

## Appendix 1. Primary natural characteristics / assets detail of Vlora County

Inventory of natural characteristics / assets	Description
<p><b><u>Climate:</u></b></p>	<p><u>Shushica valley</u> has a typical Mediterranean climate, distinguished for its mild winter with abundant showers and some snow at the mountains and temperatures under zero. The Shushica valley during the summer season is characterized by hot summers and dry, from June to September.</p> <p><u>The southern sea coast</u> is known for mild winters and hot summers and dry. The area reaches 330 days of sunshine a year. The average annual temperature is 17° C, average January 9° to 10° C, while the July and August 25-26° C. There are some 2500 hours of sun annually (Borsh), while there are 330 sunny days per year. Temperature of sea water 17-22 ° C, from the beginning of May till mid October. During the summer the rainfall is from 1351 mm (Himare) up to 1442 mm in Borsh. The summer season is dry and hot; only 5% of annual showers fall during this season.</p> <p>Vlora bay has a warm climate during the summer season for almost five months with a maximum of 14 hours of sun. The average temperature for June-August is 32°C. The sea water temperature goes till 27.2°C in summer favoured by the location of Vlora bay where the cold water marine streams have less influence. There are around 2805 sunny days per year.</p>
<p><b><u>Waters:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- River/stream: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dukati stream</li> <li>• Shushica river</li> <li>• Kuci stream</li> <li>• Smokthina stream</li> <li>• Kudhes stream</li> <li>• Borshi stream</li> <li>• Hundëcovë stream</li> <li>• Bistrice river</li> <li>• Kalasa river</li> <li>• Pavlo river</li> <li>• Leshnice river</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <b><u>Springs:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kuci spring</li> <li>• Borshi spring</li> <li>• Syri i Kalter (Spring)</li> <li>• Springs of Tatzat</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <b><u>Lake:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Butrinti Lake</li> <li>• Bufi Lake</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <b><u>Sea:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adriatic Sea</li> <li>• Ionian Sea</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <b><u>Lagoon:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Narta lagoon</li> <li>• Pasha Limani lagoon</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><u>Shushica river</u> is made by joining of two streams, of Smokthina and this of Kuc near to Brati bridge. Below this point a number of streams joint to the main river. The majority of water flow is seen in winter with a minimal flow in summer months.</p> <p><u>The Dukati stream</u> takes its source from the mountains of Dukati and flows into the sea in the Orikum/Vlora bay. It has water during the periods of winter showers, while it is nearly dry in summer.</p> <p><u>Kudhes stream</u> takes its source from the mountains in the East of the coastline and flows into the sea. At the mouth it creates alluvial deposits under a delta shape. This stream has water during the winter showers period.</p> <p><u>Borshi stream</u> takes its source in the East of the village of Borshi and flows into the Ionian Sea. This stream has a lot of water in winter, whereas in summer, the water quantity is very small.</p> <p><u>The Bistrice river</u> has its source at Syri i Kalter (the Blue Eye Spring) and a number of streams and together flow into the Cuka Canal. The water quantity of this river is constant both in winter and summer.</p> <p><u>Syri i Kalter (the Blue Eye Spring)</u> is a natural source with constant quantity of water. It joins Bistrice river and both (together with the Kalasa river) flow to the Ionian Sea.</p> <p><u>The Kalasa river</u> has its source at the foot of the Mali i Gjere (carsick sources) composed of limestone. It has a constant quantity of water both in winter and summer, and joins the Bistrice river before flowing through the Cuka Canal into the Ionian Sea.</p> <p><u>The Pavlo river</u> takes its source from the nearby coastline mountains at the Greek territory. It enters into the Albanian side and flows into the sea in the southern side of the Butrinti bay. This river has constant influxes, with few changes between the winter and summer seasons.</p> <p><u>The Butrinti Lake</u> is a lake of tectonic origins with a natural ecosystem with great environmental and touristic values. It represents a lagoon that communicates with the sea, resulting in brackish waters. It is special, because of the biodiversity of flora and fauna, as well as of the cultivated mussel aquaculture activities. The whole Lagoon area is part of Butrinti National Park. The wetlands of the Butrinti watershed are recognized as a RASMSAR site. As for the fauna, drakes, black neck ducks, eagles, falcon,</p>

