

European Union Network for
the Implementation and Enforcement
of Environmental Law

Nature Protection Expert Team

Report: IRI Albania
November 12th- 15th in Tirana

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Introduction to IMPEL

The European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL) is an international non-profit association of the environmental authorities of the EU Member States, acceding and candidate countries of the European Union and EEA countries. The association is registered in Belgium and its legal seat is in Brussels, Belgium.

IMPEL was set up in 1992 as an informal Network of European regulators and authorities concerned with the implementation and enforcement of environmental law. The Network's objective is to create the necessary impetus in the European Community to make progress on ensuring a more effective application of environmental legislation. The core of the IMPEL activities concerns awareness raising, capacity building and exchange of information and experiences on implementation, enforcement and international enforcement collaboration as well as promoting and supporting the practicability and enforceability of European environmental legislation.

During the previous years, IMPEL has developed into a considerable, widely known organisation, being mentioned in a number of EU legislative and policy documents, e.g. the 6th Environment Action Programme and the Recommendation on Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections.

The expertise and experience of the participants within IMPEL make the network uniquely qualified to work on both technical and regulatory aspects of EU environmental legislation.

Information on the IMPEL Network is also available through its website at:

www.impel.eu

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<p>The Nature Protection Expert Team involved in the IMPEL projects on nature conservation such as the project on eliminating Illegal killing, trapping and trade of birds and the IRI (Impel Review Initiative/Peer Review). The present IMPEL project is based on the same concept as the other projects already implemented by IMPEL in other fields. The role of the European Commission in that context is to provide guidance and advices to help the IMPEL project to deliver and improve compliance to EU legislation. However, the content of the documents or other materials produced by IMPEL do not engage the European Commission and not necessarily reflect the views of individual IMPEL member organisations.</p>	

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	5
2. GREEN IRI	7
2.1 THE IRI SCHEME	7
2.2 PURPOSE OF THE IRI	7
2.3 SCOPE OF THE IRI IN ALBANIA	7
2.4 STRUCTURE	9
3. PREPARATORY MEETING	10
4. INFORMATION FROM AUTHORITIES, SPECIFY NEEDS, EXPECTATIONS	11
5. EXECUTION OF THE IRI.....	13
5.1 PRESENTATIONS	13
5.2 REFLECTIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS	20
5.3 GOOD PRACTICE AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT	24
ANNEX I - SPECIES PROTECTION MEASURES - HUNTING AND TRADE (THEMIS TOOLKIT)	29
ANNEX II - REGULATION OF HUNTING IN CROATIA	31
ANNEX III - PROGRAMME IRI NOVEMBER 12 – 15, 2018.....	33

1. INTRODUCTION

The EU's headline nature target is halting the loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020 and restoring them as far as is feasible. The main legislative instruments for ensuring conservation and sustainable use of nature are the Birds¹ and Habitats Directives² and the EU Timber Regulation. The State of Nature report³ provides insight and knowledge to underpin further actions needed to achieve the objectives of both Directives contributing to the EU strategy. Much stronger conservation efforts are needed. In the period 2007-2012 the overall status of species and habitats in the EU has not changed significantly, with many habitats and species showing an unfavourable status and a significant proportion of them deteriorating still further. On the other hand, some species and habitats, covered by the legislation do show modest signs of recovery. This is illustrated by success stories in different parts of Europe. The Natura 2000 network is playing a major role in stabilising habitats and species with an unfavourable status.

Aims of the Nature Protection Expert Team:

Effective implementation of the Directives according to nature conservation contributes to public confidence, legal predictability and a level playing field. Effective implementation includes an enhanced system of inspections and surveillance, good access to justice and public access to information. IMPEL's Expert Team on Nature Protection (ET) wants to contribute to the 4th priority in the 7th Environmental Action Programme in order to maximise the benefits of the Union's environment and nature legislation by improving implementation.

The Expert Team is focussing on the quality and quantity of inspections, effectiveness in the chain of inspection – prosecution – verdict, sharing of intelligence and information, promoting cooperation with networks of practitioners, collaboration with NGO's and public participation. The ET facilitates knowledge sharing through the exchange of experiences and good practises by executing peer reviews – the *IMPEL Review Initiative* (hereinafter referred to as: IRI). These peer reviews equip authorities and enforcement bodies with the knowledge, tools and capacity to improve the delivery of benefits from that legislation, and to improve the governance of the enforcement process. The ET also organises joint inspections to share best practice and for transboundary collaboration in investigating crime cases. This is beneficial in building up and extending a European network of implementation and enforcement experts in the nature conservation area.

In 2014 a first the 'green' IRI was organised in Romania in the Danube Delta Area. During the IRI experts from Member States "took a picture" of the current situation within the host Member State. Good practices and opportunities for improvement were identified and presented to senior management of the Romanian National Environmental Guard. In 2016 a second green IRI was organised in Italy, May 16th- 20th where the focus of the review was the work of Corpo Forestale (now a unit inside the Carabinieri) in Calabria region, particularly on the migration of wild bird species.

¹ Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds.

² Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

³ COM (2015) 219 Report on the status of and trends for habitat types and species covered by the Birds and Habitats Directives for the 2007-2012 period as required under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive and Article 12 of the Birds Directive

In 2018 a third green IRI was organised in Albania, from 12 to 16 of November. Within its regulatory system, Albania takes the EU directives according to Birds, Natura 2000 and Timber into account. This document contains the results of the preparatory meeting and the results of the execution of this IRI.

2. GREEN IRI

2.1 The IRI scheme

The IRI scheme is a voluntary scheme providing for informal reviews of environmental authorities in IMPEL Member countries. It was set up to implement **the European Parliament and Council Recommendation (2001/331/EC) providing for minimum criteria for environmental inspections (RMCEI)**, where it states: *“Member States should assist each other administratively in operating this Recommendation. The establishment by Member States in cooperation with IMPEL of reporting and advice schemes relating to inspectorates and inspection procedures would help to promote best practice across the Community.”*

This IRI will examine the implementation and enforcement of a broad range of ‘green’ activities such as the illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds, the protection of conservation areas, illegal hunting & fishing and illegal logging amongst others.

2.2 Purpose of the IRI

The aims of the IRI scheme are to:

- Provide advice to environmental authorities seeking an external review of their structure, operation or performance by experts from other IMPEL member countries for the purpose of benchmarking and continuous improvement of their organisation.
- Encourage capacity building in environmental authorities in IMPEL member countries.
- Encourage the exchange of experience and collaboration between these authorities on common issues and problems.
- Spread good practice leading to improved quality of the work of environmental authorities and contributing to continuous improvement of quality and consistency of application of environmental law across the EU (“the level playing-field”).

The IRI is an informal review, not an audit process. The IRI is intended to enable the environmental authority and the Review Team to explore how the authority carries out its tasks. It aims at identifying areas of good practice for dissemination together with opportunities to develop existing practice within the authority and authorities in other IMPEL member countries.

2.3 Scope of the IRI in Albania

In Albania 15 to 18% of the country is designated as a protected area. The IRI focuses on topics according to forests and birds. In comparison to other EU countries, Albania has a moratorium against logging and a moratorium against hunting activities. Besides a broader scope according to the execution of activities according to nature protection, the question for this IRI is to have a closer look on this moratorium and how to make this efficient in terms of operations for all authorities involved.

