



European Commission



LOUIS BERGER S.A.



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
Albania

LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN

Commune of Velipoja

*for a healthy community
in a healthy environment*



Local Environmental Action Plan

Commune of Velipoja

This document is prepared under the CARDS project "Environmental Legislation and Planning in Albania – ELPA", financed by the European Commission in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Water Administration. Implemented by Jacobs, Louis Berger S.A and Regional Environmental Center (REC), Albania

2006

Printed by Gent Graphic, Tirana

This document is prepared with the assistance of



QENDRA RAJONALE E MJEDISIT
Shqipëri

<http://albania.rec.org>

In close collaboration with:

Staff of the Commune of Velipoja, directorates and inspectorates in the area, regional experts and international experts from ELPA.

and, with the participation of:

Agim Hoxhaj, Alken Myftiu, Daniela Tola, Drita Kruja, Eduart Cani, Fatbardh Sokoli, Filip Kërcunga, Gege Pergjeçaj, Gjovalin Bregna, Marash Keci, Mihallaq Qirjo, Rikard Malaj

Table of contents

A+B Introduction.....	7
C. General analysis of the opportunities and risks for the development of the commune of Velipoja	9
1. Analysis of the situation	11
1.1 General characteristics	
1.2 Development of the agricultural sector	
1.3 Biological diversity and protected zones	
1.4 Development of tourism, community education and awareness building	
2. List of problems	31
3. Opportunities - Recommendations	43
4. Action Plan	51
5. Monitoring and Evaluation	61

Abbreviations

ELPA	Environmental Legislation and Planning in Albania
REC	Regional Environmental Center
NES	National Environmental Strategy
REAP	Regional Environmental Action Plan
MEFWA	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Water Administration
NCTAA	National Council for Territory Adjustment of Albania
DFS	Directorate of Forestry Service
MoPWTT	Ministry of Public Works, Transportation and Telecommunication
MoTCYS	Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports
RC	Regional Council
IUCN	World Nature Conservation Union
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
REA	Regional Environmental Agency
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment

A. Introduction

The preparation of this document is funded as part of the in the framework of EU CARDS programme, as part of the project “Environmental Legislation and Planning in Albania (ELPA) Environmental Action Plan component”, The overall objective of ELPA is to support the Government’s objective of meeting Albania’s sustainable development principles in accordance with EU environmental requirements, and thus to prepare for EU accession talks. This includes the strengthening the technical and administrative capacity of local government’s planning controls and the capacity building for the Environmental Action planning process at regional and local level.

This LEAP is directly linked with other components of the ELPA project:

- The National Environmental Strategy (NES) sets out the environmental policy for all development sectors including sustainable management of environmental resources used for development, and the protection of biodiversity;
- Regional Environmental Action Plan for Drini delta;
- Pilot plan for the costal area from Ishmi river mouth up to Buna river mouth;
- Raising environmental awareness at regional and local levels. The public consultation process involved in the development of this LEAP is a key activity required under the EU laws for the development of all Plans.

The direct relation between each document is given in the Action Plan section of this document.

The Local Environmental Action Plan process is in line with Albanian government efforts for further developing and strengthening the environmental planning at different levels as required by the SAP and, within this project, as support to the development and drafting the National Environmental Strategy.

The overall goal of this LEAP process is to address unplanned development of cities, accompanied by uncontrolled interventions into the existing infrastructure, which has had a negative impact on the environment and public health. In addition, the creation of new population centres and rapid urban expansion, have put huge pressure on an already derelict infrastructure. Outward migration from the mountain areas to the coast has caused particular problems of declining infrastructure in the mountains and pressure on the coastal regions.

Taking into consideration the lack of monitoring and enforcement capabilities, there is a very low awareness of environmental issues amongst business, institutions and public alike. This project has worked to raise the awareness of environment on government and public agendas, and address data collection, monitoring and public information system improvements.

The collection of the necessary data from the different fields the commune area began with the physical and geographical features, terrain, natural and underground resources, water, agriculture, biodiversity, forestry, fishery, hydro - geology and demographic data, also the environmental impact of territory planning, energy, urban waste, education etc. Based on these data, an integrated document has been produced with clear focus on nature protection and sustainable development.

This document presents a detailed data’s analysis over last 50 years in different fields, with different physical conditions (marine ecosystems, lowland peri-Adriatic, valley and canyons, lagoons). The study area presents an area of great environmental interest for everyone. With a new vision of interdisciplinary development in Albania,

different fields influencing each-other are presented in an integrated and harmonized way and in respect with the nature and sustainable development.

The LEAP document will serve as a strategy for local and national institutions, business, different organizations, experts and other actors, to develop more further their vision on the exploitation of natural resources in a sustainable manner in Velipoja Commune.

B. Processes and methodology

The Local Environmental Action Plan has been prepared by local experts from commune of Velipoja, the national experts from Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration, as well as by the support of international experts from ELPA Project.