	<p>bats, etc live here. A number of reptilian and amphibian are found here. It is worth mentioning the Epirote frog, the only kind in Albania.</p> <p><u>The Bufi Lake</u> represents a lagoon that communicates with the Butrinti Lake.</p> <p><u>Narta lagoon</u> constitutes an important natural ecosystem. Narta lagoon is a RASMSAR site and is a shelter for a high number of water birds and fishes.</p> <p><u>The Pasha Limani lagoon</u> at Orikum is a shallow lake fed by the Dukati River and is a shelter for a high number of water birds.</p>
<p><b><u>Mountains:</u></b></p> <p><b>Vlora municipality area:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lungare Mountain</li> <li>- Karaburun and Rreza e Kanalit Mountain</li> </ul> <p><b>Selenica municipality area:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tartar mountain</li> <li>- Cipini mountain</li> <li>- Bolena mountain</li> </ul> <p><b>Himara municipality area:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mali i Cikes</li> <li>- Bogonica mountain</li> <li>- Vakaj/Corraj mountain</li> <li>- Konjaku mountain</li> <li>- Lavani mountain</li> </ul> <p><b>Delvina municipality area:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Golishti mountain</li> <li>- Muzina mountain</li> <li>- Krongji mountain</li> </ul> <p><b>Livadhja municipality area:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mellezi mountain</li> <li>- Saraqini mountain</li> <li>- Shendeniku mountain</li> <li>- Stugara mountain</li> <li>- Dhivrovu mountain</li> </ul>	<p><b>Vlora municipality area:</b></p> <p><u>Lungare mountain</u> runs parallel with the sea at a direction north to south-east and on the west it goes down towards the sea with Shashica hills from Kanina Village in the north till in Tragjas and Dukat at the south at Orikumi / Dukati valley.</p> <p><u>Karaburun and Rreza e Kanalit mountain ridge</u> represent a single landscape unit. The northern and western coasts of Karaburun are 14 km in length from Cape Karloveci to Cape of Gjuheza, extending up to Bristani Bay. The Rrëza e Kanalit starts gradually separated from the Karaburun Peninsula, having a vertical “crack” named Bay of Bristan. This mountain range has a general longitude of 24 km and wideness of 4-7 km.</p> <p>The Karaburun and Rreza e Kanalit ridges rise and fall to finally meet Mount Cika at the pass. The entire peninsula meets the sea in steep, inaccessible cliffs. The western shore is high, fragmented with many fissures, caves, gaps, and small beaches. The Eastern shore is less fragmented. The area is practically devoid of vegetation, except for sparse maquis and wild grasses, and has no sweet water sources. The Karaburuni Peninsula culminates in the central part continuing with the Ravena field till it joins Rreza e Kanalit; its highest peak is Maja e Shëndëllise (1499m).</p> <p><b>Selenica municipality area:</b></p> <p><u>Tartar mountain, Cipini mountain and Bolena mountain</u> are all part of highland massive of Kurveleshi, which run parallel with Cika mountain defining the valley of Shushica river from Velca to Kuci village.</p> <p><b>Himara municipality area:</b></p> <p><u>Cika mountain</u> (2045 m) and the peak named Maja e Qorres (2018 m) are the two highest peaks descending towards the Qafa e Llogarasë (1027 m) and Valley of Dukat.</p> <p>The pass of Llogara, 1027m high, is found between the peak of Çika 2045m in the east and that of Shendellia 1499m in the west. It separates the range of Çika from the Rreza e kanalit ridge and serves as a borderline between the valley of Dukat in the north and the region of the Sea Coast in the south.</p> <p><u>Bogonica mountain</u> separates from Cika mountain from Vali of Vranisht. Bogonica culminates with a convex peak at 1672 m over the sea level.</p> <p><u>Vakaj / Corraj mountain</u> lies between the stream of Kudhes and this of Borshi. At the south side it goes vertically over the Borshi river at the Bodari gorge at a height of 1000m. Its highest peak is this of Gjinika at 1404m and this of Dhria at 1112m.</p> <p><u>Konjaku mountain</u> rises over the villages of Borsh and Piqeras. Its highest peaks are those of Piks at 1114 m and this of Lugjeve at 1046m. the top of the mountain is devoid from natural vegetation. Its ridge is flat and creates some pastures. Its slopes are deep and plunge to the sea.</p> <p><u>Lavani mountain</u> rises over the village of Sasaj at 965 m. It has flat ridges with gradual decrease in both slopes. At the foot of the slope there are located the settlements of Sasaj Lukova.</p> <p><b>Delvina municipality area:</b></p> <p><u>Muzina mountain</u> has a height of 1154 m and at the east there are Monodkuri mountain with 1125 m and Luria mountain with 1080 m heights. Muzina Pass at 570 m separates Delvina area with this of Gjirokastra.</p>

