants, while domestic animals like cattle, sheep, and poultry are more common in the area. Both of these resources, despite all are still used in a sustainable way by the local people. Also in the tourism sector, beaches, dunes, lagoon, natural reserve are used and manage on a sustainable way.

Habitats that have positive trends are Landscape, Sea, Lagoon, Forest, Hills; those which have a moderate negative trends are Rangeland (grassland, forest), Marshes and Dunes; while Flood plain (agricultural crop land) and river have a serious negative trends. The main reason for both of them is the flooding which cause the degradation of the land and increase the erosion along the river, especially in the delta.

In general Groundwater resources, Surface water resources, Wild mammals, Wild water birds, Wild Sea birds, Wild, inland birds, Frogs, Reptiles, Insects, Sea fishes, Freshwater fishes, Aquaculture, Molluscs and Crustaceans have a positive trends, wild edible, commercial and medical plants have a very serious trends due to the overexploitation for commercial reasons, but since there is no market sometimes they are not properly managed. Cultural elements that have positive trends are Landscape, Festivals, Farming and Livestock special features, traditional and sport hunting, solidarity; while Monuments, Traditional techniques and Traditional and sport fishing are having a negative moderate trends.

Based on the information provide, Rapa's office have a good knowledge about the situation of the areas and play a crucial role in its management; but their work also depend from the collaboration with the municipality and their villages representatives which administrate the

area, and since they come from different political party representation, sometimes difficulty to agree with each other's for specific issue relating the area have been Rapa's concern, as an institution that should execute the decision made by the Ministry and NAPA.

4.3.2.2 Shkoder Municipality

According to the municipality representants interviewed, the main role of their institution in BRVPL the support of the project implemented by the MTE as a partner institution in the management of this area and to avoid law violation; while the most important objective for their institution was the protection of the natural resources which bring economic benefits for the people living in BRVPL and Shkodra city, especially the protection of biodiversity and water resources. The information they have about the management plan of the area before the 2015 was a general one, but they stated that the plan was formally approved and recently its implementation have started.

According to them, since 2015 the MIT and its directorates have been responsible for the conduct of the environmental issues in the area, collaborating closely with Rapa as their main partner for the protection of the area. Also GIZ have been active in working for the flooding map of BRVPL. The roles of their institutions during this time in the area have been mainly focused in campaign for the increase of the awareness of local people in nature protection but also they participated in the cleaning campaign of Buna river, which was an initiative of the municipality and is one of the activities their institution planned to develop and continue further in the future.

Main assets of the area are the beaches, forest, hills and the land, while the most important natural resources and ecosystem services are: Buna river plays a crucial role in the area and is vital for local people life and economy, since is the main source of water used for irrigation and recently is become a touristic attraction which will bring more economic benefits for the local people and the citizens in the future; Fauna, especially fishes found in Buna river, which represents a source of food not only for local people but also for those living in the city, can be also used as a sport activity from tourists; Hills because can be used to produce more olive oils which can bring more economic benefits to the area.

The main pressures on the natural resources in BRLP according to municipality representants are human intervention, climate change, soil depletion because of the flooding and waste management; while the main issue to be solved in BRLP is governmental policy for unemployment, infrastructure, flooding and illegal fishing with generator in Buna river. The five most important natural resources to be protected to ensure good life and sustainable livelihood for the people in the BRVPL and for future generations are: Buna river, the beaches, the forest, dunes and marshes. According to the interviewees, overexploited natural resources by local people are Buna river, flora, fauna, fishing in the river and sea; while the tourism sector is managed in a sustainable way.

Habitats that have positive trends are Lagoon, Marshes, Forest, Dunes; while moderate negative trends are Hills, beaches, and Villuni lagoon, rangeland; and serious negative trends are river and agriculture crop land.

Natural resources which have a positive trend are groundwater and surface water resources, Frogs, Reptiles, Insects, wild edible, commercial and medical plants, Farming and Livestock ; while negative moderate trend are Wild mammals, Wild water birds, Wild Sea birds, Wild,

inland birds, Aquaculture, Mollusc, Crustaceans; and serious negative trend are Sea fishes, Freshwater fishes. According to them cultural elements have in general a positive trends, but to be mention here are Festivals, Farming and Livestock special features, traditional and sport hunting and solidarity.

4.3.2.3 Villages representatives

Villages Representatives based on the Law nr. 139 established in 2015 “On the Local Self-Government” are responsible for: the implementation and support the self-governing functions of the municipality in their villages; they take care of local economic development, the use of shared resources and ensure social harmony; prevent illegal interference in the drinking water and wastewater supply and sewage networks, the residential canals, as well as the irrigation and drainage channel network; also they take care and prevent illegal interference and any damage to roads, sidewalks and public squares in the village; care for the preservation of forests and pastures, as well as natural resources.

According to them, their role in BRVPL was to take care of the administrative issues and also nature protection. Their knowledge about Management Plan of BRPL was vague, and sometimes they misunderstood it, responding to the question referring to other foreign project that have been implemented or were going to be implemented in the area. They have little knowledge in this issue due to fact that they were new in their post and took their duties only in 2015, after the local election so they don’t have any information what happened before; and furthermore they depend from the municipality which belongs to the democrat party, which is in opposition with the central government that is occupied by the left parties, which creates unfavourable situation for them. They stated that there aren’t many things they have done in BRVPL since the municipality is in contradiction with the central government, they lack financial funds to intervene in the area.

According to them the area have lots of assets, where the main were the river, the beaches, the forest, the hills and the land, while the main problem to be solve are flooding; overexploiting of the natural resources like illegal fishing with generator in the river; road infrastructure, irrigation, drinking water and waste management. In the coastal area the increased and uncontrolled number of the tourists and business were the main problems.

Village representatives sees Lagoon, Dunes, and Marshes as habitats that have positive trends; while Hills, Rangeland have a moderate negative trends, and river, beaches, forest and flood plain as habitats that have serious negative trends. Natural resources which have a positive trend according to village representatives are, Frogs, Reptiles, Insects; while negative moderate trend are Wild mammals, Wild water birds, Wild Sea birds, Wild, inland birds, Aquaculture, Mollusc, Crustaceans, wild edible plants, Farming and Livestock; and serious negative trend are commercial and medical plants, Sea fishes, Freshwater fishes, groundwater and surface water resources. When asked about cultural elements, they respond that they are vague in the area except some Farming and Livestock special features and technique, and festival during the summer season in the beaches areas.

4.3.2.4 Local and National NGO's

Local and National NGO's plays a very important role in BRVPL. They are the stakeholders that represent the civil society, focusing their activities mainly in nature conservation and protection issues, being one of the main contributor and supporter of BRVPL. Both, these two types of NGOs have their contribution alone or together in PA, but there is also collaboration with international NGOs for different environmental issues.

Usually national NGO in Albania have their location in Tirana and are mainly more engaged and have a bigger and specialized staff in specific areas of environmental issues. They have more funding and more cooperation with other NGO's, being these local, national or international one, while local NGOs are smaller in size and have less specialized staff in specific environmental issues.

In interviews conducted with some representatives of environmental NGOs in Shkodra, we find that they still lack knowledge about the Management Plan of BRVPL and its current situation. Despite this, the information of the environmental situation and actions taken by these NGOs in BRVPL are numerous, mentioning here activities for protection of water Fauna, Flora, raising the awareness of the local population for protection of environment and biodiversity, development of ecotourism etc. These activities will continue, but a greater focus in the future according to these NGOs will have especially the environmental education, because they believe that more information and participation of local residents in environmental issues in BRVPL is very important for the future of the area.

Main assets in the area according to them are: the land, flora, fauna, the river, the beaches, the forest, while the main problem to be solve are flooding, environmental education starting in a younger age, the collaboration and cooperation between local and central government. According to the interviewees, main natural resources to be protected to ensure good life and sustainable livelihood, including for future generations of local people of BRLP are: Buna River, the beaches, the forest, surface and ground water, the hills, flora and fauna; while the main pressures in the area are lack of collaboration between local and central government, law enforcement in PA, illegal hunting and fishing, environmental pollution.

According to NGOs representative's habitats that have positive trends are: Beaches, Lagoon, Forest, Marshes and Hills, those who have moderate negative trends are: Landscape integrity, Rangeland, while river and flood plain are considered as habitats that have serious negative trends. Natural and cultural resources are seen from these representatives as having a positive trend in general.