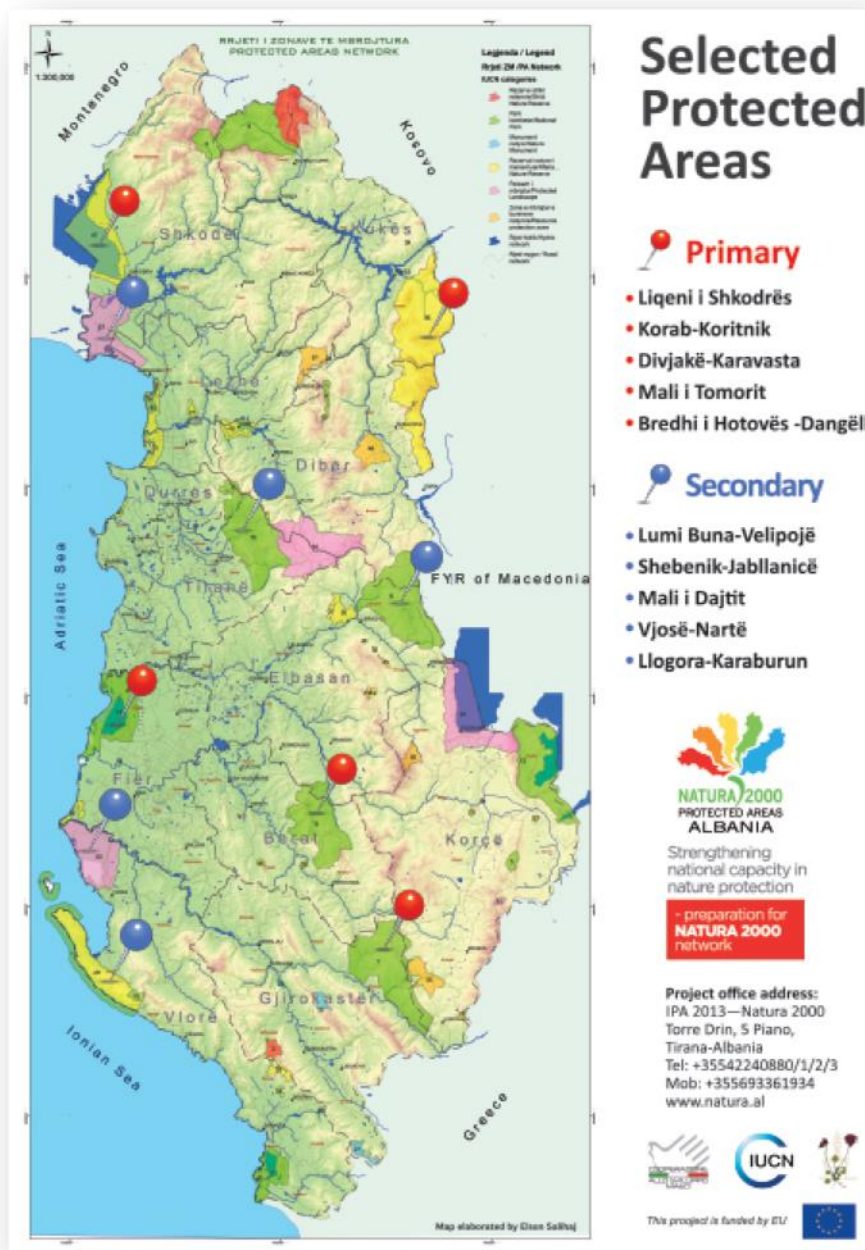


Image 1: Protected areas in Albania

2.4 Structure

The IRI was executed from 12 to 16 of November in Albania.

The IRI uses the structure of the Environmental inspection cycle from the IMPEL “Doing the Right Things” Guidance Book for planning of environmental inspections. The Guidance Book was developed to support Inspectorates in implementing the RMCEI and describes the different steps of the Environmental Inspection Cycle pursuant to the RMCEI.

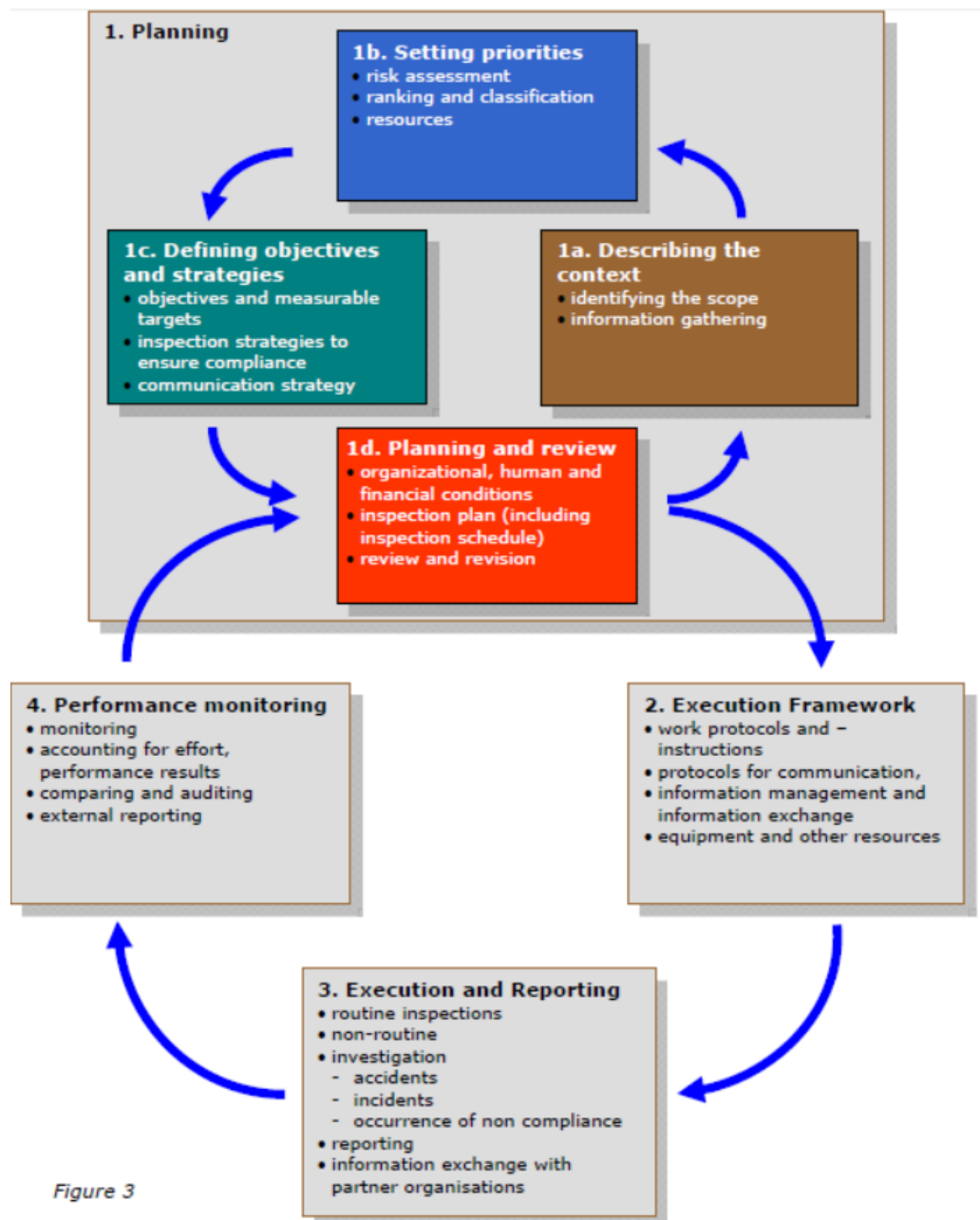


Figure 3

Image 2: Environmental Inspection Cycle

3. Preparatory meeting

On 13 of September 2018, a preparatory meeting was held at Tirana, Albania. The participants of this meeting were the following: Sokol Bezhani (Albania), John Visbeen and Jaap Reijngoud (IMPEL).

The agenda of the meeting:



IMPEL Review Initiative (IRI) Albania 2018

Preparatory meeting

Tirana, September 13th 2018 (t.b.c.)