	<p><u>Krongji mountain</u> has a height of 1000 m and this of Kostari with a height of 800 m. Down at the lower part of Bistrice valley there is Mesopotami field which is traversed by Bistrice River.</p> <p><b>Livadhja municipality area:</b></p> <p><u>Mellezi mountain</u> rises between the villages of Markat, Dishat and Shales; its highest peak is at 1041 m and has steep slopes. At its South-East there is Dishati Pass which separates the mount of Dishati from this of Saraqini.</p> <p><u>Saraqini mountain</u> together with Mile mountain do the ridge of Saraqin-Mile running from north-west to south-east with its peak of 1034 m near the village of Dishat.</p> <p><u>Shendeniku mountain</u> is part of the ridge Krongj-Kazanje-Shendenik with a height of 1619 m. It has a flat ridge and at the north-west side there are carsick springs.</p> <p><u>Stugara mountain</u> has a height of 1806 m and lies from the upper Leshnica in north-west till to the peak of Murgana in south-east. It is almost devoid from vegetation.</p> <p><u>Dhivrov mountain</u> lies between the mountains of Dhrovian and Drugana in north-east and villages of Navarice, Dhiver, Shendre, Cerkovice and Llupsat. Its highest peak is named Saint Ilia at 1180 m.</p>
<p><b><u>Landscape:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vjosa bay to Orikum Valley area</li> <li>- Karaburun Peninsula to Llogara Pass</li> <li>- Llogara Pass to Porto Palermo</li> <li>- Cape Qeparo to Cape Qefali</li> <li>- Cape Qefali to Butrint</li> <li>- Cape Stillo – Konispol – Livadhja – Delvina area</li> <li>- Shushica River valley area</li> </ul>	<p>The landscape of Vlore region represents a diversified landscape from the northern coast of Vlore bay in Adriatic sea and the Ionian coastal area from Karaburuni peninsula till at Stillo cape near the Greece border at the western side, to the inner country with Shushica river valley surrounded by mountains in the both sides continuing with the valley of Kalasa river, Delvina till to the Greece border. This landscape is defined specifically by both, the <u>natural landscapes</u> (reliefs, natural catchment areas and naturally developed habitats) and the <u>cultural landscapes</u> (traditional settlements and buildings and their settings, other heritage assets and settings, together with customary tree-crops, agriculture and other land use forms). Although the landscapes in Vlore County are largely altered by the human action, it retains the “naturalness” of its basic character.</p> <p><b><u>Vlore bay to Orikumi valley area</u></b></p> <p>The landscape of Vlore bay is dominated in north by Narta lagoon, Zverneci island and TriPorti area and more in south by an unusual landscape formation of low Shushica hills running from Kanina to Dukat, under the ridge of Mount Lungara,. These hills afford beautiful views over the bay.</p> <p>The Vlore bay opens at the southern part with the wide delta area of Orikumi valley and Orikumi lagoon located at the southern end of the bay. The Orikumi valley is closed by Karaburuni Peninsula and at the upper side with Dukati valley located between the mountain of Lungara in the East and the mountain range Rreza e Kanalit in the Western side. The coast of Vlore bay is mainly rocky, with small gravel beaches, and sandy beach at the centre area of the bay.</p> <p><b><u>Karaburuni Peninsula to Pass of Llogara area</u></b></p> <p>Karaburuni Peninsula and the Rreza e Kanalit ridge, which close the Orikumi valley on the south-western side, end with Llogara Pass to Cika Mountain on the south-east which runs directly parallel to the shoreline. The Llogara National Park is included in the area. The slopes of Karaburuni Peninsula are very steep on the western side, culminating in the central part. The vegetation is dominated mainly by low and sparse shrubs on both sides of the ridge. The coastal profile of Karaburuni Peninsula is characterised by outstanding canyons and caves, and some pocket beaches only accessible by boat. The underwater seascape is of exceptional quality, too, with cliffs, submarine caves, the associated flora and fauna. This coastal shoreline has cultural heritage sites of significant value including: sculpted frescoes from early Christian period, inscriptions from Hellenistic period, and the Grama Bay ancient quarries and inscriptions. The coastline along Rreza e Kanalit</p>

stretches for 30 km, and extends from Bristani Bay to Dhermi.

#### Mountain Cika to Porto Palermo area

The area is defined by the considerable height of the Mount Cika Ridge, which from Llogara Pass runs to the south downhill with Kapoqefali hills, directly parallel to the shoreline and meets the sea with series of coves, cliffs and mixed sand/pebble beaches at the seashore.

Palasa valley is an erosion valley with a wide delta created by spring fed rivulets. It was called "The White Roads" by Julius Caesar when he landed there. This is the biggest, the most magnificent and among the most beautiful ones on the shores of the Ionian Sea. Down to the south Dhermi, two streams have carved two small valleys on the south side near the sea.

The coastal profile from Dhermi to Porto Palermo encompasses several different environments. The coastal relief is gentler, sloping to the sea bed, with the exception of few rocky outcrops. A series of hills, with nearby stone terraced olive and citrus groves, stand mostly on the south-western facing mountain slope. Vunoi Canyon is very impressive, extending to the sea and into a narrow gorge, culminating in a beautiful secluded pocket beach.

Himara landscape is characterized by a large coastal watershed with many intermittent streambeds having carved a series of gorges and hills. This crescent ends in a long shore divided into two beaches. More in south, there is Porto Palermo bay, a naturally well-sheltered area, defined by its Peninsula and the southernmost smaller finger of Mount Cika ridge which meets the sea there. On the other side of this finger lies Kudhesi valley which is deep and narrow. The valley goes wider towards the sea with the field of Qeparoi cultivated with olive oil and citrus groves. It is 4.3 km long and 1.2 km wide.

One of the most important historical monuments of the southern coast, the Ali Pasha Castle, is built on the small rocky peninsula/island that juts into the Porto Palermo bay. A number of characteristic settlements are set up on the slopes of the mountain and hillsides as Palasa, Dhermi, Vuno, Ilias, Himara and Old Qeparo. Three other villages, Pilur, Kuc and Kudhes, are set at the inland area behind Himara. All these traditional villages are set on hillsides in typically defensible positions and blend well with natural forms and materials.

On the sea-facing slopes the dominated vegetation is low, sparse and shrubby, whereas further inland there are areas with maquis-like vegetation and conifers stands. The traditional terraced olive groves are located at the back of the beaches in Dhermi, Vuno, Himara and Qeparo.