4.3.2.5 University representatives

University representatives are engaged in different environmental research issues in BRVPL, offering their knowledge and work for a better understanding of this area. Due to lack of financial resources at the university in general for research and in specific for this kind of issues, academics are mainly contracted by NGOs to work as a researcher for environmental

issues. There are also few of them who work as independent researcher. Despite the work done till now, there are still lots of fields and issues that need further investigation in BRVPL.

Their knowledge about the Management Plan of the area are vague, in general according to them there have been some attempts from local and national NGOs, but nothing concrete is done so far. Action carried out but their institutions in BRVPL are mainly in environmental education practices and waste management awareness campaign. This later one was done in collaboration with national and local NGOs.

University representatives see as the main assets in the area surface and groundwater, flora, fauna and the river, while the main problem to be solve are flooding, overexploitation of flora and fauna, soil erosion. According to them, main natural resources to be protected to ensure good life and sustainable livelihood, including for future generations of local people of BRPL are: surface and groundwater, hills, forest, flora and fauna. They see global warming, illegal fishing and hunting, waste management as the main pressures in PA.

Rangeland, Beaches, Marshes, Lagoon, Forest, Dunes, and Hills are seen from the academics as habitats that have positive trends, while Landscape Integrity, Buna River and Flood Plain as habitats that have moderate negative trends. Natural resources which have a positive trend according to university representatives are: Surface water resources, wild mammals, wild water and sea birds, Frogs, Reptiles, Insects, wild edible plants, wild commercial plants, wild medicinal plants, cattle, sheep, goats, poultry and pigs. In general according to the academics cultural elements lack in areas but recently they have a positive trend, except solidarity which have decrease due to numerous factors like emigration, economic and political situation etc.

4.4 Visitor questionnaire analysis

4.4.1 General information

The total number of the interviews realized in BRVPL was 40, where 25 of them were realized with recreational visitors and 15 interviews with educational visitor. In way to have a better view of the situation we make another divide the recreational category of the visitor in two subcategory, beach visitors and the inland visitors. From the total number of the interviews conducted in the site, the majority part of them approximately 63% were local and national visitors, where 38% were educational visitors from Shkodra city and the other 37% were foreign visitors.

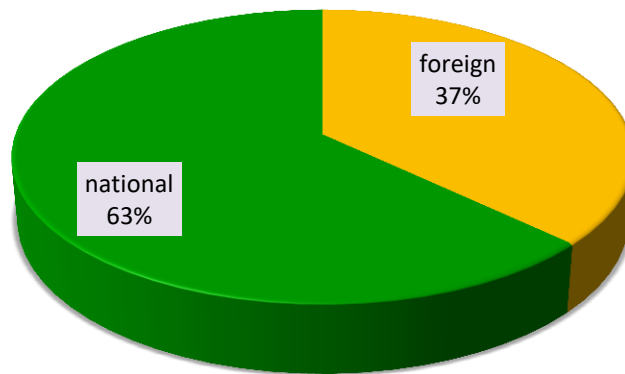


Figure 26: Visitor Profile in BRVPL

These percentages maybe not indicate the right division between local and foreign visitors in the area, due to the small amount of the questionnaires realized in site, but what was evident during the interviews was that usually foreign people were more interested in nature observation and nature based activity than local people.

4.4.1.1 Reasons for visiting BRVPL

The main reasons why the respondents came to visit the area were defined with the division we have done since the beginning, when we selected and put them in category. More concrete, we have beach visitors that came to enjoy sun and sea; educational visitors which were mainly students from high school in Shkodra that came to visit the park with the intention of gathering information about the BRVPL; and inland visitors which main reasons was to enjoy nature like forest, marshes, Buna river, but also make some nature based activity there like bird-watching, bicycle trails etc.

When asked about what specifically they were looking for by coming in BRVPL, 85% of the visitors answered that they come for the Landscape integrity and nature in general, and only 15% of them responded they come only for the beach. In general, tourists visit BRVPL to see the natural beauty of the area, while beach visitors are usually more focused on the sun and sea tourism, and few of them move around the area to see its beauty.

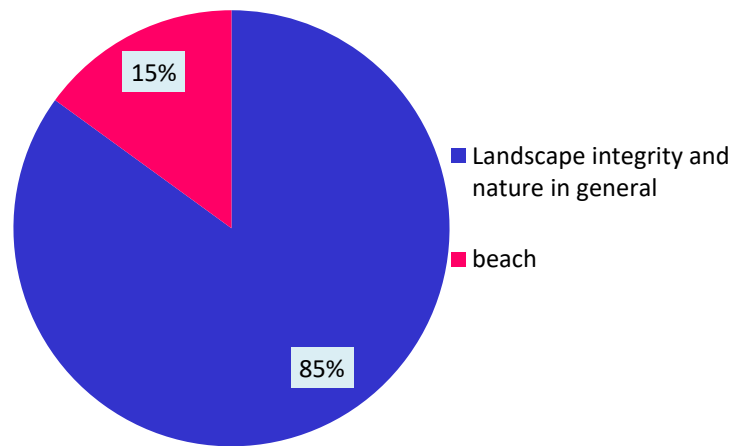


Figure 27: What specifically the visitors were looking for in BRVPL

4.4.1.2 Information sources about PA

When asked about information sources that influenced respondents to travel to the protected area, the highest percentages of the respondents turned out to have the information from the school, but since the selection of this category of respondents was not a random one, these data in reality doesn't indicate what it is showing. In fact educational visitors in the area are still low in number, and since it wasn't difficult to find some of them there, we decided to interview the last school that has been visited in BRVPL. The educational visits in this area are done with the help and investment of the NGOs, as part of their strategy to raise the awareness of PA in young people.

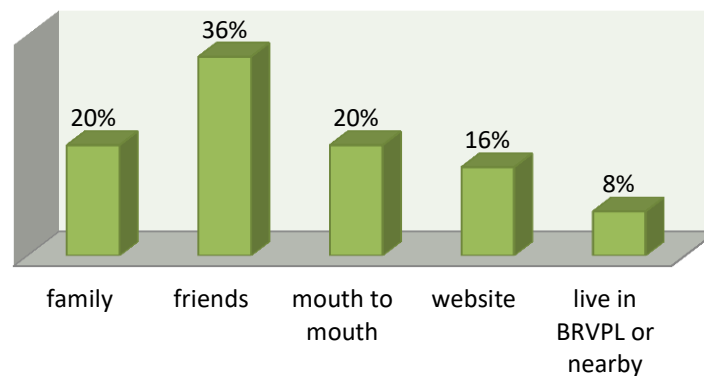


Figure 28: Information sources about BRVPL

What should be taken into consideration are the other categories, those who came for vacation to enjoy sun and sea and those who wanted to visit and observe nature. In these categories the most common sources to get the information about BRVPL is through friends with 36% of the total number of the respondents; in the second place are family and mouth to mouth information with 20% each; website is in the third place as an information source about

BRVPL with 16% of the respondents, and the last category are those who live in the area or nearby with 8%.

4.4.1.3 Visit intended/or done in BRVPL

When asked what they were planning to visit in the area or what they had visited, 29% of respondents answered they wanted or have visited the beach; while 66% of visitors were mainly interested in nature elements, where 24% of them were interest in the forest, 12% in river, 9% in nature, 9% in landscape, 8% the biodiversity and the smallest percentage within this category were those interested in birds with 4%. Also the percentage of those interested in cultural elements was very low, approximately 5% of visitors.