Agenda

- 9:00 -10:00** Introduction to the green IRI, share experiences of green IRI in Romania and in Italy. What were good experiences that can be used during IRI in Albania.
- 10:00-12:00** Information from authority in Albania, specify needs, expectation etc., what were good experiences during IRI in Romania and Italy that we can use, special request for participation/requested experts in review team, (aim is to answer question how can the green IRI in Albania be as useful as possible for authority??)
- 12:00-12:30** Presentation of inspection cycle (doing the right things, new directive for inspections etc.) as basis and structure for the IRI
- 12:30-13:30** Lunch
- 13:30-15:00** Based on this inspection cycle define topics and presentations from the inspection service and the speakers that need to be invited, appointments about relevant documents that can be send to review team on beforehand
- 15:00-16:30** Detailed agenda and planning for the IRI, (just as an example I add the agenda of the IRI in Romania)
- 16:30-16:45** Invitation letter on behalf of IMPEL,
- 16:45-17:00** Any other business

4. Information from authorities, specify needs, expectations.

The moratoria on logging and hunting tourism is important. Albania wants to discuss the working of this moratorium with other experts and have further information or advice on how to enforce these moratoriums with success.

Institutions working on nature protection are working on national, regional and local level. The National Environment Agency is responsible for environment management activities. The inspectorate is responsible for the legal implementation of environmental activities. There is an inspectorate for industry and an inspectorate for forest and nature protection, under the general inspectorate (State Inspectorate of Environment Forest Water and Tourism). State and regional Inspectorates (Industrial, Forest and Nature protection) are in a development state between other authorities involved in environmental and nature protection. The Agency is active in Monitoring and makes inventories of Flora and Fauna. Combatting illegal activities according to wildlife is the main responsibility of the police. **Albania wanted to have a closer look at the contribution of authorities and at the interaction between the authorities to make this moratorium efficient.**

In the protected areas there are good results in biodiversity but fragmentation of habitats, for instance, caused by forest fires, are seen as a problem or threat to reach goals. There seems to be a friction between interests of shepherds and nature conservation. NGO's are involved in awareness building.

The forest moratorium is still not very well followed by foresters. There is a matter of interpretation. For example, thinning of trees or necessary maintenance. Local communities are also used to use wood from nearby forests for their own purposes, i.e. heating their houses. For local communities this is important because there are not many alternatives for heating their houses. What are the local needs? There is a National organisation of Community Forest in Albania. CNVP, a Dutch NGO works on programmes to build awareness. **Albania wanted to discuss with experts from other countries how they deal with this issue and if there are other effective approaches.**

The moratoria started in 2015 and will end in 2025. Moratorium seems beneficial to the forest areas and to prevent illegal hunting activities. It is important to know the attitude from inhabitants towards nature where 70% of the population used to live in rural areas whereas now 70% of the population is living in urban areas. Younger generations appear to value nature and tourism is particularly important to the economy and is increasing. Protected areas of Albania are becoming more famous because of their beauty and biodiversity. **Building in Nature protected areas, for instance related to hydro power stations, is a point of attention.**

Due to the moratoria, hunting associations have a different position according to other countries and they need to adapt. There is no real damage to crops. There are examples where hunting associations play a key role in the system of nature conservation (e.g. Slovenia). **The question is how, based on experiences in other countries, the hunting organisation could be more efficient. This on the short term given the moratoria but also on the longer term.**

Combatting wildlife and forestry crime is a responsibility of the police. Investigation of illegal hunting is done with cameras on the entrance roads of forests. Hunters are eager to start hunting again but the State police plays an important role to prevent this. The moratoria have dissuaded the vast majority of foreign hunters not to come to Albania and authorities assume that foreign hunters do not come any longer to Albania to hunt due to the Moratorium. **Here the view from the police, prosecutors and if possible, judges on combatting illegal activities is important to discuss.**

Some friction exists between anglers and lagoon birds (*Pelicanus*) and expect fishers pick eggs to keep the populations on a certain level. On one hand this could be an offence according to the moratoria, on the other hand this could be a good example of influence of public to maintain a certain balance between nature and economic activities. **Alternative strategies, the role of the public and the role of NGO's could be discussed. According to NGO's it is also important to know their view of the state of nature and threats and on the collaboration between NGO's and authorities according to prevent wildlife and forestry crimes.**

Other topics that should be addressed:

- Good examples of managing protected areas / National Parks.
- Improve the exchange of the experiences on the enforcement level.
- Resources.
- Training of staff.

Ideas about the review team:

Beside the chair (John Visbeen) and rapporteur the following organisations and countries were recommended:

- EU TWIX / IMPEL-ESIX because the exchange of information and intelligence.
- Slovenia because of their good experiences with hunting associations.
- Malta because of the migration routes from raptors and expertise on determination.
- Croatia because of similar challenges.
- Finland or Sweden for their experiences with forestry.
- Romania, because of experiences in IRI in 2014 and to address the topic of hunting tourism and forestry.

5. Execution of the IRI

During this IRI the focus was on legislation, monitoring, forestry and collaboration with NGO's.

5.1 Presentations

Introduction by authorities

Mr. Edison Konomi, General Director of NEA, received the IRI team with a warm welcome and emphasised the importance of working on the good implementation of environmental law. For Albania it is important that the legislative structure is functioning as well as can be. Albania is distinct because of the moratorium on hunting and the moratorium on the harvest of trees. In Albania there is a growth in the economy also by the increase of tourism. This is important for Albania, but it also important to protect the environment. In Albania there are platforms of collaboration between citizens and authorities, there is a digital system for the flow of information. Key points for Albania are improving legislation and improving the monitoring system. During introduction also the challenge to improve the collaboration and interaction between the institutions and authorities was mentioned.

Presentation of INCA (NGO) Mr. Nihat Dragoti

INCA is the representing body of collaborating that are working all over Albania. NGO's Albanian Nature Protection is mostly related to forestry. Nature Institution Conservation in Albania (INCA) focus also on Natura 2000 sites and Protected Areas. Strategy, communication, transcription of EU-legislation to Albanian Law and promotion activities and public awareness raising are important topics for INCA. INCA is also involved with IUCN, WWF, and Wetlands representing bodies. INCA supports collaboration between national authorities and regional authorities. The collaboration with tourism fits together because good promotion on eco-tourism is also beneficial for the further development of nature protection. INCA contributes to exchange of information for the purpose of monitoring biodiversity. Here INCA collaborates with universities.

One of the current issues is the boom of hydropower stations, especially micro-hydropower stations. There is significant opposition from NGO's because of the damage to ecosystems. Many NGO's see it as their task to bring the discussion to the decision makers.

The moratoria on hunting and for forestry are a daily challenge. It is a struggle to maintain the status because of big pressure of inhabitants. The moratorium on hunting shows good results. INCA mention the problems in ZOO parcs were 200 bears stay in a bad condition.

INCA is running 80 projects. Formulating strategies according to biodiversity and strategies for marine protected areas were mentioned. 6% of the Albanian marine protected areas should be part of national protected areas. INCA provide scientific information for management plans. These plans should contribute to bio-corridors. Evaluation of gaps in marine protected areas are important to

address potential threats. Training of staff to spatial planning at marine sites is an important activity.

Furthermore, the transboundary monitoring between Albania, Macedonia and Kosovo was mentioned, as well the protection of the wetlands.

INCA described the system of monitoring of fauna in the country. Focus is on 70 species, 17 of them are part of the hunting list. The monitoring is executed at the national level and the monitoring is also foreseen for Natura 2000-species.

The system works very practical. Information gathered in the field can be updated in the protected area data base. Rangers have to work according to protocols to secure quality of data that will be added to the database. GPS is used so information is updated real time.

Question is if all the information is open data and available to the public. But according to the review team this monitoring is a very good practice.

Another project that was mentioned are training and education sessions for primary and secondary schools.

INCO showed a very complete overview from different projects with a wide scope, covering important topics from different points of view. So, all projects together emphasise an integrated approach from INCA.