#### Cape Qeparo to Cape Qefali area

Cape Qeparo to Cape Qefali encompasses 20 km of shoreline. This part of the coastline is characterized by different landscapes: (1) The rocky cape of Qeparo; (2) Qeparo; (3) Borshi Plain with the large olive plantations; (4) the narrow coast of Lukova; (5) the wide coast of Cape Qefali; (6) the beaches of Kakome; and (7) the vertical folded cliffs of the Bay of Pogajetes, north to Cape Qefali.

This area begins with Qeparo and Borshi which are defined by the mount of Vakaj and this of Konjaku, the southern two fingers of Kurveleshi highland coming from behind and parallel to Cika mountain, which stands southeast over Qeparo and Borshi villages. Konjaku mountain continues parallel to the shoreline till in Shenvasil, where it moves slightly inland. The landscape between the road and the sea is characterized by a fairly even, moderate, undulating slope punctuated by intermittent watersheds and several spring fed streams.

At the point where the Borshi castle is settled at the slope of Konjaku mountain and the Vakaj mountain on the other side, a deep canyon is created. The Borshi river goes alongside and runs into the the Ionian sea. After that the valley goes wider with the field of Borshi which is cultivated with olive and citrus groves.

Both in Piqeres and Lukova villages, there are two traditional quarters of pristine character developed over finger hills with traditional dry wall terraced

groves and orchards below. The rest of settlements are developments without any traditional character and with no aesthetic value.

From the village of Pigeras to the village of Shen Vasil, the landscape is characterised by a succession of different landscapes defined by a series of valleys and small ridges that divide them. All of the valleys either open near to or directly onto small private beaches with coarse white sand. The slopes of the hills are terraced in the engineered, earthen terrace fashion built before 90' and cultivated with citrus and olive trees. Natural marquis mixed is mixed with citrus and olive trees, too. The pebble and white sandy beaches are prominent throughout the coast. The coast ends with two pristine beaches as these of Krorez and Kakome.

#### Cape Qefali to Butrint area

The landscape from Cape Qefali to Saranda is characterised by a series of deep, fairly wide, valleys which run from the ridge top to the sea creating isolated spaces. The bay of Saranda is settled from Limioni hill till at the Bredenesh hill, next to the Cuka pass, and characterized by sea sculpted limestone slabs sliding into the sea punctuated with small beaches of coarse sand at the outlets of small intermittent watersheds. From the Bredenesh to Ksamili there is an interesting structure of many low hills (the highest is 200 m and the lowest 50 m) connected by passes from the sea to the Vrion Marshes and/or the Butrint Lake to the interior. Many of the hills are covered with well developed maquis woods above the seashore. The shoreline is characterized by a continuous series of numerous inlets, coves and bays, some with white sand beaches and includes islands covered in maritime pines at Ksamili.

The Ksamili area includes the narrow ridge separating the Butrinti watershed area from the Ionian sea, extending from Mt. Bernadesh in the north to the Cape Skales in the south. This strip of land has a very beautiful zone of rocky shoreline punctuated by sandy coves and bays. The beaches at Ksamili around the islands are picturesque.

The Butrinti Area, is characterized by the primary archaeological site at the Butrinti National Park, the Vivari channel and estuary, Butrinti lake, the Vrina Plains, and the villages and lands in the Butrinti watershed closest to the Park.

#### Konispol – Livadhja – Delvina area

New olive, citrus and grape areas have been planted around the Lake Bufi, and in Xarra area. The river Pavlla and the undulated hills in the south with Cape Stillo at the extreme close the territory at the south-western side and Konispoli at the south-east extreme with Pagane – Stillo Cape and Island at the Greece boarder. This area is the most southern part of the Albanian coast. It is a hilly land with dense vegetation of Mediterranean macquis. The coast is rocky and steep.

The inland area comprises Livadhja and Delvina municipality territories. The terrain of Livadhja municipality territory is mainly mountainous in the eastern side and hilly and plain at the western side. At the western side of the territory there is 3<sup>rd</sup> Century BC settlement of Finiqi at a hill more than 280 meters in height. Delvina municipality territory begins at the north-eastern side with Rezoma Reserve and at north-western side with the Kalasa river valley and goes at south till to Bistrica river. A main natural attraction is "The Blue Aye", a nature monument of exceptional beauty.

#### Shushica River valley area

The valley of Shushica river is characterized by tectonic structure, erosive factors of Shushica river and the ridges of the mountains on the two sides, at western one side by the Mount of Lungare and Mount of Cika and on the eastern side by the highland of Kurveleshi with the mountains of Tartari, Cipini and Bolena. At the beginning, at the place called Buronjat (Kuc), the valley is very narrow for some 20 km till in Brataj. The two main streams of Shushica river, Smokthina stream and Kuci stream joint in Brataj. Other streams that join to Shushica River are the streams of Vranisht, of Gjorm, of