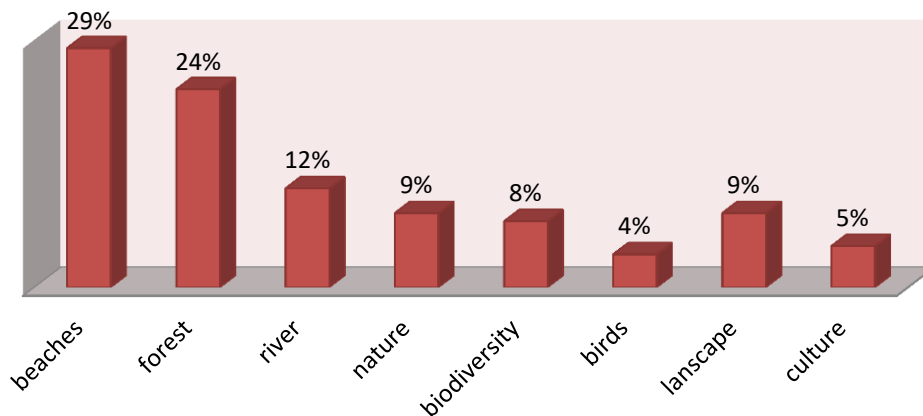


Figure 29: Visit intended/ or done in BRVPL

4.4.2 Visitor opinion

4.4.2.1 Main elements of natural and cultural interest for visitors in BRVPL

The key elements for which visitors show a higher interest based on the answers they gave during the interview were the landscape integrity and nature in general with 83% of the total number of the cases, where beach, sea, forest and river were the natural elements more preferred by visitors scoring from 65% the beach till 40% the river. In general 80% of the respondents stated that quietness of the area was one of the things they were impressed, which is very important for recreational visitors, who go and spend their leisure time and relax in PA. Since Tourism in PA has developed recently but has been increasing the last decade, this data indicate that BRVPL have the natural elements to develop a sustainable tourism, but there is still work to be done in this category and its cultural aspects with the promotion, protection and transmission of these elements to the visitors.

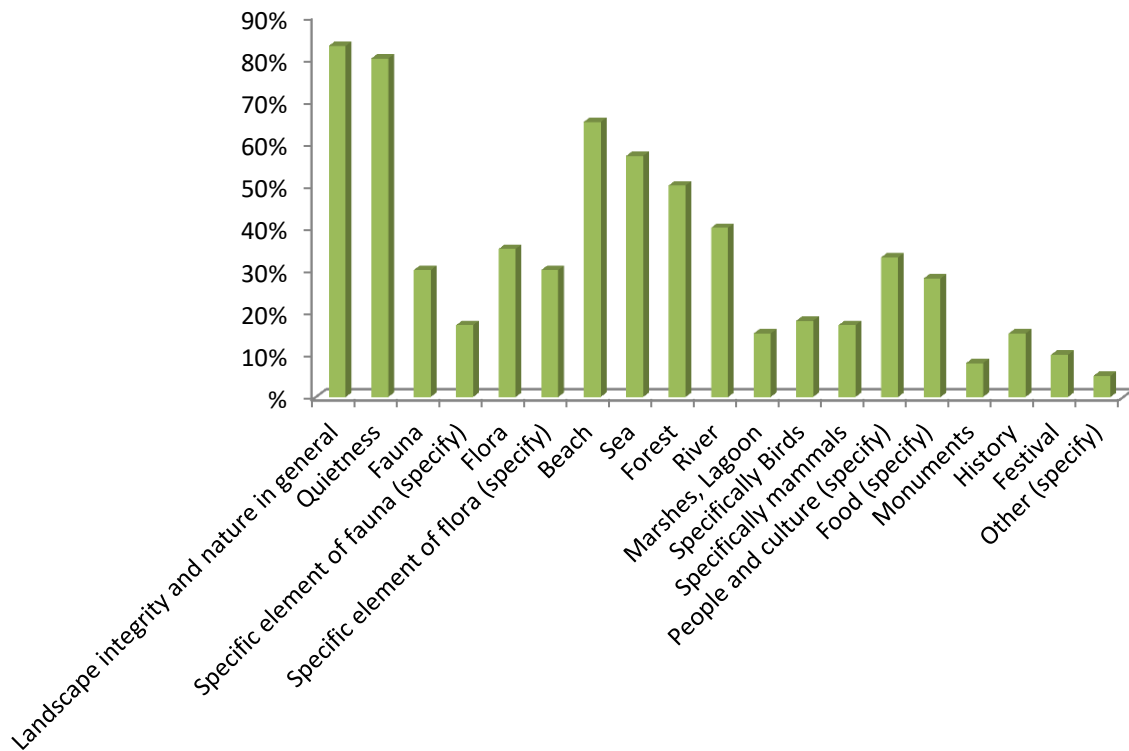


Figure 30: Main elements of natural and cultural interest for visitors in BRVPL

4.4.2.2 How visitor assess their visit condition in BRVPL

From the ratings made by visitors to the conditions of the area during their visit, the highest percentage is occupied by security with 77% and in the second place is sea quality with 66%. According to Eagle at al (2002), the levels of security and safety are very important for the development of the tourism, because this are the first thoughts people have in their mind when they are planning where to travel and what is most important is that it is very difficult ot change those thought if they are negative. Since there are a lot of destination where to travel, they always play it safe.

Instead, the high percentage of those who value beach quality is explained by the fact that the area have been known before for traditional tourism such as “sun and sea”, but according to Melenhorst et.al (2013), this kind of tourism has reached a steady growth stage, while ecotourism, nature and cultural heritage are growing rapidly.

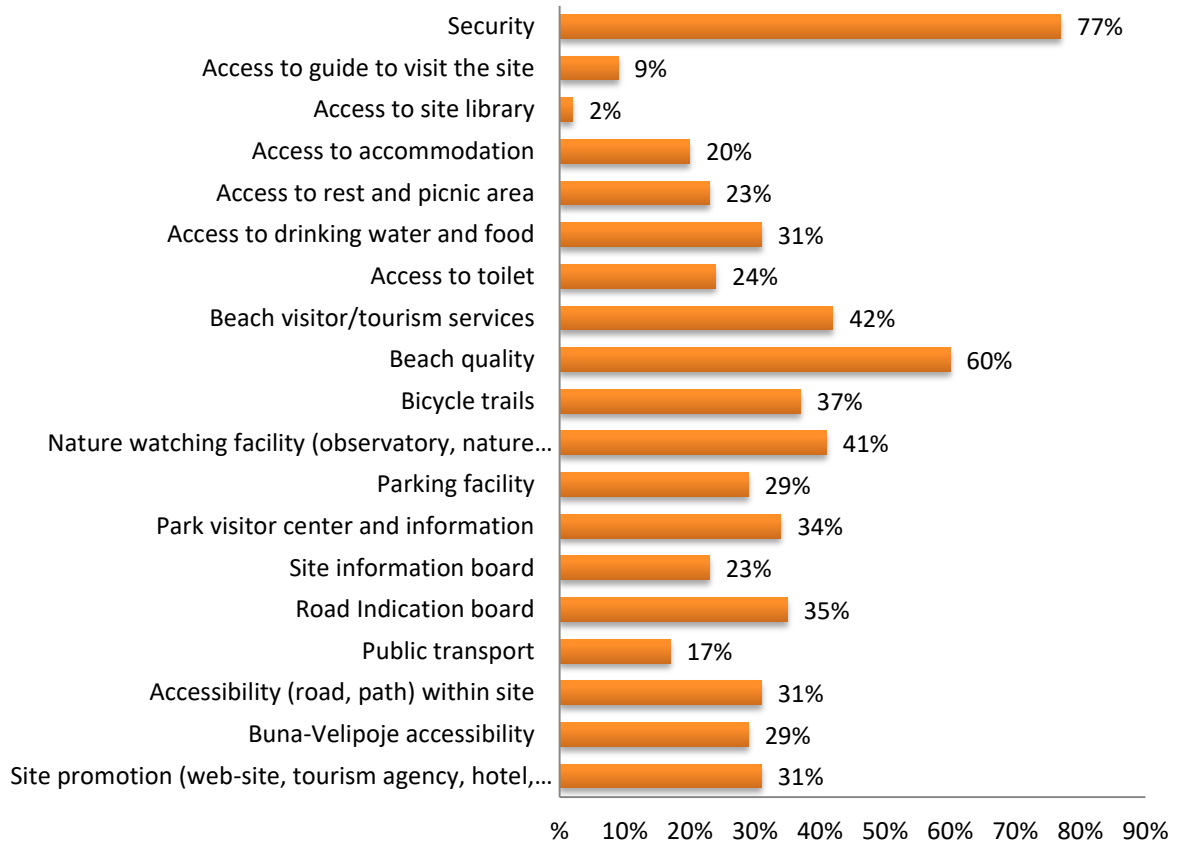


Figure 31: Visitor assessment of their visit condition in BRVPL

While the rest of the elements have been rated below 50% of the total amount, to be mention here are the beach visitor/ tourism services with 42%, nature watching facility by 41%, bicycle trail by 37%, road indication board by 35%, park visitor center and information by 34%; while access to drinking water and food, accessibility (road, path) within the site is 31%, and other elements are under 30% like BRVPL's general accessibility with 29% and parking facility with the same percentages. From the total number of the visitors the assessment they do to the access to accomodation, access to toilet, to rest and picninc area, site information board are between 20%- 24%. The lowest percetages are those of public transport with 17%, acces to guide to visit the site with 9% and acces to library with 2%. This datagive us very valuable information based on visitor opinion, and help us to iprove ourselves. It also indicate us what visitors needs are and where and what to improve in the BRVPL.