Developed in three main parts, the LEAP is structured in the following chapters: Part One: Situation analysis; Part two , Recommendations and Development Strategy and Part Three; Action Plan , presenting for each topic the identified problems, recommendations and proposed concrete interventions. Special attention is paid to the interaction between different issues.

One of the most important steps of the process has been the discussion of each phase of the document with a considerable number of local experts, specialists and community representatives. Aiming at preparing a comprehensive document where different interests are taken into account. Several public consultations, institutional communications, round tables and calls for cooperation were held in the commune level to promote local ownership of the Plan.

ELPA project team and REC Albania would like to thank the local and regional actors involved in this process for their generous support and commitment to the LEAP process as the first piloted model and prototype in Albania.

C. General analysis of the opportunities and risks for the development of the commune of Velipoja

This exercise is held with the LEAP working groups established in the Commune of Velipoja and the analysis made in the "Workshop for regional development (Shkodra October 2005 Inwent –GTZ)", with the purpose to analyse that can help this commune with high natural values to develop towards sustainable development and to enforce the management of those natural values, dealing with risks and obstacles slowing this development.

It should be regularly debated and improved in order to help decision makers and investors to find their selves in the responsibilities and opportunities in the sustainable development of the area.

Strengths	Weaknesses
Large variety of natural habitats, river lagoon, forest, mountain Very good sand A wealth of natural resources Closeness to Shkodra The still clean coast Considerable beach area Geographical position Coastal line Fertile land Great production potential, developed stockbreeding Clean air Good climate Human resources Closeness to potential markets Closeness to Montenegro Electricity and water Traditional farming, melons and potatoes	Weak management of waste and poor quality of cleaning Little improvement in farming Poor management of sewage Investing without plan Unresolved land issues Weak road infrastructure Weak institutional intervention Passivity with regard to value promotion Chaotic constructions Lack of vision and plans for the development of tourism Weak communication with the local government Weak local government authority Poor quality services Lack of professional authority in the field of territorial regulation
Opportunities	Threats
Development of Agriculture Development of Tourism Support from NGO-s Medicinal plants Agricultural productivity The zone is well situated for development projects Fishing industry Hunting opportunities Large accommodation capacities Terrain suitable for the exercise of various sports Desire to develop Interest from foreigners Opportunities for utilization of alternative energies (wind and sun)	High immigration rates Legal void with regard to the law on agricultural land Viral diseases Shortage of drinking water Pollution of the environment Non enforcement of the law Dysfunctional local governance High levels of corruption Competition from neighboring countries Ownership over constructions

1. Analysis of the situation

1.1 General characteristics (*Location, spatial development, climate*)

The commune of Velipoje is part of the Shkodra Region and is located southwest of Shkodra in a distance of about 24 km. The town borders on the northwest with Montenegro along the Buna River, on the East with the Region of Lezha, on the North with the Commune of Dajc and on the South with the Adriatic Sea. The total surface of the commune is 72.4 km². The whole zone is a vast field surrounded by the hills of Baks, Ças, Shtiqen and Maja e Zezë. The commune has a vast spread along the Adriatic coast in and a beach which dates back to about 300 years.

The actual number of population in the entire commune of Velipoje is 8270 inhabitants. The tendency is for the population to grow at fast rate due to various factors such as internal migration, the desire to invest in tourism, etc. The commune is made up of 10 villages which are: Vulpine, Reç-Pulaj, Luarz, Gomsiqe e Re, Baks-Rrjoll, Pulaj-Plazh, Reç i Ri, Baks i Ri, Ças, Mali Kolaj.

Velipoja is characterized by Mediterranean climate, with hot and dry summers, wet and mild winters. The wind of murrilan, which is very characteristic of the area, makes the winters harsh; whereas in the summer the wind of Shiroku brings humidity.

1.1.1 The existence or absence of regulation plans

The greatest changes have taken place in the beach of Velipoja, which before the nineties had only few cabins and 3 hotels. At the beginning of the nineties, the zone saw a boom of construction work (mainly with light materials) for commercial purposes. With few exceptions in the village of Pulaj, land in the territory of the beach has not been restituted to the former owners. In the year 1995, a master plan was designed by an Italian company which planned to turn the beach of Velipoja into a site of quality tourism with space dedicated to tourist villages with an architecture style in harmony with the environment. After the year 1997 the territory of the beach was invaded by massive constructions (without construction permits) based simply on agreement or sale contracts with the former owners or people who claimed ownership over the land (with the exception of the agricultural land given out in accordance with law 7501 dated 19.07.1991 "Concerning the land", ownership over the rest of the land is not based on any formal document of any type of validity).