There are 16 protected areas. Negative impacts are already shown to local governments, INCA is making the governments what the best solutions are to tackle these impacts. WWF is also working on biodiversity and environmental assessments. There is collaboration with three partners. There is a good collaboration with National Environmental Agency. There are opportunities for improvement according to the collaboration with the inspectorates.

INCA showed some important projects with transboundary collaboration. In Blue Land there is collaboration with Italy and Montenegro. In Ruajtjen e Zanova there is collaboration with Italy. Process of National Parks are evaluated and in this project 34 teachers are certified with focus on Nature Protection and the process of recycling. The review team identified this example as a good practice. Education, conferences, International days are organised, so students are involved in nature protection. More information can be found at www.inca-al.org/inca.albania.

INCA is active advisor for national authorities in the transposition of European Law.

In the meanwhile, 90% of the Habitats directives are transposed into Albanian law. From the Birds directive, 95% is transposed. The Ministry is looking for the further implementation of hunting law and the law for protected wild Fauna. 10 Framework laws are harmonised, e.g. Fauna, forest, national plants, CITES.

Main problem is that the legal framework is not yet sufficiently available for the experts. The scope of the work of the inspectorates is too narrow. Focus areas are the moratoria but inspectorates did

not (yet) make a decision to look for other infringements. Signal-Supervision based in a good process and system of prioritisation could be an opportunity for improvement. Netherlands has experience with this form of supervision. In different Member States there is also longer year of experience with joint inspections.

The collaboration with custom services is a topic that could be further explored but we have to keep in mind separated responsibilities. Though responsibilities are separated officers in the field need a complete legal framework. Competences are divided. Police cannot open trailers. If the police or inspectors have information about infringements, they cannot act without custom police.

Albania could consider a task force with officers from state police and from inspectorate.

For the 12 regions there is one inspectorate dealing mainly with forestry and hunting issues. There are no inspectorates working on the municipal level. There is no secondary law.

There are very few teams that can deal with all country issues. Here we should also examine the availability of sufficient logistics arrangements.

INCA addressed the issue of the harvesting of medical plants, like tartufo, mushrooms. It is not clear who are responsible bodies for management of medical plants and for the monitoring. There is a need for management of the forest for this management plans. Also, there is lack of collaboration with the universities. Not the access to the data is the problem, but they do not produce sufficient data.

INCA points at a bio diversity system and see it as a duty for State environmental Agency to implement this.

Presentation of the police: directorate police of Tirana.

The police organisation is 24/7 available. They brought 20 cases of illegal forest logging to prosecution. These cases were handled by the police themselves. For the police this is not the primary issue. The police are in charge for the more general aspects according to safety, security and solving crime cases. There is no focus on a special area.

The police face problem with the current law. If the police want to collaborate with inspectorates, they need the information from the inspectorates. The guest speaker said that it never happens that the police skip any information on infringements according to the moratoria received from inspectorate. This about wildlife crime but also crime about pollution. It is quite clear that the focus in police investigation is to combat illegalities.

People can receive permission to harvest, but sometimes they deny the licence by harvesting on other locations. When the police receive this intelligence, they act.

In the Tirana District there are no cases of illegal hunting or other violation of the hunting moratorium. Illegal hunting cases take place elsewhere.

Most of the times it is the rangers in the field that notice infringements. Rangers act in protected areas. They carry out surveillance and inform the police and inspectorate. Rangers not permitted to act to stop hunters or issue fines, or to bring these illegal hunters to court. This can only be done by the police or the inspectorate.

The police collaborates with custom agencies.

The guest speaker said that all illegalities are foreseen in the penal law. To make this work is a matter of people, logistics and information. The process to make cases for the prosecutor is harmonised. The police officer in charge make the information and administration available for the prosecutor. There is also direct contact between the prosecutor and the police officer. There are no specialist police working in the field of wildlife an environmental crime.

There are differences between crimes and offences. Crimes and offences are addressed in protected areas. It is to protect heritage of the earth, relicts of the earth and contributes to awareness raising. Also, the transboundary protection of water quality is addressed. The protection of species is implemented in the penal code.

According to crimes and offences, wildlife crime and environmental crime the European Crime Directive is also obligatory for Albania.

Presentation of Ms. Bilena Hyseni from the directory of forest.

The Directorate of Forestry is responsible for the monitoring. Their focus is on the Habitats Directive and on the Birds Directive. The Directorate of Forestry was established in 2014 by the Council of Ministers. There are 5 directories: state environmental directory, personal and financial directory, environmental permitting, environment and the monitoring of the state of nature. At present, only a few specialists are working on monitoring. Albania has a national integrated system to monitor biodiversity. There are two important projects. First is to build up a network of bio diversity. The second is BIONA. This is an IT tool according for the monitoring system in Albania. Monitoring of the State of Nature is important in Albania. Mrs. Hyseni said that to fulfil this task in the correct way there is a lack of money and the lack of personnel. In Albania there is a national plan for monitoring it is designed by NEA and it is signed by the minister. Albania uses pan European indicators like soil, erosion, biodiversity, geology, nuclear indicators and also indicators from the public health institution. The agricultural faculty and the nature science faculty are also involved in monitoring.

Step one is to collect data, step two is to provide state environmental data. The monitoring and reporting take place every year. It was once every 2 years. In fact, for the monitoring there is a lack of regulation and protocols. For instance, when they invite others to monitor like NGOs there are no protocols.

There is a project to make an inventory of the forest. Here Albania uses the open forest system and an open source program. They measure biodiversity with indicators such as: how much wood, how much wood production, none wood production and erosion. For the last one a system to calculate it is used.

In 2010 Albania established the moratorium on harvesting for 10 years. This moratorium is only for harvesting construction wood. Actually, it is possible to harvest 20% of a certain area. This gives other trees chance to grow. Forest Service has been through a total reconstruction. The responsibilities are delegated to municipalities. Harvesting of wood is only allowed for municipalities for heating the houses in the rural area. There should be a planning and monitoring system, but the problem is a lack of budget the management plan should be for 10 years. Contract with companies should be related to this management plans management plans. For the forest inventory there is no good cadastre-system.

There is a tender to organize the management plans. The criteria are also to involve other experts from the nature point of view, the biological point of view and from the engineering point of view.

The total area of private forests is about 12%. 88% is responsibility of authorities. According to the moratorium the implementation should improve. Also, illegal logging will take place. Here it is important to make clear what is exactly maintenance activities or clear-cut activities.

Second presentation of Ms. Bilena Hyseni:

The second presentation it was about the legal framework, managing information, and the initiative for system. We must keep in mind that Albania let the area of we have to keep. We have to keep in mind that 7% of Albania is protected area. There are rules of monitoring and there are procedures.

The national monitoring plan is based on data collection and dissemination. There is an annual monitoring plan. Monitoring takes place by NAE/NAPPA. The ministry of tourism and environment is responsible for monitoring. Third parties are also contracted for this monitoring activities. The inter institutional data collection is not working so good at the moment. The managing of information is an issue.

The monitoring is based on 6 criteria and 35 indicators. For instance, health of the forest, illegal logging. Monitoring is done by the ministry self but also by contractors. Contractor is e.g. faculty of natural science from the University of Tirana. But also, the forest agency of Sweden was contracted to support the monitoring for 2018. All information will be included in the report. Forest monitoring criteria are based on United Nations prescriptions. These are biodiversity in the forest, improvement in management and socio-economic conditions.

There is a ban on hunting by a moratorium for 5 years. There is a ban on forestry for wood production by a moratorium 14 years. For the monitoring there is a national inventory of the forest. This is based on management plans. Indicators are land use, dissemination, wood quality, calculation of annual utilization, biomass of the forest. The calculation and the biomass is statistical information. The monitoring plan invented by NEA is approved by the minister periods there is a certain budget for monitoring periods

The monitoring is about species, habitats, and ecosystems. 32% of all the flora species are present in Albania. We talk about 7233 species of plants. There are 5438 species of animals. The habitat types are of European Interest.