4.4.2.3 New knowledge acquired in BRVPL

In general 70% of the visitors declared they have acquired new knowledge about the BRVPL, expecially its nature, mammals, birds, wetlands but still there is 30% of them that declared the contrary. This indicates that the site need more promotion such as website, leaflet, brochure etc., guides to inform visitors about the potential of the area, maps, full time operation of visitor center etc.

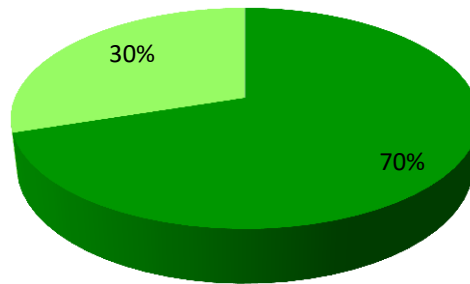


Figure 32: Acquired new knowledges about BRVPL

4.4.2.4 Visitor suggestion to improve the consition of the visit in BRVPL

Most of the interviewees declared that the situation is in general positive. The area is to some extent well-managed and well-protected, but there is still much work to be done in both of them. According to the visitors, some of the natural resources are being depleted by the human beings and if this situation continues further, the protected area will soon face serious problems. What is mentioned by the visitors are the large size constructions in the beach area but also near the forest. Overcrowding in the beach area during the summer period adversely affects the environment, not only in solid waste but also in acoustic pollution.

What is suggested by visitors is clearing the area of solid waste, placing more bins and collecting them more frequently from the relevant institutions. Improvement of road signage with all relevant signs for tourists to orientate, adjust street lighting and place sidewalks in the beach area as well as other villages in the protected area, improve and set up daily public transport in the area. protected area, making the area accessible also to those tourists who do not have private means of transport, more information area information such as brochures, leaflets, maps, guides for visitors to get more information about the area, more information boards inside the park and signposts, especially those related to bike paths, have a daily access to the visitor center, which can work longer hours during the summer season where the influx of visitors is greater, as well as improving the services of businesses, increasing their quality towards visitors.

Ajo cfare sugjerohet nga vizitoret eshte pastrimi I zones nga mbejtjet e ngurta, vendosja e me shume kazaneve te plehrave dhe mbledhja e tyre me shpeshnga institucionet perkatese. Gjithashtu permiresimi I sinjalistikes rrugore me te gjitha tabelat perkatese qe turiztet te orientohen, te rregullohet ndricimi I rrugeve dhe te vendosen trotuare qofte ne zonen e plazhit edhe ne fshtrat e tjere qe ndodhen ne zonen e mbrojtur, te permiresohen dhe vendosen transportit public te perditshm ne zonen e mbrojtur, qe zona te jete e aksesueshme edhe per ata turiste qe nuk kane mjete private transporti, me shume materiale informuese per zonen si brochure, fletepalosje, harta, guida per vizitoret qe te marrin me shume infor per zonen, me shume tabela informuse brenda ne park dhe tabela sinjalizuese, sidomos ato ne lidhje me shtigjet e bicikletave, te kete nje akses per dite te qendres se vizitoreve, e cila te punoje me orare me te gjate gjate sezonit te vere ku fluksi I vizitoreve shte me I madh, si dhe permiresimi I sherbimeve te bizneseve, rritja e cilesise se tyre ndaj vizitoreve.

5. Conclusion

- ✓ In general, almost all the interviewed households owned agricultural land in their possession in BRVPL, but despite this fact, most of these areas were mainly planted for family consumption and livestock, and very few of them were planted for commercial purposes. According to the households, they require a lot of investment, which based on their economic conditions, was impossible; they lack technological

means to work the land. They stated that the role of state intervention was seen as very important for the development of this sector of the economy which will help and develop further the protected area.

- ✓ Lack of legalization of the land and houses was another problem that prevents the area for further development; which means that households have the land in use but do not have a certificate of ownership, so they can not sell it or have access to the banks for financial credits they can make the investments by their own. Also, these prevent them from foreign investment, because they are not sure about the future of the land.
- ✓ Floodings caused by Buna River every year destroys even those agricultural products in the majority of the villages that have flat terrain, and sometimes even their livestock. That's not all; floods cause even more damages when its water recedes because it contaminates water and landscape with hazardous materials, such as untreated sewage and pesticides. These lead in the lack of drinking water and hygiene, but also leave the land surfaces full of toxins. In this condition, agricultural products are not safe for personal consumption and sales. But the households are not aware of this hidden danger; they think their products are bio because they do not use pesticides by themselves. So far they are aware only about destruction power of the flooding, the lack of drinking water and hygiene, not realizing that the problem is even deeper. Until now, there is a lack of accurate statistics and proper studies to see the current state of pollution in these land surfaces.
- ✓ Cattle plays a very important role in the improvement of the household economy and was this element that made the difference in the wealth classification category between poor category and medium-poor. Usually, those families that have cattle besides using the milk and its products for consumption, they sell it every day to the dairy farms representatives that go in every village and collect the milk. This gives to these families the daily income to cover their expenses and improve their economic condition.
- ✓ Pollution and Illegal fishing with dynamite and generators were the main pressure for the households in BRVPL. These pressures come as the results of bad governance and they are seen as main threats of ecosystem services in the area
- ✓ Diversification of income is a characteristic of BRVPL. Since the majority parts of the households in BRVPL are part of poor-medium and medium-poor category, as a consequence, they generate their income from engagement in non-farm activities and remittances, because one source is not sufficient.
- ✓ Clientelism and corruption phenomenon in all governmental institution was perceived by households as very high and according to them having a friend or knowing someone working there makes people's life easier, otherwise, they stated that you can't even get what rightfully belongs to you. These phenomena are everywhere, even at the foreign funds or investments in the area and the investment never goes to those who really need it.
- ✓ Lack of transparency is emphasized in every activity realized in BRVPL. People are not involved in the decision making process and even those meetings that are held in their villages are just formal; in most of the cases they do even have the information what is happening and for what reason. They see themselves divide from the rest of

those engage in decision making and only during the election they are counted as important, but only in the role of the voters, not as integral part of this process.

- ✓ In general, households have a lack of information about what a protected area represents, what their role in the area is, the rights they have, what a sustainable development means, and why this is important for them.
- ✓ Emigration has attracted the most educated, qualified, young age people leaving the area in a situation where the majority part of the population are mainly elderly, children, mostly unskilled women with a low level of education and as a consequence, their level of understanding and participation in the development of the area is not very high, not to say indifferent. This happens because their livelihoods are provided by emigration and only a few of them depend on income coming from agriculture or livestock. For these reasons, even investments in new businesses or the development of new ideas are missing in the area; but even those who emigrate don't turn back to invest in BRVPL because of the feel insecure about the future of their investment..
- ✓ The level of trust between the individual is also low. People feel unsafe and fear for their lives and assets because of the high poverty in the area due to the increase of the vulnerability groups such as older people. So those who have some wealth fear the situation. They lack the presence of the state.
- ✓ In general big businesses such as those dealing with sand and gravel extraction, or fishing in the sea or in the river with dynamite or those having large resorts and hotels are the ones who abuses with natural resources, while locals are the first to be controlled for their action, so their natural resources are exploited by others and the consequences will be on them.
- ✓ The institution plays a diferent role in the area; some of them are more engaged as others. Rapa is directly engaged in the management of the area but needs the cooperation of local government and its representatives. There is a gap created between central and local government because they represent different political party affecting negatively BRVPL because due to this situation there is no new investment from both of these institutions in the area. University of Shkodra is not very involved with studies in BRVPL because of the lack of funding, and researchers generally do research by working privately for various local and national NGOs. In general Ngo's have plays e crucial role in the area and have been very cooperating with Rapa and other institution engaged in different project for the protection of the natural resources and further development of BRVPL.
- ✓ Visitors generally, view the area positively and are impressed with landscape integrity and nature in general, security and beach quality, but there are still plenty of things to improve in the area such as information materials, information boards, road signs, full visitor center time, public transport to access the area, quality business services, road infrastructure, waste management, bicycle sign trails etc.