	<p>Përroi i Madh, of Vajza, of Turbulli and this of Vlahina. From Brataj till in Drashovica the valley widen with its fields. At the lower area the valley goes plane till the river joins the Vjosa river. From the upper side (Kuc) where the river begins till it joins Vjosa River, the valley descends from 600m to 20m from the sea level at a length of 80km.</p> <p>The valley of Shushica River has a variety of vegetation where a main role has played the climate, relief, ground conditions, etc. It changes from downstream towards upstream and is composed by Mediterranean maquis till at 600-800 m from the sea level and oak family trees and pine trees at the upper levels.</p> <p>A number of villages are settled at the valley in both sides of the river. They are not distinguished for any traditional architecture.</p>
<p><b><u>Protected Areas (IUCN):</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Park (cat. II): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Karaburun – Sazan 'Marine National Park' is a marine protected area</li> <li>- Llogara National Park</li> <li>- Butrinti National Park</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Protected Nature Monument (cat. III): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The cave of Haxhi Aliu</li> <li>- The bay and caves of Grama</li> <li>- The coral barrier of Devil's gorge Dukat</li> <li>- The plane tree of Dukati village</li> <li>- The plane trees of Izvor</li> <li>- The plane tree of Old Tragjas village</li> <li>- "Flag" Pine tree</li> <li>- Canyon of Gjipe</li> <li>- The plane tree in Mesaplik</li> <li>- Blue Eye Spring</li> <li>- Ksamili islands</li> <li>- Butrinti forest</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Area of Habitat / Species Management (cat. IV) : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Narta Lagoon</li> <li>- Pische Poro pine forest</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Protected Landscape / Seascape (cat. V): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vjose-Narte</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><u>The National Marine Park Karaburuni Peninsula - Sazani Island</u> with a total area of 12,570.82 ha, is a Marine Protected Area This marine protected area compound by two parts, with marine area near Karaburuni having 9,848.95 ha and marine area near Sazani Island having 2,721.87 ha. The NMP Karaburuni Peninsula borders as following from terrestrial line at Saint Vasil Cape at the inner side of Vlora bay going around Karaburuni Peninsula till to Gjuhëza Cape and up to 'Langadhe' slope (next to Palasa estuary) with a distance of 1 marine mile (1852 m) into the sea.</p> <p><u>Llogara National Park</u> starts at the end of the plain of Dukati and continues up to the pass of Llogara. The park is covered with a dense forest. The most prevailing tree is the black pine which is also the characteristic of the park, together with other conifer trees. These forests occupy most of the hill slopes of Dukati Valley (Llogara NP area) and occur from the sea level up to 400-500 m in Dukati Valley. The Logara National Park includes a National Natural Monument called the "Flag pine" (Pisha Flamur), a rare natural monument (height 13 m, with all branches in the north-western direction) at the altitude of 1,000 m at the Pass of Llogara. The pass of Llogara, 1027m high, found between the peak of Cika 2045m in the east and that of Shendellia 1499m in the west is part of the national park. It separates the range of Cika from the peninsula of Karaburun and serves as a borderline between the valley of Dukat in the north and the region of the Sea Coast in the south.</p> <p><u>Butrinti National Park</u> has a total area of 86 km2. It is of significant importance and within its boundaries it includes Butrinti archaeological site – a UNESCO World Heritage Site from 1992 and its forest, the wetland area and the territory around Butrint - a protected area included in the Ramsar Convent as a wetland site with an international importance for the habitat of water birds, Butrinti and Bufi lakes, and Ksamili islands. Within the territory of the BNP there 10 archaeological sites. The Park boundaries are; in the North: the connecting Line Berdenesh–Kallmit–Qenuri, which passes in the agricultural lands of Vurg; in the East: the connecting Line Qenuri-Xarrë, passing on the side of the Mile mountain; in the South: the connection line Xarrë-Shëndëlli-Vrinë, till Stillo; in the West: the connecting Line from Berdenesh till the state frontier with the Republic of Greece, including Ksamili islands.</p> <p><u>Narta Lagoon</u> is separated by the sea from a rocky sandstone and conglomerate coast with two prominent capes (Dajlani and Treporti) and some small bays in between. The environmental value of the area is high, since it includes several different habitats: sandy dunes, Mediterranean pine forests, old fluvial beds, small coastal wetlands, brackish basins, and not cultivated salted lands, cultivated lands. It is an important bird area and represents the second area in Albania for seabirds. In Narta there are 195 kinds of birds. It is particularly important for wintering of Dalmatian Pelicans, Shelduck, Mute Swan. Several types of fish live in Narta Lagoon waters, but the most typical are the eel and the Narta's bass.</p> <p><u>Pische Poro pine forests</u> consist essentially of coastal pine forest.</p> <p>The protected landscape area <u>Vjose-Narte</u> covers the territories from Vjosa</p>