From 2008 to 2012 Albania was working with CEMS. This IT tool was web based. But this does not work anymore. From 2014 till 2018 Albania worked on a new initiative. This is a national database for information according to nature protection and biodiversity. This is under the responsibility from NAPPA. The database is covering the whole country. Harmonisation of information is important. All information will be integrated into practical system.

Conclusions after several projects. Law according to the protection of environment has been made by NEA. It is designed to maintain biodiversity but to apply we see a lack of sub legal acts. Also, technical and financial requirements are needed. There is a difficulty in the collaboration and coordination between institutions. Financial resources and capacity are not clearly indicated. We miss the establishment of a dedicated fund. We need a high quality of information. A lot of data is not used.

The recommendations are the improvement of legislation and the design of rest register. It is important to provide a legal base to facilitate the easy exchange of information. Specially the exchange of information between academics and NGOs on the one side and the government on the other side. We need protocols and standardization of collecting of data. We need staff training. There should be a kind of enforcement by no collaboration. It is important to establish a special budget line to maintain the quality of monitoring data.

Is it the areas are categorized by the IUCN. There is a special way of reporting periods in the national protected areas. The rangers play an important role. They collect the forms with information about biodiversity. This way of working is established for last three years.

For further information see: www.akm.gov.al (raporte dhe publikem)

Presentation of Mr. Hector Xhomara in addition to the information from Ms. Bilena Hyseni:

Napa is managing 16% of the protected territories and monitors flora and fauna. Requirements and international standards are used. Internal sources are rangers' patrols and trap camera's. External sources are student expeditions, academic research, NGO activities and area residents. After a check the information is uploads. The database used is called BIONNA: Biodiversity Natural Network of Albania. This can be found on a website. www.bionna.al

Here you will find information about animal species, plant species. This with web map and interfaces.

Another system is WIMS. Here you find the monitoring data of 40 species of birds, game species, protected species and N2000 species. Accuracy and standardization are extremely important.

Defining data, processing ways and report types is essential for usability of the whole process. Data evaluation and training of staff of all people and organisations involved is necessary.

Site visit: meeting with rangers

The review team visited Dajti national park near Tirana. There we met rangers who are supervising the area. There are three rangers working in an area of 30.000 hectares. Focus is on touristic activities. Rangers identify infringements and make reports. After that rangers notify/inform the inspectorate. The penalties are issues by the inspectorate. There is a twostep follow up of illegal activities. The first step is the fine that has to be paid immediately. Second is the court case where the calculated damage is taken into account. In Albania there are fixed fines; the difference is the value of the calculated damage.

Rangers cover all illegal activities including illegal hunting. When there is a suspicion of poaching the rangers contact then inspectorate. The execution of the supervision is based on a management plan. There are several problems according to nature and environment. For instance, motor cross in protected areas. The attitude towards visitors is friendly and focused on education. The rangers mentioned that there should be core zones that can be visited and no-go zones to protect endangered species and specific habitat.

During special days there are 3000 up to 5000 visitors a day. Average number of visitors during the weekend is about 500. There is an increase of tourists, especially eco-tourists. They have a good attitude towards nature though litter is an increasing problem.

Due to the increase of pressure on the area there is a need for more supervision in the field by the rangers. Also, the knowledge of foresters and or rangers with forest expertise is needed but also ecological knowledge. More competences to solve the problems on the spot, by writing the fines and finish the proceedings will lead to a more effective and efficient way of working. The main challenge is that the inspectorate takes care of follow up, but they are at other locations. The person who is responsible for the illegal activity cannot stay all day waiting for the inspectorate. If the inspectorate is available, the notification of the ranger cannot be validated and signed by the inspectorate.

The review team advised to examine examples in other countries. For instance, in the Netherlands in a team of rangers, there are a few appointed rangers that have specific extra education and specific extra competences according to penal law. They are competent to write the fines and prepare the administrative procedure for court case. In more complex cases or case that take more time to investigate (e.g. (fish)poaching, illegal cutting/harvesting) they work together with the police or inspectorate. Regular meetings with police and other inspectors take place to discuss the issues in the area in an integral way, for instance problems with (cannabis/XTC waste, inappropriate behavior that influence the feeling for safety of visitors in the area.

Good practices that were mentioned is the good collaboration between the rangers in the area and on the national level. There is a national association, and once or twice a year there are conferences with about 80 rangers who are working in Albania.

Presentation of expert

In Albania there is a lot of very old forest. It is important that no irreversible action take place damage this forest. Therefore, it is important that NGOs are involved for awareness. But it is also important that people themselves realise that it is important to save these old forests. In Albania 40% of the land is covered by forest. This is about 800,000 hectares.

In Albania there is a lack of firewood. This is because of the severe winters. The yearly growth of wood is estimated at 1,000,000 cubic meters while about 2,000,000 cubic meters is used. In the rural area there are no alternatives for heating the houses. Only wood can we used. One of the problems is that wood for heating the houses is more and more used also in residential area.

Another problem are the forest fires which take place with high frequency.

The supervision of the management plans is a responsibility for the inspectorates. There is discussion to establish a National Forest Agency. This because forest is a national property. There should be a national strategy. Management plans shoot fit in this national strategy. Here the review team mentioned to look how this is organized and regulated in Slovenia. Probably also Sweden could be a good example.

Forest Fires.

Total area under attention of forest associations/agencies is about 1,780,000 ha forest. 490,000 ha is forest, 276,000 are shraps, 360,000 is rare vegetation, 149,000 is clear cut area and 500,000 is grass land and other rocky area. There are about 200 cases of forest fires every year. Good point is that these forest fires are followed strictly, and it is clear why this happens. Albania will continue to follow this issue very closely. Reasons for forest fires are clear of pass. It happens mostly in the South and the South East. Forest fires also occurs to make better quality of the land, so this is related to economic reasons. Intentional damage to the forest area is caused by fires on purpose, also with fires in national parks. Other reasons are: Fire for profiting. Fires to make different constructions afterwards. Fires by accidents and fires in agricultural lands.

The difficulty is there are hardly any inspections of people to prevent fires. Telephone calls are often too late. It should be necessary to have more eyes and ears in the field. Enforcement authorities are aware and willing to enforce the law if possible. Actually, in some parts of Albania there is a low sensitivity according to fires.

5.2 Reflections / recommendations

According to supervision and enforcement

The team realizes that the police has a more general task, but could it be explored if it is better to work with experts for certain type of crimes according to nature protection. Another thing is to increase collaboration with inspectorates and also other authorities or NGOs in the field. Training and capacity building programs between Inspectorates, State Police and i.e. rangers based on procedures for proceeding in offenses and crime cases will structure this collaboration.

Examples in other countries are joint workshops and seminars where state police and inspectorates are involved. State police has an important responsibility. Workshops and seminars will help to make things easier to find illegal illegalities in the forest

Because responsibilities are organized at the municipality level you could also consider that at this level experts are working on issues according to nature protection. Then it is important that they learn how to supervise. Examples in other countries show the organization of supervision on the regional level.

Combating forests, and biodiversity crimes is a crime pursued by police structures. Structuring and strengthening collaboration and Inspectorate structures, with the equipment and logistics needed to capture and prosecute offenses, and the ability to prepare all accompanying documentation for follow-up in other law enforcement structures, until the sentencing is finalized. Awareness on the high management and political level is important to set priorities and allocate budget and staff.

Collaboration with NGOs is a point of attention. Also, the relationship between authorities. It is also important to take steps to implement all types of regulation. We also think it is about further capacity building. To make good distinctions in responsibilities between police, inspectorates, local authorities is important. The council of minister reduced the agencies. Wood management should be an issue on the regional level. Monitoring should be a task on the national level. This should be done by best techniques, by academics and based on good protocols.