6. Recommendations

- ✚ Changing the point of view of the situation, through “**action from below**”, which means increasing the role of the people living in BRVL, making the households the **new focus** of investment, through direct and continuous awareness and information campaign about sustainable use and development of natural resources. Since these residents are the ones who have to build their lives based on these natural resources, this makes them the main beneficiaries of all the investment that are supposed to be done in the near future in the area, and for these reasons, they should be the first one engaged its protection for sustainable development not only for them but for future generation too.
- ✚ The role of civil societies and its visibility in BRVPL in this new the approach is very important. First, they are being seen as more trustable for residents of the area, then government institution because they are independent from the political party and their main aim is nature protection and conservation. Second, every time that a new party comes in power in Albania, they make changes in every institution and especially in its employments, which means also that every relationship built between institution representatives and residents in this area are destroyed and have to be rebuilt again between residents and new employments when they come; furthermore, the new representatives need time to be familiar with the work done in the area from its predecessor. In contrary to this situation, civil societies are in general stable and no matter what happens to the political situation they remain the same. What it is suggested is to increase further their presence in BRVPL; an intense and direct connection with residents through information, education and awareness for natural resources protection and conservation in one hand, but also serving as “a bridge” which connect individuals that leave in this area with institutions and their representatives there, creating so stable relationship and helping these two stakeholders get rid of the barriers that divide them.
- ✚ An important role in the application of this new approach may also play the visitor center managed by the RAPA staff, which in addition to its initial function can also be used as a point where volunteer training can be provided for fire protection, cleaning the protected area from solid waste, wildlife and vegetation protecting etc. Each of these participants, under the RAPA’s or NGOs supervision very well become a trainer of the inhabitants in his village, serving in this way as “a bridge” between the inhabitants of the village and NGOs or RApes. This can be done simply through monthly meetings in a place in the village center, creating in this way a tradition where everyone gets involved and says their word or gives their contribution to the environmental issues of their area. In addition, this will give the residents a common cause to work in a group, which will lead also in solidarity increase in the village, making social life more active and as a consequence, it will have a positive impact on the psychology of its residents too.
- ✚ To improve the economic situation and increase the number of employment in the area using the natural resources they have without overexploiting them one the idea is the creation of women's cooperatives in the villages, engaged in food processing and handmade products. Different areas offer different natural resources making this proposal even more interesting because of its diversity. In one village we may have

the processing of wild pomegranate, in another, we may have the processing of apples, grapes, etc., all these products and many more like these are products not affected by floods, which means the longevity of these cooperatives.

- ✚ The area also has the potential for the development of apiculture; olive trees in the hills which can be used for olive oil production; and vineyards with grapes for the production of wine and raki. All these products are present in different villages of BRVPL are not affected by flooding.
- ✚ All the above-mentioned products should be developed and promoted under one brand identity, for example, “Made in Buna”, “ Buna-Velipoje bio food ”, or “from Buna with love” etc.
- ✚ Establishing a partnership between businesses located in the area, such as hotels, restaurants, markets, etc. and these cooperatives, so they can sell and offer these products to the tourists or customers. This will help in the promotion of the products, bringing benefits not only to the businesses that offer it but also to those who produce them; helping so cooperatives or small villages businesses to improve their economic income and improving by the end the economic situation of the area too.
- ✚ For every product produced in BRVPL from these cooperatives or small business, an event, festival or fair should be created such as honey extraction, grapes harvesting, an event to show the process of making raki, olives collecting and processing them to olive oil, or other events like cheese or butter process exhibition etc. These events, festival or fair will engage not only those who do these jobs, but also the residents of the countryside, tourism businesses who in turn bring tourists and visitors to the area. Through a good promotion this can bring even more tourists from different countries of Albania and abroad.
- ✚ Increasing the role of tourism agencies through the creation of a guide that promote this cultural roots based on these festivals, fairs and local events in these villages; promoting Ecotourization as a way for sustainable development of the area and smart use of resources natural that they possess.
- ✚ Improving public transport will play a key role in further developing of the area, because it will allow residents and the tourist to have a better access to the BRVPL. Also, the improvement of road signage would be necessary for the safety but also for better information about PA for tourist and residents so they can know where to find what.
- ✚ Businesses operating in the field of tourism need further and continuous training on the quality of services and also on the sustainable use of natural resources, giving them the right information about their advantages and disadvantages.
- ✚ The intervention of the legal authority institutions in the area to prevent illegal hunting and fishing is very important, to stop the deterioration of the situation and help improving it. Also, this will increase the trust of the residents in the local and central government.
- ✚ There should be transboundary cooperation between businesses, resident’s, village representants, local governmental institutions from Albania and Montenegro, as the two-part of one picture. The exchange of experience between these two countries would be very important and fruitful, especially in cases of the successful use of

natural resources in the area, where households are an important part of these meetings. Since the river is a common natural asset why not develop tourist guides that connect these two sides, villages and places. This enables the region to develop as a whole, and not just partially, meaning the tourist can come to the Albanian part and have the opportunity to have materials like maps, brochures, leaflets, books from the other of the river that is in Montenegro, and vice versa, promoting a different culture that is connected by one river, and why not in the near future may be to think also for a physical connection between these two areas that are located on the two sides of the same river.

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8. Annexes

Anexx 1: Specifics of the villages in BRVPL where the interview was conducted

Villages	Main characteristics
Oblike	Vegetable, olive, fruit (Pomegranate), livestock, migration, seasonal migration in Montenegro. This is one of the areas most affected by flooding; there is a lack of irrigation system, high unemployment, lack of market to sell their product, high emigration. The majority part of the forest has been cut; recently the number of wild animals has increased.
Zusi	Fruit, olives, migration, hotel, restaurant. The area produce olive oil but lack a market to sell it, high emigration and low working force in the area, seasonal worker in Montenegro, the area is affected by flooding.
Dajc	Decorative Flower for export, cheese, livestock, pigs, cattle, maize, migration (Italy); the area is very affected by flooding, high emigration, and increase of the vulnerability group such as elderly and women. The economy is based on decorative plant export and agriculture.
Velipoje	Fodder, grape for wine, Lagoon for fishing, restaurant, hotel, bar, marshes, forest, lagoon and fishing sea. It is the most visited and part of the area and beach tourism is the most developed category of tourism. High emigration.
Berdice e siperme	Maize, fodder, cattle, pig, sheep, cheese, sand and gravel for construction. One part of it Is affected by flooding, poor road infrastructure; the economy was mainly based on small business activity; lack of sanitation.
Pentar	Based on the hill, not affected by flooding, in front of Montenegro goats, cattle, sheep, cheese, migration, wild pomegranates, high emigration, and seasonal worker in Velipoje.
Baks Rrjoll	Is located near Viluni lagoons, beach tourism is developed recently and the number of tourism is still very low, it is near the mountain and Is not affected by flooding, maize, vegetables, fruits like apple, pear, peach, grapes, etc.; lack of a market to sell their products.
Cas	The lower part of this area is affected by floods, while the upper Cas was on the hill. There was no agriculture; the economy in the area is based on livestock, mainly cattle. The school was closed because there were no pupils attending it.
Pulaj	The economy was mainly based on agriculture and livestock. They lack irrigation systems and drainage channels. The area was affected by flooding. High emigration and very low economic level.
Muriqan	Fruits like apple, grapes, olives, and apiculture. The area is affected by flooding; the village has high daily worker migration to Montenegro especially during the summer because is close to the border.
Baks I Ri	Mandarins, vines, agriculture land, low number of people living in the area and high emigration, lack of irrigation system, lack of drainage channels, a high number of old people and unskilled women.
Gomsiqe	Good road infrastructure and potable water; agriculture land but no investment; the area was affected by flooding; grapes, apple, pear, peach, nectarines, vegetables, cattle, pig, poultry.
Luarze	The village was near the river and was affected by flooding as a consequence the agriculture products were destroyed every time the floods happen. The agriculture products were mainly used for self-consumption. The villages cultivate mandarins and pomegranate. There was a lack of a market to sell their products and bad road infrastructure.
Rec I Ri	Livestock such as pig and cattle, sheep in small quantity; bad road infrastructure; agriculture land planted mainly with maize, fodder, and wheat; the area is affected by flooding.
Samrisht I ri	Agriculture land planted mainly with decorative plant for export in Pistoia (Italy), and less with Maize, wheat, fodder, and vegetable for self-consumption. The village has a