A number of regulation plans have been designed for the commune of Velipoje which have not been implemented either due to poor quality or to the lack of willingness by the authorities to implement them. Mention can be made of:

- a. urban study on a construction plot for a tourist village in Velipoje of 8.5 ha, endorsed by the Council for Territorial Regulation of the Republic of Albania, Decision No. 8 dated 16.09.2000;
- b. Urban study for tourist development and protection of the tourist zone of Velipoje, endorsed by decision No.1 dated 18.06.2003 by the Council for Territorial Regulation of the Republic of Albania.
- c. The National Institute of Urban Studies has developed an additional urban plan, which takes count of the extra legal constructions, but has not been endorsed by the National Council for Territorial Adjustment of Albania.

The ELPA project has designed a functional plan which considers primarily the protection of the natural resources and the natural assets and wealth contributing to

development of sustainable tourism¹). This is the best ever designed spatial planning which guarantees Velipoja the chances for development and progress in harmony with all the other elements of life in this commune. However, this plan needs to be supplemented with other partial studies as regards the manner of organization within special zones and it also has to reflect within every zone the implications of the Decision of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Management to proclaim the entire commune into various categories of protected zones.

Despite the numerous plans, as a consequence of lack of financial resources, the studies and projects remain in paper of which the most important are:

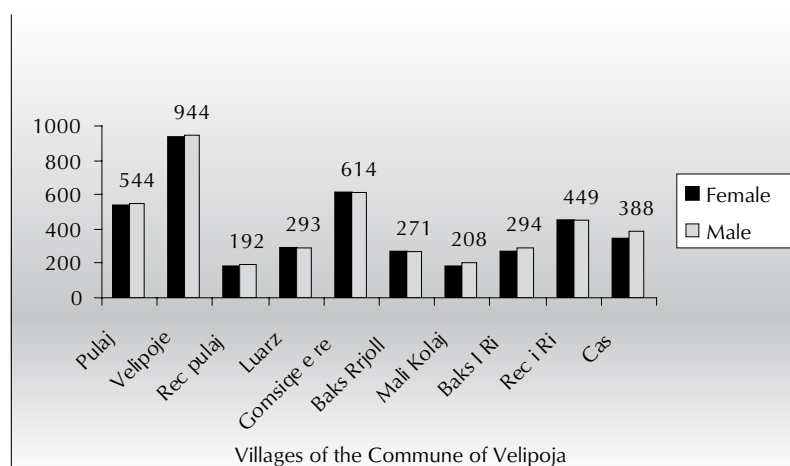
- Studies in the field of planning and territorial regulation;
- General regulation plan and partial urban studies;
- Review and endorsement of applications for construction permits.

According to estimations, the commune of Velipojë has about 500 extra legal constructions, concentrated in the area of the beach along the way to Vilun. These are very chaotic buildings in full disregard of any architectural style and their height varies from 1-5 stories.

1.1.2 Change of population and demographic structure

The commune of Velipoje has 8270 inhabitants of which 4073 females and 4197 males, i.e. in more or less in balanced proportions.

The commune is made up of 10 villages (graph 1 presents the number of population per village according to gender with the village of Velipoje having the greatest number (due to its being a tourist zone).



Graph 1 - number of population per each village according to gender

The population is heterogeneous and has arrived from various parts of the region at different times. In this area there is a harmonious co-existence of the cultures of the zones of Malesia e Mbishkodres, Zadrima, Malesia e Dukagjinit and that of Mirdita. The common economic and social life has had a great impact on the mixing of the elements of the various cultures. However, in the family and religious ceremonies,

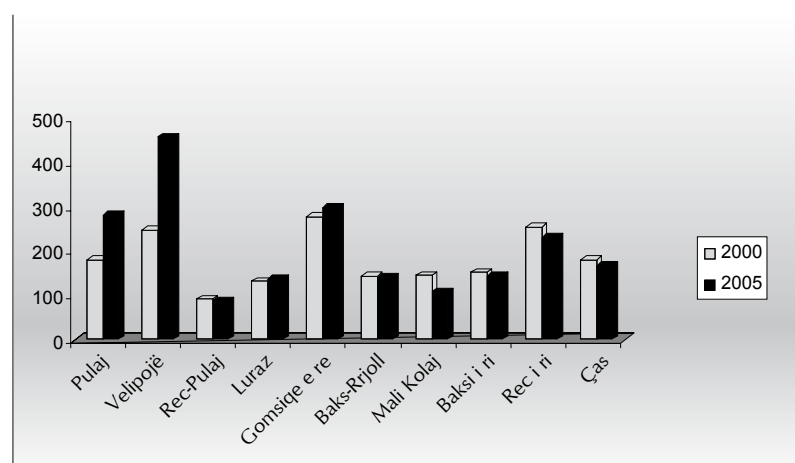
¹ The project "Environmental legislation and planning in Albania" was concluded in 2006. It has designed a functional zoning of the coastal area from the end flow of the River Ishem in the South to the end flow of the River Buna in the North.

into the attire, the manner of life and in the speech (sub dialects), it is very easy to discern the specific elements of each culture. Human resources in the zone of Velipoja are possessed with the necessary requirements to meet the challenges of development. Above 100 people living in the zone have received higher education in various profiles, a great number have finished the secondary education and have been qualified in various professions and trades.