According to the police the review team that they reply very well to the claim for assistance. The review team also saw good relations with prosecutors. The police are very effective in their actions. Where there is a case, there is a follow up. What is important for the police is that regulation is translated in an enforceable way. What is allowed and what are activities that are forbidden. This could also be arranged by secondary, more specific law. Here it could be helpful also to look to the European Directive on environmental crime.

According to the rangers, consider ways to be more effective in handling cases on the spot. There is a distinction between less complex and more complex cases. To handle less complex cases examine of this can be done within current competences or more competences are needed for rangers to handle less complex case on the spot (i.e. The Netherlands). For more complex cases collaboration with police and inspectorate stays necessary. Organize integral meetings to discuss possible infringements and possible actions within certain areas.

According to monitoring:

The review team was impressed by the dedicated staff working on very complete monitoring with a well-structured process that leads to an Annual state of nature as part of environmental report. It is important to maintain this good quality of monitoring with sufficient resources for next steps to enhance data collection.

There should be no competition between NGOs and the authorities according to monitoring in forest areas. You should use each other's knowledge. Use biologists because they look at the broader scope towards nature conservation. Classical foresters have another worthwhile perspective. It is important to invest in each other. You have to overcome the discussion towards a better quality of monitoring.

The data system of NGOs is a closed system. There is hardly no access to the data of NGOs, but they are the eyes and ears in the field. So therefore, it's more important to share information to get a complete picture of status of nature in a certain area. Organize broad expertise of the people who are involved with monitoring (knowledge of forestry, species of flora and fauna, all type of ecosystems)

For collecting data, it is important that the government provide protocols. Define a dataflow for communicating and reporting issues encountered by the Inspectorate, NGOs, the public, and generating statistics on the number, extent of the damage and its location, valuable information to

the NEA. It is important because then the information is collected in the way the government wants and in a way that the government can use this data for making their monitoring reports. The monitoring could also include reporting of infringements according to the moratorium on hunting and forestry.

According to the loss of Habitats (forest fires/deforestation)

Protected areas fragmentation and damage to habitats, damaged by fires, (with very special status of nature and biodiversity protection, as well as focusing on international protection), is a topic that has been mentioned by more European countries and IMPEL members. Also, Albania seeks to talk with experts from other countries on how they deal with this issue for a more effective solution.

This solution can be found in developing the penal law of countries and higher penalties. Forest fires could be considered as serious crime acts in the economy and in nature, because of damage to vulnerable ecosystems. (endangered biodiversity, unique habitat values, etc.). Fires also undermine major reforestation efforts in areas requiring the restoration of forest habitats with human intervention through reforestation, destroying all of this overcrowding.

IMPEL considers a Conference between countries, to address this topic and to keep this risk in focus and to address further action. In Portugal there is a project with satellite(Copernicus/Sentinel) and data analytics to monitor deforestation and loss of Habitats. This also will be a next IMPEL project that is foreseen in 2021.

Albania is also well known because of the herbal plants harvested in the wild Some parts of Albania have balanced way in maintaining the herbal plants. Tourist pressure can be threat to herbal plants, because of picking of this plant. But also, the orchids and tulips are interesting for collecting. This is information that can be exchanged on the IMPEL-ESIX platform.

Mutual gains

Unique selling point in Albania is eco-tourism. But intervention in protected areas for tourism purposes, can lead to major transformations in their ecosystems and habitats, due to tourism infrastructures. Also challenges due to climate change, like the construction of hydropower plants, will lead to transformations in eco systems and landscape. For instance, in The Netherlands we establish area specific integrated programs and projects under supervision of the provinces (regional political level) with cooperation between nature conservation authorities, NGOs, involved industries, (tourism, energy, etc.) and local communities. The outcome of these process of integrated policy, to be adopted by local, regional and/or national political authorities is a balance between the different interests (nature conservation, climate-challenges, economy, landscape etc.). Here IMPEL is considering a Conference or project for exchange of information of this kind of approaches (Mutual Gains Approach) with good examples from IMPEL Members.

According to the Moratorium against illegal hunting activities

In comparison to other (EU) countries Albania has a moratorium against logging and a moratorium against hunting activities. Beside a broader scope according to the execution of activities according

to nature protection, the question for this IRI was to have a closer look on this moratoria and how to make this efficient in terms of operating of all the authorities involved. The hunting moratorium in Albania works and has a good success as well. The question is how to ensure the long-term sustainability of the achieves results.

Hunting of wild species on the territory of the whole Europe is traditional activity and generally accepted as ordinary and positive activity. Besides economic benefit, the role of hunt is to maintain population (number) of game animals in sustainable range. Also, hunting has a significant role in preserve biodiversity in different habitats (forests, swamps, meadows, agriculture areas, fish ponds, mountain area).

From the point of view of officers within Member States dealing with regulation of hunt, the question is if a moratorium is the best solution and applicable for a longer period (more than 5 years). It is because it is very difficult to organize efficient control, and there are no data about status of population of game animals (lack of any data about hunting). It is possibility that moratorium is not applied in practice, and possible illegal hunting could be present during these years. One of the indicators that show that illegal hunt is totally stopped during moratorium is presence of large number of complaints about damages on domestic animals and agricultural crops caused by game animals. If those complaints missed – it could be good sign that moratorium is not applied in all regions.

The recommendation is to replace the moratorium with sustainable hunting and logging. Sustainable hunting has the role of regulator. Sustainable hunting keeps problematic population of animals under control. Hunting has positive role in control of infectious diseases transmitted to domestic animals (e.g. African swine fever virus - ASFV), and role in eradication of foreign invasive species. Sustainable hunting enables the keeping under control population of large carnivores (to reduce the damage on domestic animals) based on plans for the management of big predators.

To explore next steps as a follow up of the moratorium the exchange of experiences with countries of the region with well-functioning structures on this issue is useful and gives ideas to reorganize the hunting sector to a new stage. Examples are for instance Slovenia, Croatia, and The Netherlands. These are examples of sustainable hunting but also (on a smaller scale) how to regulate issues with traditional background; for example egg picking of certain birds in the Netherlands. Croatia and Slovenia work with action plans and management plans for big carnivores in e.g., it gives good view how to regulate status, but also other problems (avoid dangerous situation). Annex 2 describes the organization in Croatia.

Based on these ideas and taking the situation in Albania in account, you can start with a pilot. According administrative division, Albania consists of 12 Counties and Municipalities. As a pilot it could be good to choose one of the County and prepare all condition for establishing hunting area.

Some steps could be undertaken like:

- Initiate establishing hunting association.
- Organize counting of game animals.
- Prepare Hunting Management Plan.

- Proscribe condition of hunting.
- Organize periodical inspection.
- Organize monitoring (impact on biodiversity).

According to the Moratorium against illegal logging activities

Sustainable forestry is necessary for needs for sanitary interventions on sick and damaged trees. Cutting trees has the role of revitalisation and restoration, pest control (insects, parasites, fungi, other diseases). Removal of logs (which are not contagious) can be used as firewood. The maintenance of forest roads also contributes to better access to certain areas for firefighters. There is a better access to legal secondary forest products (mushrooms, berry wild fruits, medicinal herbs). The lack of heating wood and reduced use of secondary forest products encourages the migration of rural population to towns - neglect of pasture areas important for biodiversity.

The rules for extraction for firewood are not clear. For instance, disturbance during breeding season of birds is not (yet) regulated properly. For 70% wood is source of heating. This also includes the residential area. Good quality of wood should not be used as firewood. How to substitute. Timber wood is imported from Sweden and Ukraine because they have low taxes. The strategic plan 2015-2020 is now updated.

Special attention should be given to the communities living within protected areas. An equilibrium in these ecosystems is of their interest. Consider a special, non-privileged, harmonized status within the concept of conservation and protection of this protected area network. Investigate the introduction of elements of economic activity with indirect benefit from these spaces provides this internal equilibrium. Here the work of the NGO can be strengthened as a strong partner of communication , and cooperation between the rangers and local communities to achieve this major goal.