	good economic level due to the business of decorative plants and remittances.
Darragjat	The village was near the city and have a good road infrastructure. The economic level was also good because the majority part of the households work as self-employment in business like a decorative plant which was exported in Italy, and the area has also businesses as bar, restaurants, small market; agriculture land planted with vegetable for self-consumption.
Belaj	Agriculture land planted only with vegetable for self-consumption because of the lack of income for further investment; the low number of residents that live in the area due to the high migration; good road infrastructure and drainage channels, but the area was affected by flooding.
Beltoje	Good road infrastructure and recently the government have invested in the drainage channels, but there is no investment in agriculture due to the high emigration of young people mainly men, which means lack of the working force in the area. The main source of household income came from olive tree cultivation and the production of olive oil.
Berdice e poshtme	The village is near Shkodra city and the majority part of the people living in this area was mainly employed in a government institution, only a few of them worked as an employer in a small local business. The village was affected by flooding, lack of drainage channels and sewage; the main road infrastructure was good, but the small roads inside the village were not.
Mushan	It was mainly an agricultural area; some of the households have machinery and tools to work the land. The area has high emigration and good road infrastructure. Remittances play an important role in improving the household economy; livestock such as cattle, sheep, goats, and poultry.
Fshat I ri	The village was mainly poor and was affected by flooding. Because of this reason, the households were mainly focused on livestock, such as cattle, sheep, pigs and less n agriculture; they usually plant only for self-consumption and to feed livestock.
Obot	The cultivate pomegranate, olives, sage, and some vegetable mainly for self-consumption; only a few of them sell the products in Shkodra city. The area was affected by flooding and the unemployment was very high. They lack a market to sell their product and the main economic income comes from seasonal employment in Velipoja or Montenegro and from remittances.
Trush	Good road infrastructure but lack of sewage system. The area was affected by flooding. Main economic income comes from remittances and few of the young people living in the area were engaged in small business. The number of old people was very high.
Melgush	Hills, agriculture land planted with maize, fodder, wheat; livestock such as cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, and poultry; the area was affected by flooding and the emigration was very high.

Anexx 2: List of Institutional representatives interviewed in BRVPL

Nr	Name, Surname	Instititution	Contact
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1	Agim Dardha	RAPA Shkoder	Agim.Dardha@akzm.gov.al
2	Aida Shllaku	Municipality representative	aidashllaku@gmail.com
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4	Anila Neziri	NGO- Green Center Albania	greencentrealbania@gmail.com
5	Atrida Ferketi	NGO- Albania Shkodra Lake forum	+355 674060004
6	Alminda Mema	NGO- Qendra Aarhus	aicshkodra@gmail.com
7	Fatmir Prroni	Oblike Villages rapresentatives	+355 6933 85417
8	Gegor Pemaj	Obot Villages rapresentatives	+355 6736 70377
9	Sander Viluni	Baks Rrjoll Villages rapresentatives	+355 6761 58081
10	Altin Kaci	Velipoje Villages rapresentatives	+355 6737 95551
11	Arben Gjergji	Rec I Ri Villages rapresentatives	+355 6752 38444
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13	Marash Rakaj	Academic	marashrakaj@yahoo.com
14	Renato Lumci	Academic	Renato_lumci@hotmail.com

Anexx 3: Questionnaires

Community questionnaire (focus group)

Municipality		
Municipality unit		
Village		
Coastal/Inland		
Localization and date of meeting		
Duration of meeting		
Names of enumerators		
Number of participants		
Number of women		
Number of youth (less than 25 years old)		
		Number
Institutional and professional representation	Village representation	
	Commercial farmers	
	Commercial livestock husbandry	
	Sea fishery	
	Inland fishery	
	Aquaculture	
	Restaurant/bar	
	Hotel/guesthouse	
	Tourism agency	
	Shop	
	Trade	
	Transport service	
	Salary	
	Seasonal employment	
	Artisan/handicraft	
	Small/medium enterprise	

	Industry	
	Jobless	
	Student	
	Retired people	
	NGO/association	
	Others	

OPEN QUESTIONS

A. What are the key characteristics of **the population** of this area?

- In general? (lets the participants to express what they want)
- History?
- Ethnic origins?
- Settled here long time ago or recently?
- Key traditions: social, production, economy?
- Relationship with other parts of Albania?
- Relationship with Montenegro?
- Relationship with Adriatic Sea?
- Relation with Shkodër town?
- Relationship/migration with other countries?
- Demographic trends since the last 20 years: increase, decrease, stable? Reasons of changes?
- Emigration tendency since the last 20 years? Who and why?
- Immigration tendency since the last 20 years and why?

B. What are the main characteristics of **your area** as compared to others in Albania?

- In general (lets the participants to express what they want)
- Physical (landscape, agrarian structure, geomorphology, habitats, residential setting, beach, sea, floodplain, hill, etc.)
- Historical,
- Social (social organization, social event, ethnicity, way of life, etc.)
- Economy, (production, processing, expertise, etc.)
- Culture, (Monuments, festival, gastronomy, local agriculture and fishing practices, architecture, handicraft, artistic features, education, sport, sport and leisure hunting and fishing, beach activities, etc.)
- Natural resources (fresh water, Sea water, mammals, birds, reptiles, batrachians, insects, fishes, mollusks, crustaceans, annual plants, trees, mushrooms, fibers, clay, sand, gravel, stones, medicinal plants, etc.)
- Others. (Specific features of the area)

C. Compared to 20 years back, what have been the **main changes** you have observed, in order of key importance for you?

For each one, what is the reason/cause of the change, the consequence (and positives/negative points) and the prospect if it continues?

Main	Since when?	Who initiate	Group	Consequences	Prospect
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changes	Date/period of change	Reasons/causes	concerned or affected	Positive points	Negative points	

D. What are the main assets/positive features of your area?

Positive assets	Did you and how did you value them	What type of actions and investment did you do to further value them?	What could be done to further value them?	Any measure to take to ensure sustainable valuation?

E. What are the main difficulties/problems of your area?

Difficulty/problems	Where in the area	Reasons	Group affected and how?	Consequence for the environment?	Any actions taken? How affected group reacted?

F: What are the key Livelihood groups and economic functioning in your area?

Livelihood groups	Key productions and incomes	Secondary productions and incomes	In case of food insecurity, economic difficulty	Where in the BRLP area (habitats)	Estimated percentage of households in BRLP
Farm-based					
<i>Owner-cultivator cereals</i>					
<i>Commercial vegetable</i>					
<i>Cattle husbandry</i>					
Fishery-based					
<i>Boat owner Sea fishing</i>					
<i>Boat owner river fishing</i>					
Non-farm non-fishery					

based					
<i>Pension</i>					
<i>Trade</i>					
<i>Salary</i>					
<i>Restaurant</i>					
Mixt livelihood					
<i>Agriculture-fishing</i>					
<i>Agriculture-business</i>					

SEMI-STRUCTURED QUESTIONS

G. What do you know from the Management Plan for Buna Protected landscape? During the preparation before 2015? Now?

H. What has been done in BLRP since 2015 with public (central government and municipalities) and/or projects assistance?

1.

2.

3

I. What would you see as three first **protection and/or development** priorities in BRLP, where and why?

Priority actions	Where (localization, habitat)	Why
1		
2		

J. What are the five main natural resources local people are using in BRLP

<u>Resources</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>Who (which livelihood group from table above)</u>	<u>Well managed (W) Overexploited (O) Underexploited (U)</u>

K. What, in your opinion, are the 5 main pressures on the natural resources in your area, in order of importance?

Pressures	Natural resources affected	Where in BRLP?	Why?

L. In your opinion, what are the five most important natural resources, by order of importance, to be protected to ensure good life and sustainable livelihood, including for future generations?

<u>Resources</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>Remarks, suggestions</u>

M. For the local population, what are the conditions (success of protection and sustainable Livelihood) associated with BRLP Protection?

Level of protection	Conditions	Main local livelihood groups concerned
In general		
Beaches (Velipoje beach and Baks Rrjolli Beach)		
Forest		
Wetlands (Petharia marsh, alluvial forest, Villuni lagoon, Domni freshwater marsh)		
Buna floodplain (Agricultural land)		
Hills		
Dunes		
River		
Residential areas		
Freshwater		
Fauna		
Flora		
Other		

N: What are the main advantages or disadvantages you get from the habitat and natural resources? (*ecosystem services*)?