	River mouth in north to Vlora industrial area in south. This protected area encompasses Pishe Poro pine tree forest and the Narta Lagoon.
<b><u>Biodiversity</u></b>	The area is distinguished for its diversity of habitats and its richness in flora and fauna species. From the ecological point of view, the area has a high level of biodiversity hardly to be found in comparable surface areas in Albania or the neighbouring countries. A wide range of habitats are found in the area, such as: high mountain ecosystems (up to 2,000 m); alpine and sub-alpine grasslands; different types of forests; lowland pastures; sandy and rocky coastal habitats; coastal wetlands such as Butrinti lake, Bufi (Rreza) lake, Orikumi lagoon and Narta lagoon; streams, torrents and carsick springs; caves, etc.
<b><u>Natural Attractions (Natural sites of particular interest):</u></b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b><u>Island:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sazani island</li> <li>• Zverneci island</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <b><u>Bays / Beaches:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vlora Bay, Spile Bay, Palermo Bay, Kakome Bay, Saranda Bay, Ksamili Bay, Butrinti Bay, Ftelia Bay</li> <li>• New beach in Vlora, beaches in Jonufer and Radhima, Grama beach in Karaburun, Palasa beach, Perivollo beaches (Kondraqe), Dhërmiu beach, Gjipe beach, Jali beach, Livadhi beach, Spille beach, Filikur beach, Llamani beach, Qeparo beach, Borsh beach, Bunec beach, Lukova beach, Krorez beach, Kakome beach, Ksamili beaches</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <b><u>Waterfall / cataract:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waterfall of Ramica</li> <li>• Waterfall on Borshi river</li> <li>• Waterfall of Kardhikaq</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <b><u>Tree:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The plane trees of Buronja (the spring) in Kuc</li> <li>• The plain tree of St Varvara in Vajza,</li> <li>• The plane tree and the salt spring of Bashaj,</li> <li>• The plane trees of Drashovica,</li> <li>• The plane tree of Mesaplik</li> <li>• The plane tree of Kosmar (at Kudhes spring)</li> <li>• The plane tree of Kudhes</li> <li>• The plane tree of Dukati village</li> <li>• The plane trees of Izvor (Tragjas)</li> <li>• The plane tree of Old</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Zvernec Island and forest:</u></b> It has been declared as natural monument and it is part of Narta lagoon and it has a surface area of seven hectares.</p> <p><b><u>Treport:</u></b> is an 8 km long land strip in the form of an isthmus, which is located in the North-western part of Vlora between Narta lagoon in the East and the sea in the West.</p> <p><b><u>Sazani Island:</u></b> Sazani Island is the largest island in Albania with a surface of 5.5 km<sup>2</sup>. Sazani Island is the most isolated and restricted area in this part of the coast, and is still functioning as a military base. Sazan separates from Karabrun peninsula by Mezokanali strait, which is 4.8 km wide. The highest point of the island is 342 m. The most impressive canyons are at Kepi i Pellumbave (Pigeons Cape) and at Gryka e Ferrit (Hell's Gorge). The eastern side is much lower in profile, with distinct slanted folds of limestone plunging into the sea, similar to Kakome Bay. The St. Nicole's Bay, in which the remnants of two churches (St. Mary and St. Nicole) are located, is the most important bay.</p> <p><b><u>Bays and beaches</u></b> in the region:</p> <p><b><u>Vlora bay.</u></b> The bay of Vlora is 19 km long and 16 km wide. It starts at the cape of Triport in the north and ends at the cape of Gjuheza in Karaburun in the west, with the island of Sazan in the middle. On its land side it is surrounded by high rocky mountains that narrow the low coastal part, dividing the bay in the northern and southern parts. The coast is mainly rocky, with small gravel beaches, except in the eastern part that is sandy, and the center area of the bay that is filled with sand and mud. The maximum depth in the bay is 55 meters.</p> <p><b><u>Himara Bay.</u></b> Himara bay has an overall length of 2km and width of 4-5m (Spille) to 10-30 (Potam).</p> <p><b><u>Palermo Bay.</u></b> It has a steep, high and rocky coast falling perpendicularly over the sea. It has mini peninsula within it dividing the bay in two bays, this of Armeridha and this of Panormi.</p> <p><b><u>Saranda Bay.</u></b> Saranda bay lies between the cape of Denta in South and Cape of Paladha in northwest. It has the shape of arch 7.5km long and it enters 1km inland. The coast is high, rocky, without vegetation and protected from the winds. Its sea waters have a temperature that goes from 15°C in January to 25°C in August. Its sea waters are 5-10 deep. Within the bay is settled Saranda town with an extension of 700m inland and 3km in longitudinal direction till in Cuka canal south of Denta cape.</p> <p><b><u>Ksamili Bay.</u></b> Ksamili bay lies between the Cape Qafa e Permetit in south and Cape of Mertese in north, entering inland 1.3km. It is one of the most beautiful in the southern coast. The rocky shoreline of Ksamili is characterized by a continuous series of numerous inlets and bays, some with white sand beaches. Four small picturesque islands are settled within the bay.</p> <p><b><u>Butrinti Bay.</u></b> Butrinti bay is located between the Cape of Saint Nicolas in</p>