The main economic activities of the population of Velipoja are agriculture, stockbreeding and lately even construction, family tourism and agritourism.

1.1.3 Migration in the zone of Velipoja

Number of families in the commune of Velipoje from the year 2000 to 2005 has increased with 69 families although in some villages the number of families has fallen considerably. This is due to immigration and internal migration towards the urban and especially the coastal zones of the commune. Families in the villages of Velipoja have increased to 210 families and the village of Pulaj to 99 villages.



Graph 2. Change of population per village in the year 2000 and 2005

1.1.4 Employment and education

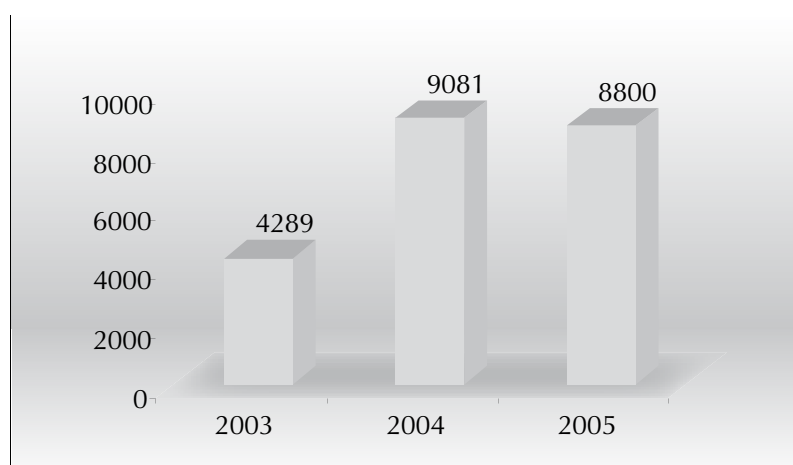
There are no accurate data regarding employment and education of the population in the commune of Velipoje. According to information available in the commune, over 100 inhabitants have received higher education (teachers, veterinaries, agronomists, zootechnics and very few engineers and economists). The authorities of the commune should direct the attention of the younger generation towards receiving higher education in these programs.

The greatest part of the population is employed in the private sector as in agriculture, retail shops, construction sector, etc. However, very few apply to the employment offices for jobs and therefore the information is not available through the official channels.

A number of 247 households (12% of the population) receive economic aid of which 172 are eligible for disability benefits and 75 for unemployment benefits.

1.1.5 Income

The commune revenue declined by 281.000 lek in 2005 as compared to 2004. This was mainly due to inefficiency of the administration staff who must strengthen control and build awareness of the community and the businesses on the need to pay taxes to local Government.



Graph 3. Commune revenue from taxes and tariffs

1.1.6 Business development

The commune of Velipoje has 63 small businesses and 6 large businesses

Type of Business	No. of business
Production of gravel and inert materials	4
Construction materials	3
Retail trade	21
Gas stations	4
Duralumin panes and frames	2
Dairy factories	3
Billiard houses	1
Liquid gas sale	1
Coffee bars	10
Bakery	1
Auto service	2
Drug store	1
Construction firm	1
Hair dresser	1
Wood works	1
Mini football field	1
Pastry shop	2
Restaurant	10
Total 2005	69

Table 1. Types of businesses in the commune of Velipoje

According to records from the commune of Velipoje, there are 95 hotels in the village of Velipoje, which operate as business and are a good source of income for their owners. These businesses are not licensed and the commune has asked the Local Tax Office to grant them provisional license. The number of rooms in these hotels varies from 6 to 30.

1.1.8 Services

Roads: The national road, after a turn of 90°, enters the Beach of Velipoje. In accordance

with architectonic concepts from the past for small size beaches, in front of the buildings there is a park and a square which is still unoccupied. 800 ml long and 30 ml wide the square serves as a place for strolling. There is also the road from the center of the beach to the pumping station of Vilun which leads to the swamp and then crosses to the village of Rrjoll through a pedestrian's bridge. Uncontrollable construction and the absence of a plan for the spatial development of the beach has caused the roads leading to the beach and the inner pathways linking the center of the beach with the national road and hotels to be hard to pass. Therefore, it can be said that there is a total absence of infrastructure in the territory of the beach and in the rainy days the territory is almost impassable. In the summer time, the absence of a parking place for cars causes great chaos on the beach. The situation can be normalized through the application of a differentiated payment for parking in the different days of the week. Also, encouraging visitors to use buses instead of private cars would greatly relieve the situation and reduce pollution to the environment. The spatial development plan should pay attention to the construction of a functional system for the circulation of vehicles and pedestrians. It also should create facilities for its maintenance in the future given its characteristics as an urban center the population of which almost trebles for a period of 3-4 months.