Ecosystem services	Advantages 1: key 2: medium 3.No or secondary	Disadvantages : key 2: medium 3.No or secondary	Remarks
Habitats			
Landscape			
Floodplain (agricultural land)			
Rangeland (grassland, scrublands, forest)			
Wetlands (marsh, lagoon)			
Dunes			
Hills			
Sea			
Beaches			
Residence area			
Provisioning			
Soil for agriculture and husbandry			

Domestic animals			
Surface Freshwater			
Groundwater			
Sea fishes			
Inland fishes			
Crustacean			
Mollusks			
Wild birds			
Wild mammals			
Reptiles			
Amphibians			
Wood			
- In general			
- For construction			
- For firewood			
- For fencing			
- For sale			
Fodder for domestic animals			
- From floodplain			
- From marshes			
- From forest			
Fiber			
Medicinal plants			
Wild edible plants			
Wild commercial plant			
Sand			
Gravel			
Stone			
Clay			
Regulation			
Wind regulation			
Sea tide regulation			
Fresh water epuration			
Coastal erosion			
Groundwater recharge			
Water epuration			
Culture			
Landscape aesthetic			
Recreation (tourism)			
Education			
Research			
Intangible cultural tradition (festival, specific agrarian and fishing technique, etc., gastronomy)			
Tangible cultures (monuments, handicrafts, local animal variety, etc.)			
Sport hunting			

Sport fishing			
Inspiration			
Sense of wilderness, quietness			
Emotion, contemplation			
Support			
Fishes reproduction			
Pollination			

O. Score of habitats, natural, domesticated and cultural resources trends

Natural resource	Positive trends	Negative trends		Why? Reasons?
		moderate	Serious	
Habitat				
Landscape integrity				
Flood plain (agricultural crop land)				
Rangeland (grassland, forest)				
Beaches				
Marshes				
Lagoon (Villuni)				
Forest				
Dune				
River				
Hill				
Natural resources & biodiversity				
Groundwater resources				
Surface water resources				
Wild mammals				
Wild water birds				
Wild Sea birds				
Wild inland birds				
Frogs				
Reptiles				
Insects				
Sea fishes				
Freshwater fishes				
Aquaculture				
Mollusks				
Crustaceans				
Wild edible plants				
Wild commercial plants				
Wild medicinal plants				
Cattle				
Sheep/goats				
Pigs				
Poultry				
Cultural elements				

Landscape				
Monuments				
Festivals				
Traditional techniques				
Farming special features				
Livestock special features				
Traditional and sport hunting				
Traditional and sport fishing				
Solidarity				

Household questionnaire

Municipality	
Municipality unit	
Village	
Coastal/Inland	
Localization and date of meeting	Localization: _____ Date: _____ 2018
Duration of meeting	
Gender and age	M/F Age: _____
Official status/profession of the respondent	Active – retired – student – jobless – Profession: _____
Native from the area	Yes/No
Brief observations (enumerator analysis)	
<i>Quality/size of house and equipment</i>	
<i>Other house (including for rent)</i>	
<i>Ownership of land and nature of land (ha)</i>	
<i>Renting land</i>	Renting his land to others - Renting other's land
<i>Cattle</i>	
<i>Goat/sheep/pig</i>	
<i>Poultry</i>	
<i>Vehicles</i>	
<i>Agricultural equipment</i>	
<i>Boat</i>	
<i>Other assets</i>	Restaurant, bar, shop, guesthouse, hotel, mechanic workshop, carpentry, etc.
<i>Other income and services from households</i>	Salary, pension, remittance, subsidy, renting, trade, taxi, transport, etc.
<i>Estimation of the socio-economic situation of the household</i>	Poor – Medium – better-off

OPEN QUESTIONS

A. What are the main characteristics of your area as compared to others in Albania?

- In general
- Physical (landscape, agrarian structure, geomorphology, habitats, residential setting, beach, sea, floodplain, hill, etc.)
- Historical,
- Social (social organization, social event, ethnicity, way of life, etc.)
- Economy, (production, processing, expertise, etc.)
- Culture, (Monuments, festival, gastronomy, local agriculture and fishing practices, architecture, handicraft, artistic features, education, sport, sport and leisure hunting and fishing, beach activities, etc.)
- Natural resources (fresh water, Sea water, mammals, birds, reptiles, batrachians, insects, fishes, mollusks, crustaceans, annual plants, trees, mushrooms, fibers, clay, sand, gravel, stones, medicinal plants, etc.)
- Others. (Specific features of the area)

B. Compared to 20 years back, what have been the main changes you have observed, in order of key importance for you?

Main changes	Since when? Date/period of change	Reasons/causes	Group concerned or affected	Consequences		Prospect
				Positive points	Negative points	

C. What are the main assets/positive features of your area?

Positive assets	Did you and how did you value them	What type of actions and investment did you do to further value them?	What could be done to further value them?	Any measure to take to ensure sustainable valuation?

D. What are the main difficulties/problems of your area?

Difficulty/problems	Where in the area	Reasons	Group affected and how?	Consequence for the environment?	Any actions taken? How affected group reacted?

E. What would you see as five first **protection and/or development** priorities in your village area, where and why?

Priority actions	Where (localization, habitat)?	Why?

F. Saving/investment cycles and priorities

In case of financial saving	What priority use for your household?	Objective?
If you had 15000 Lek (120 euros) saving, what would you do with that amount?		
If you had 70 000 Lek (520 euros) saving, what would you do with that amount?		
If you had 400 000 Lek (more than 3 000 euros) saving, what would you do with that amount?		
If the village had 1 million Lek (about 8000 euros), how you would like the village to use this amount?		

SEMI-STRUCTURED QUESTIONS

G: What is your Livelihood and estimated % (number) similar to your situation in BRLP (or your village)?

Livelihood groups	Key productions and incomes	Secondary productions and incomes	In case of food insecurity, economic difficulty	Where in the BRLP area (habitats) Or village	Estimated percentage of households in BRLP Or village
What are the household sources of economic/production value return per year, by order of priority, including you and all other members of your family					
1					
2					

3					
4					
<i>Livelihood group</i>					
<i>Cropping-based</i>					
<i>Livestock-based</i>					
<i>Fishery-based</i>					
<i>Tourism-based</i>					
<i>Non-farm/fishery based</i>					
<i>Mixt</i>					

H. How do you see your medium long-term economic livelihood development?
What activities to enhance and why? What activities to reduce and why?

I. What are the five main natural resources your household is using in BRLP (or village territory)

<u>Resources</u>	<u>Where?</u> <u>(location, habitat)</u>	<u>Purpose?</u>	<u>Trends</u> <u>Increase (I)</u> <u>Stable (S)</u> <u>Decrease (D)</u>	<u>Well managed (W)</u> <u>Overexploited (O)</u> <u>Underexploited (U)</u>

J. What, in your opinion, are the 3 main pressures on the natural resources in your area?

<u>Pressures</u>	<u>Natural resources affected</u>	<u>Where in your area?</u>	<u>Why?</u>

K. In your opinion, what are the five most important natural resources to be protected in your village territory to ensure good life and sustainable livelihood, including for future generations

<u>Resources</u>	<u>Where?</u>	<u>Remarks, suggestions</u>

M: What are the main advantages or disadvantages you get from the habitat and natural resources? (ecosystem services)

Important: adapt to the households, as appropriate

<u>Ecosystem services</u>	<u>Advantages</u>	<u>Disadvantages</u>	<u>Remarks</u>

	1: key 2: medium 3.No or secondary	: key 2: medium 3.No or secondary	
Habitats			
Landscape			
Floodplain (agricultural land)			
Rangeland (grassland, shrubland, forest)			
Wetlands (marsh, lagoon)			
Dunes			
Hills			
Sea			
Beaches			
Residence area			
Provisioning			
Soil for agriculture and husbandry			
Domestic animals			
Surface Freshwater			
Groundwater			
Sea fishes			
Inland fishes			
Crustacean			
Mollusks			
Wild birds			
Wild mammals			
Reptiles			
Amphibians			
Wood			
- In general			
- For construction			
- For firewood			
- For fencing			
- For sale			
Fodder for domestic animals			
- From floodplain			
- From marshes			
- From forest			
Fiber			
Medicinal plants			
Wild edible plants			
Wild commercial plant			
Sand			
Gravel			
Stone			
Clay			