For sustainable forestry we advise to look to good examples in Member States. Here we would like to mention the activities of CNVP (Swedish Organisation assisting sustainable use of forestry resources in communities level). The wood needed for local communities and individuals must result only from silvicultural maintenance of the forest stands, but not real forest harvesting activities. CNVP is working for several years to enhance this.

5.3 Good Practice and Opportunities for Development

Good Practice: Monitoring

- Dedicated staff.
- Takes EU indicators into account.
- Very complete monitoring.
- Process is well structured.
- Annual state of nature as part of environmental report.
- Collaboration with NGO's and universities.
- Collaboration with rangers on the topic of monitoring.

Opportunities for Development: Monitoring

- To develop specific procedures to ensure the quality of monitoring; there is specific EU guidance available (how to perform monitoring according to habitat and birds' directives).
- Also consider data according to water frame directive.
- Develop standardized database (because now there are separated databases).
- Use the IUCN criteria.
- Consider adding information from enforcements actions in the report.
- Consider also to add the data of the effects of moratoria on hunting and forestry in the report.
- Use even more than now the new techniques in the monitoring, for instance drones, satellite information.
- Organize broad expertise of the people who are involved with monitoring (knowledge of forestry, species of flora and fauna, all type of ecosystems).
- Defining a dataflow for communicating and reporting issues encountered by the Inspectorate, NGOs, the public, and generating statistics on the number, extent of the damage and its location, valuable information to the NEA.
- Example of Croatia; notify probably disappeared species (picture and ask all people in the region).
- Question to explore; how the monitoring data are used in the cycle of plan-do-check-act/cycle of policymaking and adaptation.
- Question to explore: which data according to the moratorium in forestry can be added in the report; e.g. balance of growing and cutting in the forest.

Good practices: Collaboration

- Good cooperation of police and prosecutor according to forestry crime (20 cases).
- Very good relationship with national NGO's working with regional agencies for protected areas.
- Important collaboration on the adaption of EU regulation, they help government on this topic.
- NGO's very active in the field of monitoring, good experiences on the ground, how does it work in the field.
- Rangers; between regions and protected areas there is good collaboration, e.g. according to forest fires. They have also meetings, conferences.
- Italy and Montenegro and Albania have good cooperation Blue Land project.
- Albania and Montenegro cooperation on surveillance on the Shkodra lake (institutional cooperation and between NGO's).

Opportunities for Development: Collaboration

- Improve collaboration between authorities.
- Establish "enforcement" chain (from rangers to prosecutors).
- Organize joint training courses.

- Consider really focused, small joint inspection action according to a specific topic.
- In Netherlands we have in specific area 'wildlife café' = meeting of rangers, police, inspectors to discuss certain topics according to wildlife crime and forestry.
- Access to different (European/international) funds or participate in such projects according to joint enforcement, awareness raising, training .
- Example of Romania according to collaboration between Bulgaria and Romania on cross border nature protection (they use different funds also to gain equipment).
- Encourage to become part in international associations.
- Develop common guidelines.
- To ensure the long-term sustainability of the results achieved in the moratoria exchange experiences with countries of the region or even further within Europe with well-functioning structures on this issue could bring the organization in the hunting sector to a new stage.
- The work of the NGO can be strengthened as a strong partner of communication, and cooperation between the rangers and local communities to achieve special, non-privileged, harmonized status for local communities living in protected areas.

Good practice: Exchange of information

- There is exchange of information about infringements between rangers and inspectorate or police .
- Question to investigate: are rangers informed about follow up?
- Police has contact with Europol and Interpol according to transboundary crime.
- The way you report the state of nature to the public.

Opportunities for Development: Exchange of information

- Work with focal points within each organization involved (easy access for each other, should be more or less aware how to bring the information further to the right persons).
- Develop specific protocol for difficult situations, e.g. forest fires, injured animals, threatening of inspectors or rangers.
- Consider the use of IMPEL-ESIX as platform to exchange information between authorities and NGO's, (now information about poaching, illegal killing of birds, to be extended to timber infringements).
- Improve exchange of information between customs and police according to wildlife crime/CITES.
- Also consider here small joint enforcement actions between police, inspectorate and custom.
- Question to explore: is the exchange platform according to CITES: EU TWIX used by authorities?
- For sustainable forestry we mentioned the activities of CNVP (Swedish Organisation assisting sustainable use of forestry resources in communities' level). The wood needed for local communities must result from silvicultural maintenance of the forest stands. CNVP is working for several years to enhance the is.

- **IMPEL** considers a Conference between countries, to address the topic of fragmentation and damage to habitats, (damaged by fires and illegal logging) and to keep this risk in focus and to address further action. In Portugal there is a project with satellite(Copernicus/Sentinel) and data analytics to monitor deforestation and loss of Habitats. This also will be a next IMPEL project that is foreseen in 2021.
- **IMPEL** considers a Conference or project for exchange of information of Mutual Gains Approach with good examples from IMPEL Members. Challenges due to climate change, like the construction of hydropower plants, solar power plants, windmills, but also plans for economic development will lead to transformations in eco systems and landscape. Outcome of integrated policy processes to be adopted by political authorities will lead to the best as possible decision making with support from different stakeholders.
- Economic growth according to i.e. (eco) tourism as part of the profit consider to make structural funds available for surveillance and enforcement.

Good practices: Organisation

- Very dedicated staff in all organizations that we met.
- High performance within possibilities.
- Open in thinking how to improve, but also with two feet on the ground.

Opportunities for Development: Organisation

- The use of guidance for forest and wildlife crime are available on Themis and Eurlex. (toolkit Themis, guidance for life-projects, IMPEL project according to priority setting for inspection of protected areas- see annex 1 for an example of toolkit).
- Look at the EU crime directive and consider/explore to implement crime according to wildlife in national legislation.
- Strengthening surveillance services by the use of modern technologies - cameras, drones, google earth.
- Distribute (spread) responsibilities for implementation of nature protection on wider range of services (forester, fireman, rangers, NGOs, volunteers).
- Question to be explored: are illegalities according to forestry crimes common practiced or organized crime.
- If yes consider Transboundary task force according to 'organized' infringements according to forestry by develop platform to exchange information about practices and suspicious companies/persons involved and joint transboundary inspection actions; explore the use of international funds for this kind of multiannual projects,
- To make the moratoriums efficient consider training and capacity building programs between Inspectorates, rangers and State Police.
- The training programmes are, beside strengthening basic ecological and juridical knowledge (legal provisions according to nature protection), based on beforehand developed procedures for proceeding and adjudication of offenses and crime cases.

- Awareness on the high management and political level is important to set priorities and allocate budget and staff in order to combat forest and biodiversity crimes to be pursued by police in collaboration with Inspectorates.

Annex I - Species protection measures - hunting and trade (themis toolkit)

Steps for Action:

- Establish a system:
 - To monitor the incidental capture and killing of the animal species listed in international and national legal acts.
 - To follow information collection.
 - To undertake further research or conservation measures as required to ensure that capture or killing activities do not have a significant effect on the species concerned.
- Non-hunting species on the international list and which can be managed with special documents and permits if it is proved that these activities do not endanger the "no harmful effect on nature conservation" (Action Plan, Management Plan for the bear and lynx) - coincides with a list.
- Where necessary, continue monitoring and surveillance after control of the taking and exploitation of certain species of wild plants and animals to ensure that they are maintained at a "favourable conservation status".
- If it is necessary, further regulations may include those regarding access to property, local prohibitions on timing and taking of species, hunting and fishing rules, establishment of licenses, regulation of sale and keeping of species, regulation of captive breeding and propagation and evaluation of the effectiveness of the above measures.
- Organise regional meeting with local hunting association, local rural population, NGOs, and authorized services including police - establish action plan for temporary control and revision
- Training focused on strengthening the chain: enforcement and judiciary, police.
- Pointed/mark (publish) "critical" most endangered points (location) or areas – so called – black spot.
- Prepare report (feedback) for decision makers and law makers - Assessing the effectiveness of the application of each legal instrument in national legislation.
- Connect with IMPEL-ESIX network.

