

**The PANORAMA
Solutions are
replicable and
effective actions
that demonstrate
positive impact
for nature
conservation.**



**SOLUTIONS FOR
CONSERVATION
CHALLENGES**

Buna River Delta, Albania



The Protected Landscape

The Buna River Velipoje Protected Landscape was designated as a protected area in 2005, and is also listed under the [Ramsar Convention](#) as a [wetland of international importance](#).

It is home to threatened endemic bird and plant species and is an important migration corridor between the Adriatic Sea and inland areas. The Buna Delta spans over 20,000 hectares and hosts around 36,000 residents, whose livelihoods mainly depend on agriculture, livestock, fishing and tourism.



The PANORAMA Solutions

Following on from five years of action in the Buna River Velipoje Protected Landscape, the partners of the Living Buna project have shared two of their successful solutions

for improved protected area conservation through 'PANORAMA – Solutions for a Healthy Planet'. Both solutions respond to challenges presented for affected conservation and management of the protected landscape and include actions undertaken by all sectors in the Buna community.

What are the challenges?

There is an increasing awareness among the community to protect and preserve the natural wealth of the landscape; however, local practices and priorities continue to threaten the natural values. Most of the damage to the protected landscape in Buna comes from unsustainable tourism, agriculture and day-to-day activities. They result in land and water pollution, inappropriate waste management, illegal hunting and fishing, and illegal construction.



Solution 1: **Increasing** **community** **contribution**

The Living Buna project partners delivered activities that increased ideas and capacity of the local community to contribute to the protection and management of the protected landscape, in cooperation with the national authorities.



1.1 Community and CSO training programme

Training sessions were held for community members and the civil sector, aiming to build their knowledge of the protected landscape and the development of effective local conservation project proposals. To support collaborative protection and management of the protected landscape, the sessions included the introduction to the management plan for the Buna River Protected Area and discussions around the threats to its natural values.

1.2 Small Grant programme

The small grant programme served as a financial mechanism through which ideas grew into projects that benefit the environment and the local community. The community members demonstrated through this programme that sustainable tourism, agriculture, water management and recreation are feasible and showcased how they benefit the area.

The Small Grants Scheme funded 23 projects, channelling 268,230 EUR to local community actions.

Solution 2:

Building protected area management capacity.



2.1 Creation of a Protected Area Management Committee

To give the governance structure broader formal input, especially for a decision-making mechanism, a Management Committee was formed, composed of the management authority, a water authority, local government, community representatives and regional government.

2.2 Management effectiveness assessment, capacity analysis, and a tailored training programme

The mid-term review examined the success of the management plan, reviewing the implementation progress of the action plan and the effectiveness of the outcomes.

The detailed analysis of capacity for implementation and protected area management had strong input from authorities and land managers. The results informed a training programme by filling knowledge and capacity gaps. Staff from RAPA and members of the management committee concluded with a study tour to an international protected area, to learn and share practical knowledge.



Solutions for the long term

The community solutions brought together people's need for a secure livelihood and activities that improve the protection and management of the natural environment. The sustainability of existing activities was improved, resulting in reduced negative environmental impacts, such as in agriculture and tourism.

Other initiatives directly improved the biodiversity values, through restoration and protection. The process increased the capacity of the Buna community to develop and implement their own future projects, continuing their contribution to the conservation of the protected landscape.

The institutional solution focused on securing a suitable governance structure and building the capacity of managers.

Through training and study, the capacity and capability of the management staff is improved, and they have received additional equipment to perform their work to a higher standard. The staff involved in the public visitation of the protected landscape can provide a better experience to visitors, resulting in increased interest and positive tourism in the area.

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