Regulation			
Wind regulation			
Sea tide regulation			
Fresh water epuration			
Coastal erosion			
Groundwater recharge			
Water epuration			
Culture			
Landscape aesthetic			
Recreation (tourism)			
Education			
Research			
Intangible cultural tradition (festival, specific agrarian and fishing technique, etc., gastronomy)			
Tangible cultures (monuments, handicrafts, local animal variety, etc.)			
Sport hunting			
Sport fishing			
Inspiration			
Sense of wilderness, quietness			
Emotion, contemplation			
Support			
Fishes reproduction			
Pollination			

N. Score of habitats, natural and cultural resources trends

Important: adapt to the households, as appropriate

Natural resource	Positive trends	Negative trends		Why? Reasons?
		moderate	Serious	
Habitat				
Landscape integrity				
Flood plain (agricultural crop land)				
Rangeland (grassland, forest)				
Beaches				
Marshes				

Lagoon (Villuni)				
Forest				
Dune				
River				
Hill				
Natural resources & biodiversity				
Groundwater resources				
Surface water resources				
Wild mammals				
Wild water birds				
Wild Sea birds				
Wild inland birds				
Frogs				
Reptiles				
Insects				
Sea fishes				
Freshwater fishes				
Aquaculture				
Mollusks				
Crustaceans				
Wild edible plants				
Wild commercial plants				
Wild medicinal plants				
Cattle				
Sheep/goats				
Pigs				
Poultry				
Cultural elements				
Landscape				
Monuments				
Festivals				
Traditional techniques				
Farming special features				
Livestock special features				
Traditional and sport hunting				
Traditional and sport fishing				
Solidarity				

O. Human, social and physical assets of household

Human asset	
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Level education husband	High – Secondary – Primary
Level education spouse	High – Secondary – Primary
Professional qualification husband	Qualified – semi qualified – non qualified
Professional qualification spouse	Qualified – semi qualified – non qualified
Status husband	Active – jobless – retired – working home
Status spouse	Active – jobless – retired – working home
Physical asset	Number
Total land in ownership	
Agricultural land in BRLP	
- Own	
- Rented	
- Share-cropping	
- Irrigated land	
Other land	
Greenhouse	
House	
Car	
Van	
Truck	
Tractor	
Engine powered boat	
Paddle fishing boat	
Water pump	
Shop	
Restaurant	
Bar	
Hotel/guesthouse	
Cattle	
Goat/sheep	
Poultry	
Fish ponds	
Others	
Social assets	
NGO/association	Yes/No
Voluntary work	Yes/No
Syndicate	Yes/No
Political party membership	Yes/No
Facebook	Yes/No
Other	Yes/No
-	
-	

Institutional questionnaire

Institution (Name and location)	
Position of the respondent	
Municipality	

Municipality unit	
Localization and date of meeting	
Duration of meeting	
Names of enumerators	

- A. What is the role of your institution in BRLP?
- B. For you and your institution, what is the most important objective in BRLP?
- C. What do you know from the Management Plan for Buna Protected landscape? During the preparation before 2015? Now?
- D. What has been done in BLRP since 2015 with public (central government and municipalities) and/or projects assistance?
- E. What actions did you (your institution) carried out in BRLP

Actions	Year – Period	Where in BRLP, with sector of activity	Context, stakeholder, financing and objectives	Results achieved

- F. What are the lessons learned from your experience in BRLP and with local people?
- G. Any other future actions ongoing or planned from your institution in BRLP?
- H. In your opinion, what are the main assets of the BRLP area?

Assets	Where more specifically?	Why?

- I. In your opinion, what are the main issues to solve in BRLP?

Issues	Where more specifically?	Why?

- J. In your opinion, what are the different **natural resources and ecosystem services of BRLP including sea area, by order of importance for your institution?**

Natural resources and ecosystem services	Where more specifically?	Why?

- K. What would you see as three first **protection and/or development** priorities in BRLP, where and why?

Priority actions	Where (localization, habitat)	Why

- L. What, in your opinion, are the 3 main **pressures** on the natural resources in BRLP?

Pressures	Natural resources affected	Where in BRLP?	Why?

M. In your opinion, what are the **five most important natural resources to be protected** to ensure **good life and sustainable livelihood, including for future generations of local people of BRLP?**

<u>Resources</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>Remarks, suggestions</u>

N. Based on your knowledge of the area, do local people use and manage these natural resources on a sustainable way?

	Key natural resources and ecosystem services used	Sustainable (S) Overexploited (O) Underexploited (U)
In BRLP		
In agriculture and livestock		
Inland fishery		
Sea fishery		
Tourism sector		

O. Score of habitats, natural, domesticated and cultural resources trends

Natural resource	Positive trends	Negative trends		Why? Reasons?
		moderate	Serious	
Habitat				
Landscape integrity				
Flood plain (agricultural crop land)				
Rangeland (grassland, forest)				
Beaches				
Marshes				
Lagoon (Villuni)				
Forest				
Dune				
River				
Hill				
Natural resources & biodiversity				
Groundwater resources				
Surface water resources				
Wild mammals				
Wild water birds				

Wild Sea birds				
Wild inland birds				
Frogs				
Reptiles				
Insects				
Sea fishes				
Freshwater fishes				
Aquaculture				
Mollusks				
Crustaceans				
Wild edible plants				
Wild commercial plants				
Wild medicinal plants				
Cattle				
Sheep/goats				
Pigs				
Poultry				
Cultural elements				
Landscape				
Monuments				
Festivals				
Traditional techniques				
Farming special features				
Livestock special features				
Traditional and sport hunting				
Traditional and sport fishing				
Solidarity				

Visitor questionnaire

Type of visitor	Recreation – Education - Research
Origin	Local – national – international (country?)
Last location and kms to visit the site	Name Km:
Localization of interview	Beach – Marsh – River bank – Bike trail - Forest
Date of meeting	
Duration of meeting	
Names of enumerators	

A. What was the main reason and secondary reasons to come to Buna-Velipoje area (+ to come to Albania and Shkoder area for foreigner)

Reasons	Albania	Shkoder area	Buna Velipoje
Main			

Secondary			

B. What specifically you was looking for by coming in Buna-Velipoje?

Elements	Importance 0. No, 1.Key, 2. secondary
Landscape integrity and nature in general	
Fauna and flora	
Emblematic elements, site notoriety	
Discovering site with family or friends	
Beach	
Sea	
Forest	
River	
Marshes, Lagoon	
Specifically Birds	
Specifically mammals	
Quietness	
Wilderness	
Fishing, sport fishing	
Education/research program	
Special event	
Meet family or friend	
Spend holiday	
Making business	
Other (specify)	

C. How did you know this area?

Family – Friend – mouth to ear – web site – hotel/guesthouse – book guide – I already came – I live there – School - other.

D. What parts of Buna-Velipoje did you or intends to visit?

Beach – Forest – River – Nature – Biodiversity – Birds – Landscape – Culture

E. For you, what were your main elements of natural and cultural interest during your visit?

Elements	Importance
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	0. No, 1.Key, 2. secondary
Landscape integrity and nature in general	
Quietness	
Fauna	
Specific element of fauna (specify)	
Flora	
Specific element of flora (specify)	
Beach	
Sea	
Forest	
River	
Marshes, Lagoon	
Specifically Birds	
Specifically mammals	
People and culture (specify)	
Food (specify)	
Monuments	
History	
Festival	
Other (specify)	

F. How do you assess the conditions of your visit?

Condition	Good	Medium	Poor	Don't know
Site promotion (web-site, tourism agency, hotel, etc.)				
Buna-Velipoje accessibility				
Accessibility (road, path) within site				
Public transport				
Road Indication board				
Site information board				
Park visitor center and information				
Parking facility				
Nature watching facility (observatory, nature trail, etc.)				
Bicycle trails				
Beach quality				
Beach visitor/tourism services				
Access to toilet				
Access to drinking water and food				
Access to rest and picnic area				
Access to accommodation				
Access to site library				
Access to guide to visit the site				
Security				
Others				

G. Did you learned something or have you acquired new knowledge and experience during your visit?

If yes, explain

H. What would be your suggestions to improve the conditions of visit?

I. Do you think the site should be better managed and/or protected?

If yes, where and what are your suggestions?