<p>Tragjas village</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The plane tree of Palasa</li> <li>• The oak trees of Piluri</li> <li>• The plane tree of Nivica</li> <li>• The plane tree of Shën Vasil</li> <li>• “Flag” Pine tree (Llogara)</li> <li>• Plane tree of Muzina</li> <li>• Plane trees Rusan</li> <li>• Plane trees of Delvina</li> <li>• Valanidhet e Dhrovjanit</li> <li>• Plane tree of castle (Delvine)</li> </ul> <p>- <u>Pastures:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vali of Vranisht</li> <li>• Vali of Bogonica</li> </ul> <p>- <u>Forest / Nature Park:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zvernec forest</li> <li>• Forest of sumac tree (Valanidhi) in Himara</li> <li>• Oak trees of Piluri</li> <li>• Butrinti forest</li> <li>• Forest of Lefka (Delvine)</li> <li>• Forest (reserve) of Rrezoma</li> <li>• Forest of Bushec</li> </ul> <p>- <u>Canyons:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canion of Gjipe (Dhermi)</li> </ul> <p>- <u>Caves:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The cave of Haxhi Aliu</li> <li>• The cave of Duk Gjoni (Karaburun.)</li> <li>• The caves of Grama beach</li> <li>• The cave of Pirates (Dhermi)</li> <li>• The cave in Terbac</li> <li>• The cave of Ramica</li> <li>• The cave of Velçe</li> <li>• The cave of Boderi (Smokthine)</li> <li>• The painted cave of Lepenica</li> <li>• The cave in Hore-Vranisht</li> <li>• The cave of Tatzat</li> <li>• The cave of Konispol</li> </ul> <p>- <u>Geological formations :</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gorge of Dhërmiu</li> <li>• Abyss (Faleza) of Dhërmiu</li> <li>• Dhërmiu’s rock</li> <li>• Gorge of Visha (Old Himara)</li> <li>• Abyss (Faleza) of Filikura</li> <li>• Abyss (Faleza) of Panorma</li> <li>• The men’s rock (Old Qeparo)</li> <li>• “Bokerrimat” of Vunoi</li> <li>• “Bokerrimat “ of Muzina</li> </ul> <p>- <u>Panoramic views / point of view:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kanina castle with view over the Vlora bay</li> </ul>	<p>south and Cape of Hunda e Kazanit in north, entering inland some 2km. The bay is linked with the Butrinti Lake through Vivari canal of 3km long.</p> <p><u>Ftelia Bay.</u> Ftelia bay is situated at the southern edge of Albania. It enters inland some 1.5km. The small rocky island of Tongo stays in front of it. The Ftelia bay is high, steep and rocky. It has deep sea waters.</p> <p><u>Karaburuni</u> is home of some beaches:</p> <p>at east side:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- St. Vasili beach</li> <li>- St. Jani beach</li> </ul> <p>at west side:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Brisani beach</li> <li>- Llovizi beach</li> <li>- Grama beach,</li> <li>- Andrew beach</li> </ul> <p><u>Grama beach</u> is reached by sea at the south-western side of Karaburuni Peninsula and constitutes the end of a mountain stream. This bay has cultural heritage sites of significant value including: the carved inscriptions in old Greek and Latin languages, dating more than 2000 years and continue up to the medieval period in the eastern side of the bay, the ancient quarries and also is home of two church caves.</p> <p><u>Palasa beach.</u> Palasa beach lay on the north-west side of Palasa stream delta. It is some 750m long and around 90m wide.</p> <p><u>Perivollo beaches.</u> They are represented by some small beaches of mix pebble and gross sands. On the backside there is Kondraqe quarter of Dhermiu. The small beaches of 20-35m<sup>2</sup> create some very private and intimate beaches. In north-west the beach opens up with a long beach of 1.75km long and around 60 wide.</p> <p><u>Dhermiu beach.</u> The beach of Dhermi is situated in the north of Gjipea beach. The beach of Dhermiu extends from the southeast to northwest with a longitude of 1.4km. Its average width is 30m and the highest width reaches the value of 80m in the central part of the beach.</p> <p><u>Gjipe beach.</u> It is located in the northwest of the beach of Jali and in the southeast of that of Dhermiu. It is 150m long, 50-60m wide and it is formed at the estuary of the stream of Gjipe which goes through the canyon with the same name. The beach is mixed gravel and sand.</p> <p><u>Jali beach</u> is situated in the west of the village of Vunoi and it forms a beautiful rocky beach. The beach has the form of a horseshoe and is 300m long, 10-15m wide which reaches up to 50m in its centre. It is a sandy beach but there are also parts with rough sand. Under the rocky crests in the north of Jali there are two micro beaches permeated by several ridges.</p> <p><u>Livadhi beach</u> or Zamara is located at the estuary of the stream of Visha over a bay that doesn’t penetrate deep towards the land. It has the form of a horseshoe and its surrounding slopes are slightly steep. The beach extends up to the cape of Lara towards the northwest. The beach is 1200m long and a maximum width of 100-200m and covered by pebble.</p> <p><u>Spille (Himara) beach</u> is divided in two parts by a large block of rock. The beach has cool underwater sources; the one in Potam is bigger.</p> <p><u>Llamani beach</u> located some 3km at south-east of Himara, It is 250m long and 30-40m wide with small gravel. It is a very panoramic beach.</p> <p><u>Porto Palermo</u> bay is situated in southeast of Himara town, between peninsula of Panorma and peninsula of Kavadon, at the Ionian Sea. Inside of the bay there is an attractive rocky peninsula, which enters about 300 meters to the sea. The fortress constructed by Ali Pasha of Tepelena at the end of</p>
---	--