In the summer time, on an average a number of 1900 -2100 vehicles daily enter the Beach of Velipoja to transport visitors to the coast of the sea. On Saturdays and Sundays the number reaches to 4500-4700 which creates the need for a road system and parking places well managed and well organized.

b. Green Spaces

In the area outside the natural reservoir of Velipoja, the traditional green belt stretching from the "Governmental Villa" to the coast of the lagoon has suffered damages and is still under attack. Uncontrollable constructions and the fragmentation of the territory cause the green spaces to shrink constantly. The same is happening with the spaces for recreation and leisure time. In the absence of a spatial plan, the space is being turned into construction grounds. The pine trees are being felled and vast space is being covered by litter and waste.

c. Drinking water

Water in the Commune of Velipoje is supplied from the village of Trush over a distance of 12 km. The water is supplied through pumps of mechanical lifting and through depots collecting water and then letting it flow free. The water station in the village of Trush has 4 vertical pumps and 1 horizontal pump. The commune has two water stations: one supplies the village of Mali Kolaj the other supplies the rest of the villages in the commune.

The water supply situation has improved lately thanks to the rehabilitation of the water stations. However, it must be said that the water is not of very good quality due to the worn out of water pipes.

The tables below provide the schemes and information on drinking water supply

Village	Mechanical lifting system	Free flow system	No. of water stations	No. of pumping stations
Pulaj -Plazh	+	None	None	None
Velipojë	+	None	1	4 vertical
Rec pulaj	+	None	None	None

Luarz	+	None	None	None
Gomsique e re	+	None	None	None
Baks Rrjoll	+	None	None	None
Mali Kolaj	+	None	1	1 horizontal
Baks i Ri	+	None	None	None
Rec i Ri	+	None	None	None
Cas	+	None	None	None

Table 2. Scheme of supplying drinking water to the Commune of Velipoje

Village	Water Production (m3/vit)	Max. capacity of production (l/s)	Length of distribution net (km)	Length of external net (km)	Deposit-ing capacity (m3)	Beneficiary (families)
Velipoje	439200	20	23	16	800	1300
Mali Kolaj	58560	5	6	4	100	70

Table 3. Information on the water supply of the commune (data pertain to the villages with drinking water stations)

d. Sewage systems

The Commune of Velipoje has no sewage system. The population of the commune uses septic holes in their worst variant. The number of septic holes is almost equal to the number of households. Every family collects its sewage into separate septic holes. The families in apartment blocks (Ças: 12, Reç i Ri: 13 and Velipoje 1) have concentrated systems of septic holes. In these environments, the septic holes often spill over and the sewage flows along the road thus representing a clear threat for the spread of infections and diseases. This “solution” is unacceptable as it is also a threat to the underground waters and the zone of the beach. To provide solutions to the sewage issue, the specificity of each of the villages in the commune should be kept in mind. It should be stated, however, that in the greatest part of the villages, the relief and the small density of the population, makes it possible to use the system of laginates (three hole filter system). Sewage is a problem that needs to be solved urgently in the zone of the beach and in the five villages of the commune. More problematic are the villages of Pulaj-Plazh, Velipoje and Baks Rrjoll, given their tourism perspectives. These villages need pipes and pumping stations as well as works for the processing of sewage in order to accommodate all the constructions that are being built at fast rate. In the village of Baks Rrjoll, although the situation is not yet problematic, there is a clear trend of fast tourism growth. In addition, the village of Gomsique e Re should be planned for inclusion in the water and sewage system given the high population density and the fast concentration of new buildings. Of urgent priority is the building of several blocks of public toilets in the territory of the beach.

e. Urban waste

In the recent year the influx of visitors to the beach of Velipoje has been growing given its quality of natural assets. Approximate estimations show that the beach of Velipoje is visited by an average of 25.000 tourists of whom 14.000-16.000 residential. The maximum accommodation capacity for residential tourists by the hotels and family businesses is 25.000 people. In certain days at the height of the season the number of commuting and residential tourists amounts to above 70,000 people. This large influx

of people increases substantially the consumption rate and therefore the amount of urban waste also increases far beyond the normal. If urban waste is estimated according to the average of daily visitors on the beach of Velipoja, 25,000 people are supposed to produce 25 ton of waste at an average rate of 1 kg of waste per person. For the entire duration of the season counting averagely 90 days, the amount of litter is 2250 ton without counting the waste from the restaurants, cafés and the inhabitants of the zone. Urban waste produced by the regular inhabitants is calculated at an average of $0.7\text{kg/days} \times 8300 \text{ inhabitants} = 5,81 \text{ ton/days} \times 365 \text{ days} = 2120,65 \text{ ton/year}$. Therefore, it can be stated that the commune collects and transports an estimated 4370 tons of waste annually.