Inspection and Enforcement:

Enforcement of the legislation demands an effective system of inspection of both documentation and actual shipments by customs officers as well as inspections in country by police or wildlife inspectorates.

Another form of protection type is carried out by establishing and implementing ecological networks N2000. It is important to say that neither the Birds nor Habitats Directive contain detailed inspection provisions. However, surveillance is provided for in Article 11 of the Habitats Directive.

For efficient inspection it is desirable:

- Define the priority species/habitat types.
- Establish contacts between the service implementation and control of local hunting association.
- Arrange periodic monitoring of hunting in critical seasons.
- Establish contacts with the police, veterinarians and hunting touristic agencies.

- Be informed about the number and activities of foreign hunters (guests) in the hunting area.
- During hunting season, reinforce checks of hunters' 'catch' at the border crossings.
- Establish monitoring of critical/ priority species.
- Analysis of reports monitoring.
- Feedback information for law makers/decision makers - improved legislation (assessing the effectiveness of the application of each legal instrument and national legislation).
- Inspection requirements for nature protection should include:
 - Systematic surveillance, detection and characterization of breaches of site protection safeguards.
- Non-routine inspections where appropriate including in response to substantial complaints.
- Co-ordination of site safeguard-related inspections with work focused on other related types of compliance work.

Follow-up requirements for nature protection should include:

- Cessation of illegal activities.
- Measures to rectify breaches (additional mitigation, restoration).
- Dissuasive, effective and proportionate sanctions (criminal penalties, monetary sanctions, confiscation, or other administrative measures).

Annex II - Regulation of hunting in Croatia

1. **The Hunting Law** (Off. Gazzette 99/2018)- (enter into force 9.11.2018). There are 16 ordinances on the bases of the Hunting law proclaimed - some of them are more important as follow:
 - Ordinance of close hunting season (on particular game animals in particular part of year).
 - Ordinance of Hunting Guard Service.
 - Ordinance of central hunting database.
 - Pricelist of hunting animals.
 - Ordinance on the use of hunting weapons and charges.

2. **The Nature Protection Law** (Off. G.-80/13,15/18, 15/19) – proscribe obligation the issue – nature protection requirements, prohibition of means and methods for hunting (capture and killing – in accordance with App IV the Bern Convention) on Hunting management plans. On the bases of The Nature Protection Law two ordinances have been adopted regulating the damage caused by the wild species (strictly protected only) and the damage on the wild species.
 - Ordinance on compensation of damages from animals of strictly protected species (on domestic animals, cattle and agriculture) - with pricelist.
 - Ordinance on the amount of damages caused by illegal actions against protected animal species - (illegally killed strictly protected - non hunting species).

Establishment of hunting areas (The Hunting law)

Based on the Hunting law, there are established:

- a) States/own hunting areas (private ownership or state ownership).
- b) Joint hunting areas (common hunting areas where there are more owners).

In the Republic of Croatia there are about 317 states and about 750 joint (common) hunting areas. Hunting areas occupy 4 million hectares, of which the state hunting grounds occupy 1.6 million hectares.

A legal and natural person may acquire a hunting right on hunting grounds owned by the Republic of Croatia on the basis **of a concession or lease** in the manner and under the conditions prescribed by the Hunting Law. The right to hunt on hunting areas owned by the Republic of Croatia and the joint hunting areas **cannot** be conveyed by subconscious or subconscious. With a legal or natural person who has acquired the right of hunting on the basis of a lease or concession, the **Minister will conclude a contract**, which will determine the rights and obligations between the signatories of the contract.

Hunters are organized in **hunting associations**, and through them are members of the County Hunting Association (in total 20 Counties + Zagreb City) and the Croatian Hunting Association (HLS) as the umbrella organization. The HLS has around 60,000 members from 814 associations.

The Hunting association or private owner **pay** hunting lease to the **State Budget**. They manage/perform hunt according Management Hunting Plan (10 years period).

Hunting tourism participates in the total shootout of game with 10 to 20% of the game. Most hunted birds (hunters from Italy), bears and wild boars in trophy shootout. The majority of hunting tourism is realized in hunting areas of the “Croatian Forests” company.

The Croatian Hunting Association (HLS) is an umbrella organization of Croatian hunting which operates through the county hunting associations and the Hunting Association of the City of Zagreb, and in its membership, it gathers around 60,000 hunters. The Croatian hunting association represents Croatian hunting in the country and abroad. It cares about nature conservation, preservation, breeding, and proper game hunting. Provides training for a hunter, gamblers, and scouts of game trophies. HLS issues a hunting ID for domestic and foreign hunters.

Annex III - Programme IRI November 12 – 15, 2018

Based on the proposed structure for presentation we drafted a first program for the IRI. Based on this program preparatory further appointments can be made.

Sunday November 11th: traveling of members of review team and participants IRI

Monday November 12th (Draft outline, all changes are possible)

time	Presentation	Presented by:
08:45-09:45	Travel from hotel centre of visitors in the Dajti national park	
10:00-10:45	Coffee and Welcome and General presentations -Official welcome by Albanian authorities, -Reply from John Visbeen, (IMPEL & Expert team) -Introduction team members,	
10:45-11:15	-general introduction according to state of nature, protected area network, specific species, specific topics,	
11:15-12:00	Introduction to the park by Director of Park	
12:00-13:00	Lunch	
13:00-15:00	Site visit to the checkpoint	
15:00-16:00	Defragmentation by fires	
16:00-16:30	Summary/wrap up of day 1	John Visbeen
16:30-17:30	Travel back to hotel	
19:00	Diner	

Tuesday November 13th

time	Presentation	Presented by:
09:00-10:00	Specific situation according to the moratoriums, history, why, first effects and first results	
10:00-11:00	Challenges & future developments, (ambiguity on actual implementation of moratorium in the forest sector; moratorium of hunting,	
11:00-11:30	Coffee break	
11:30-12:30	Regulatory system in relation to EU directives (Birds directive, Habitats directive, EU Timber regulation)	
12:30-13:30	Lunch	
13:30-14:30	NGO nature protection (20 Min) NGO more focussed on birds (20 min) 20 min for discussion & explanation	
14:30-15:30	Management practices in the nature conservation parks (good practices, opportunities for improvement)	
15:30-16:00	Coffee break	
16:00-17:30	Review team; discussion and conclusions day 1 & day 2	
19:00	Dinner	

Wednesday November 14th

Time	Presentation	Presented by:
09:00-10:00	Organisation of policymaking, & enforcement in Albania,	t.b.c.
10:00-10:30	Coffee break	
10:30-11:30	Inspectorate, (organisation, resources, training facilities, guidelines, cooperation with NGO's, Presentation and discussion, focus on protected areas as well on other non-protected areas with challenges according to biodiversity,	
11:30-13:00	Enforcement chain of penal process according to wildlife & forestry-cases; -police (20 minutes) -prosecutor (20 minutes) -judge (20 minutes)	
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00 -15:00	Monitoring & state of nature (e.g. forestry status doc and nature status document into integrated document, etc.) Presentation and discussion	
15:00-16:00	International cooperation according to forest management for public system (under new framework of forest sector)	
16:00-17:30	Review team; discussion and conclusions day 3	John Visbeen

Thursday November 15th

Time	Presentation	Presented by:
09:00-11:00	Review team; conclusions and recommendations; finalize presentation,	
11:00-12:30	Presentation from review team to Albanian authorities	John Visbeen
12:30-13:30	Lunch	

Thursday afternoon November 15th/Friday November 16th

Traveling of members review team and participants of IRI.