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The upper side of Dukati road going towards Llogara pass with view over the Orikum valley</li> <li>• Llogara Pass with view over the Ionian Sea</li> <li>• The road at the exit of Dhermiu at Panorama restaurant with view over Dhermiu beach</li> <li>• Himara castle ruins with view over Livadhi beach</li> <li>• The road up at the entrance of Porto Palermo bay with view over the bay</li> <li>• Piluri village with view over the sea</li> <li>• At the top of the hill of Faleza e Panormes with view over Porto Palermo bay and over Borshi and Lukova bays in the South.</li> <li>• Terrace of Lekursi castle with view over Saranda and deep towards Butrinti lagoon.</li> <li>• Terrace of Venetian Tower with view over Butrinti archaeological site, Vivary canal and Vrina field.</li> <li>• The natural balcony at the extreme side of the hill at the direction of the border entry point of Qafe Bote (Konispol).</li> <li>• Top of the hill Cuka of Atoit in Ciflik offers a 360° view over Vrina field, hills alongside the Pavllo river.</li> </ul> <p>- <u>Scenic beauty:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The view over the Ionian sea from Llogara Pass</li> <li>• The view towards Butrinti lagoon from Lekuresi castle.</li> </ul> <p>- <u>Scenic road:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The road from Dukati which climbs up steeply through Llogara Pass and then descends down along the coast through traditional coastal villages till in Nivica.</li> </ul> <p>- <u>Outstanding Scenic Underwater (Marine Environment):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marine environment of Karaburuni Peninsula and Rreza e Kanalit (from Pasha Limani till in Palasa stream estuary</li> </ul>	<p>18<sup>th</sup> century erects over this peninsula. A 800-m long tunnel as a submarine base, built during the Cold War time, has the entrance from the bay and the exit on the other side of the promontory.</p> <p><u>Qeparoi beach</u> is located at the delta of the Kudhesi stream around 10km southeast of Himara. It is some 1.4km long and 10-20m wide.</p> <p><u>Borshi beach</u> is the biggest in the Ionian southern coastline and occupies the area alongside the field with the same name. It is 4 km long and 10-20 m wide. Olive plants lay on the filed back to the seaside.</p> <p><u>Buneci beach</u> is settled in the bay with the same name at the estuary of Sasaj stream. It is 250 m long and 20-60m wide. The Sasaj stream goes through the estuary and flows to the sea. Another beach opens up in south of the stream but its landscape is damaged by a hydropower built recently on the shore.</p> <p><u>The “cave” beach in Lukova</u> is located some 20 km at north-west of Saranda in the estuary of Hundëcova stream flowing from Shënavsili Pass. The beach is about 400 m long and till to 70-80 m wide.</p> <p><u>Krorez beach</u> has 1.1 km long and till 100m wide beach. It is one of the prettiest beaches of pebble. Next to the beach there is the Monastery of Krorez.</p> <p><u>Kakome beach</u> is situated in the northeast of Qefali peninsula and has the shape of “U” letter, with a width of about 300m. The eastern coast of the bay is low and is completed by a beautiful sandy beach, whereas the northern and southern shores are rocky, up to 15m high. The both rocky sides of the bay fall directly in the sea.</p> <p><u>Canyon of Gjipe.</u> The Canyon of Gjipe is situated between Dhermi and Vuno; it is a narrow strait 10-20 m wide and over 800 m long and represents a unique geographical characteristic. The canyon is narrow and the walls are very high creating a unique landscape feature of the southern coast. its special habitat has a potentially high biodiversity and prehistoric remains (Iron Age) have been found in a grotto along the canyon.</p> <p><u>Underwater findings.</u> Underwater of Karaburuni holds a considerable number of sunken ships and many archaeological objects, which confirm the links between this area and other civilizations of the Greek and Roman periods. There are numerous shipwrecks, mainly on the western coast (including from the two World Wars), as well as amphorae close to cape St. Nikolai on the eastern coast of Sazani island. Three shipwrecks in Vlora bay and two ancient quarries (one located north of Pasha Liman has sculptured red heads from the classical period) on the eastern coast have been reported in the area.</p> <p>There are four zoning of findings, at the entrance of Butrinti canal, near the Monastery of St. George in Ksamil, at the beach called “Cave” in Lukova near ShenVasil and recently in the area between Borsh and Himara. Generally, the findings are amphorae of century III-II BC at a distance 1.8-2 miles from the coast, 150-200m deep.</p>
--	---

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kakome bay to Qefali Cape</li> <li>• Ksamili bay</li> <li>• Cape of Stillo</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Fauna</b> (Animals of specific interest – species of rare animals): Areas where they are founded</p>	<p>The south coast of Albania has rich fauna diversity. In particular, the area holds a very rich fauna of insects (invertebrates), Furthermore, there are species of amphibians, reptiles and bird species, which makes the Southern Coast region a very important area for birds. The area is an important site for birds of prey, with the rare lesser kestrel and Egyptian vulture among a range of notable raptors. 17 mammal species out of 55 species found in the area belong to the Red List of Globally Threatened Mammals.</p> <p>Butrint area, included in the list of important bird habitats in Europe, is known for wintering population of pygmy cormorant, the Dalmatian pelican and a record of a single slender-billed curlew. Other internationally vulnerable species recorded at Butrint include a single white-tailed eagle; otter and Hermann’s tortoise. The European pond terrapin and stripe-necked terrapin are also listed as threatened species in Europe.</p>
<p><b>Flora</b> (Plants of specific interest – varieties of rare plants): Areas where they are founded</p>	<p>The Southern Albanian Coastal Region is characterised by a significant diversity of flora, habitats and plant associations of a particular national importance. A large number of rare and endangered species of Albania are found in the area, as well as many endemic and relict plant species.</p>