A serious issue is the absence of general plans for the distribution of collection points for waste, the absence of trash bins and vehicles for the transportation of waste. Plans and studies for this purpose must take count of the volume of waste, the geographical relief of the area and the spread of habitats over the distance. The beach of Velipoja should be cleaned yearly before the beginning of the season from litter washed ashore by the sea.

f. Electricity.

Velipoja is supplied with electricity through the substation of Cas which is fed through a 35.000 kilovolt line. The beach has a separate substation with a considerable number of cabins distributed in almost every private building. The electricity grid like other types of infrastructure is highly amortized and is need of an overall plan for rehabilitation which must be made part of the areas master plan. The boulevard has no regular lightening and the beach is without system of lighting at all. Lights would serve to turn the boulevard into a pleasant place to be in the evening and people would be out for longer periods of time. In the territory of the beach, for the last three years, electricity has been supplied non stop.

1.2 Development of the agricultural sector

1.2.1 Use of land

The commune of Velipoje has an agricultural area of 2.700 ha, split among 10 villages and sown with crops as follows:

Wheat 250 ha equal to 9 % of the area.

Corn 100 ha equal 3.7% of the area.

Vegetables and potatoes 50 ha or equal to 1.85 % of the area.

Fruticulture and viticulture 55 ha equal to 2 %.

Fodder 1000 ha equal to 37 %.

Barren land 1245 ha equal to 46 % of the area of agricultural terrain.

1.2.2 Stock breeding

The greatest concentration of livestock is in the villages of Ças, Reç i Ri, Mal Kolaj and Baks-Rrjoll. In the villages of Ças and Reç i Ri the most grown animals are the cows and the most cultivated plants are the fodder and corn grown mainly for animal food; whereas the villages of Mali Kolaj and Baks-Rrjoll, grow more of sheep and goat, of the two goats being more of a priority with the inhabitants.

Village	Number of farmers	Cows	Goats and sheep
Velipoja	330	400	660
Reç i ri	248	315	75

Baksi i Ri	123	170	85
Mali Kolaj	133	177	345
Baks - Rrjoll	91	115	295
Luarz	116	198	50
Pulaj - Plazh	158	150	0
Gomsiqe	233	258	40
Reç - Pulaj	84	119	70
Ças	148	185	170

Table 4. Distribution of livestock in relation to farmers

The territory of the commune has four dairy processing factories located in the villages of Velipojë, Rec Pulaj, Ças, and Baks i Ri, which produce cheese as the main product. They also produce butter and cottage cheese as by products. The dairy works are operational throughout the year, but their technology is out dated and does not meet the minimal requirements of the hygiene and quality standards of the market. Also, the village has a number of small ranches which raise animals in numbers ranging from 300 to 1000 heads of goat and sheep.

1.2.3 Productivity

Productivity per unit of land in the commune of Velipoje is low due to the fact that a portion of 30 % of the land is above water and the soil has a mechanical sand content; 12 per cent is represented by hilly and unirrigated as well as poor land. The rest of the area is fertile, but unirrigated as the irrigation systems were destroyed and damaged after the year 1990. In order to increase productivity the following is required: i) reinstating irrigation systems; ii) introducing modern technology; iii) using organic fertilizers; iv) establishing mini farms through encouraging farmers to unite. The growth of productivity is a very important priority task since the number of the population is growing and, more importantly still, in view of the proportions that tourism is expected to achieve in the coming years.

Culture	Area (ha)	Productivity(kv/ha)	Total produce (kv)
Wheat	250	25	6,250
Corn	100	35	3,500
Vegetables and potatoes	50	100	5,000
Fruit + viticulture	55	75	4,025
Fodder	1,000	120	120,000

Table 5. Productivity according to cultures

1.2.4 Employment in agriculture

Presently (year 2006) agriculture employs about 1.700 persons, but the productivity of their work is low due to: (i) non cooperation of the farmers; ii) low levels of mechanization; iii) lack of labor force (young people are in emigration).

Since productivity per ha is low given the reasons above, the economic gains are inconsiderable with the exception of revenue made from some seasonal products sold on the markets of the Beach of Velipoja.

1.2.5 Drainage system used for agricultural purposes.

a. Drainage system: Drainage systems represent a necessity for ample harvesting in agriculture. Given the specificity of the conditions of the area of Velipoje drainage is

not effective, nor should it be expected to be given that the lands are sandy, torphic and hilly.

As regards the amount of surplus water locked in the land, the area of Velipoja has undergone pulling the water out in the previous system. In the recent years, all that has been done is the cleaning of collectors and second tier canals; whereas the third tier canals have not been maintained at all. These canals have been blocked and not been cleaned for many years. The government has not recognized the responsibility to clean these canals and the farmers have not been doing this due to their limited financial resources, but also due to poor awareness levels and poor understanding of the necessity.

The main draining canals are two: One covers the zone No. 1 and has a length of 4.1 km up to the hydrovor of Ças and canal 2 (collector 2) cover the zone No. 2 and has a length of 12, 7 km and connects to the hydrovor of Vilun.

Both canals together cover an area of 4.000 ha including agricultural and non-agricultural lands. There are 9 second tier canals (in a length of 14, 2 km) and 103 third tier canals (in a length of 7 km). These have been totally neglected for the last 20 years and the situation is critical as regards the drainage of the land affected by this.

The situation is such that it necessitates the carrying out of a new study since a part of the land is torphic (in the zone of Cas) and the last 10-15 years have seen a fall in the quality of the land.

The commune of Velipoje is located only slightly above the sea level and is surrounded by dams of about 20, 89 km length as follows:

Dam of Vilun 6.9 km

Dam of Pentar and Luarzi 6.8 km

Dam of Reç-Pulaj 7 km

Dam of Ças 1 km

b. Irrigation system: The irrigation system is made up of 4 main canals: the irrigation canal of Murteme-Pentar with a length of 9.5 km and a capacity of 1.6 m³ water per second and an irrigation capacity of 650 ha land; the canals of Ças 2.3 km long and a capacity of 0.3 m³ water per second and designed to irrigate 200 ha land the canal of Murteme-Pulaj 14.5 km long and capacity of 2.2 m³ water per second designed to irrigate 1.000 ha land; the canal number 10, parabolic, with a capacity of 0.5 m³ water per second, designed to water 400 ha land.

These canals have been built years ago and have been very functional but lately they only function on partial capacity due to the damages.

1.3 Biological diversity and protected zones

1.3.1 General description

Biodiversity in the zone of Velipoje is famous for its multitude of kinds and habitats. The lagoon of Vilun and the Reservoir of Velipoje jointly with the swamp of Domni represent specific habitats of living species. The lagoon of Vilun and Velipoje is characterized by grass kinds which grow in the salted waters. This lagoon is habitat not only of the grass plants but also of the tree plants. In the recent time, the overexploitation of the trees and medicinal plants has created negative effects on the wild fauna, too. Over fishing and the use of abusive methods has caused the reduction of the marine wealth. Meeting the demands for living resources in such extreme ways has had its impact on

the life of the population, too. Biodiversity has been worsening in the last five years. This is due to the savage exploitation of the natural resources, but also to a number of other threatening factors among which the damage of the habitats following the drying of the marshes, the partial felling of the trees, the damage of the wicker plants, fishing with dynamite and other hazardous methods. The persecution of the animals and illegal hunting or hunting with abusive methods, the hunting in times of the year when the animals have their reproduction cycle and damage to the young and eggs of the animals and birds are some of the threatening factors.

A significant factor which has led and is leading to the loss of biodiversity values in the zone of Velipoje is the low level of people awareness and environmental knowledge. Administrative structures charged with the protection of the natural values in the zone have only few staff and are not sufficiently empowered to fulfill their obligations.

c. Medicinal plants

An important medicinal plant harvested in the commune of Velipoje is the sage. It mostly grows in Mal Kolaj and Baks Rrjoll. It is a wild plant which cannot be cultivated, but the owners of the land protect and collect it to generate income. Broad estimates indicate that in one year an amount of 1,200 kg sage is collected. The average price is about 90 lek/kg. Other plants of the same importance are becoming rare. They come in fewer quantities in the zone and for this reason are taken better care of by the populations. Other medicinal plants known and used are: Linden, Hawthorn, Savory, Thymus, etc.

1.3.2 Protected zones

Protected zones within the region of Velipoje, starting from the delta of the Buna River to the Lagoon of Vilun are:

River Buna and the legatine territories around it, the delta of the Buna River, the marsh of Domni and the lagoon of Vilun. These have all been declared protected water landscape pursuant to article 100 of the Constitution and point 1, article 13 of the Law No. 8906, dated 6 June 2002 "Concerning Protected Zones".

This water/land protected landscape borders:

North: on the line uniting the emergence of the river Buna from the lake of Shkodra up to the northern border with Montenegro (coordinates 420 03'08" 190 29'30", 420 01'31" 190 29', 420 00'36" 190 25'7", 420 00' 190 23'45");

West: on the cross-border line following the length of the River Buna with Montenegro.

East: on the line uniting the emergence of the River Buna from the Shkodra Lake to the Rera e Hedhur which crosses the mountainous zone (coordinates: 410 50'30" 190 35'30", 420 53'15" 190 30', 410 59'30" 190 31'30", 420 00' 190 31'33", 420 02'15" 190 30', 420 03'08" 190 29').

South: On the coastal line from the Rera e Hedhur up to the delta of the River Buna (coordinates 410 50'57" 190 23', 410 51'28" 190 27'30", 410 50'58" 190 30').

The water/land protected landscape of the River Buna has an overall area of 23 027 ha, comprised of:

- a) forest and shrub are - 7 799 ha;
- b) lagoon area - 346 ha;
- c) sand and coastal dunes - 496 ha;
- d) salted land - 252 ha;
- e) other areas (agricultural land, inhabited zones) - 14 134 ha.

The water/sand landscape of Buna has the following zoning:

Central zone: a) the area from the river Buna and its banks starting from the point of uniting with the River Drin up to the village of Obot; b) the banks of the River Buna in the western part of the reservoir of Velipoja, from the delta of the river up until the northern extreme of the Island of Ada and 200 meters in the depth of the reservoir on its eastern side; c) The Island of Franc Joseph and the coast East of the delta up to 2 km in length and width up to 300 meters in the direction of the sea, Southwards; d) the central and northern part of the lagoon of Vilun; e) the peninsula in the beach of Baks Rrjoll and a whole belt of 300 m width South of the coastal line up to Rera e Hedhur; f) the central part of the swamps of Domni and Murtemze.

In this area, in accordance with Law no. 8906, dated 6 June 2002 "Concerning protected zones" the third level of protection is applied.

Central zone consisting of: a) a section of the Buna River along its banks in a length of 3 km on the right side of the river, north of the village of Oblike; b) the part of the river from the village Obot up to the point facing the northern extreme of the Island of Ada over a width of 200 meter eastward; c) the entire area of the reservoir of Velipoja; d) the zone of Baks Rrjoll up to the height of 335 meters on the slope of the mountain of Kolaj in the North; e) the part of the swamps of Domni and Murtemza which surround it.

In this zone, the second level of protection is applied in accordance with the Law no.8906, dated 6.6.2002, "Concerning protected zones".

Central zone made of: a) the part of the river Buna, with length up to 2 km between the villages of Shirq and Obot on the right side of the River; b) a length of 2 km on the banks of the river Buna north of the village of Dajc, on the left side of the River.

The third level of protection is applied in this area in accordance with Law no.8906, dated 6.6.2002, "Concerning protected zones".

Zone of traditional development

Zone of traditional development made up of: a) the fields of Velipoja in an area of 2500 ha; b) the fields of Pentar with an area of 850 ha; c) the pools (former fish tubs) in the village of Reç with an area of 114 ha; d) the pastures of the bridge of Gjo Luli and Domni with an area of 2200 ha.

The fourth level of protection is applied in this zone in accordance with law no. 8906, dated 6.6.2002, "Concerning the protected zones", meaning that the area can be used for creative, educational, ecotouristic purposes and the land can be used for its traditional purposes in full harmony with the protection of the environment and the social, cultural and other values of the local community.

B.2. Zone of traditional development made up of: the territory which begins from the village of Pentar on the border with Montenegro continues through the marshes of the River Buna and the hills of Renci and descends in the coast at the point of Rera e Hedhur which has been defined as a corridor of migration.

The fourth level of protection is applied in this zone in accordance with law no. 8906, dated 6.6.2002, "Concerning protected zones". However given the characteristics of the zones, it is necessary to design special management plans.

Zone of the transition made up of: the Beach of Velipoja, bordering on the West with the reservoir of Velipoja, North with the highway and East up to 500 meters before it reaches the canal of communication of the lagoon of Vilun with the sea.

The fourth level of protection is applied in accordance with the Law no. 8906, dated 6.6.2002, "Concerning protected zones". Agricultural activity may be carried out in this zone and the land may be used for various tourists, sportive, educational and recreational purposes that do not harm the nature and biodiversity based on sustainable development and the rational management of the zone's natural resources.

The Ministry of the Environment has established an authority for the administration of the protected zone of Velipoje which is responsible also for the protection of the water protected landscape of the River Buna.

The Island of Franc Jozef together with the zone of the reservoir of Velipoje are strictly natural reservoirs. This reservoir has been given this status because it represents a natural belt with a wide range of values.

The wetlands such as the Delta of Buna and the north and northeastern part of the Lagoon of Vilun have been declared Ramsar zones in the year 2005.

The managed natural reservoir of Velipoja.

This reservoir represents a rare asset as regards its values. It has not suffered damages of any alarming proportions given that it has been long time declared a reservoir. However, more efforts need to be done to make it a place visited by local and foreign tourists and thus make it into an important source of income for the local population. The reservoir borders on the North with agricultural lands, on the South with the Adriatic sea and on the North with a road that leads to the Beach of Velipoja; whereas on the west it borders on the River Buna.

1.3.3 Management of protected zones

The existing administration of the protected zone of Velipoje is under subordination of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration. It is also charged to carry out the functions of the administration for the protection of the water/land protected landscape of the River Buna.

The by-laws for administration and the management plan of the protected zone are the responsibility of the Ministry and local government.

The creation of the management structures ensures not only the enforcement of actions and interventions towards the rational use of natural resources available in the area, but also the growth of economic and tourist potentials for the population. The development of the protected zones and their rational management underwrite the development of tourist alternatives and throw light on the possibilities for the development of premises of ecotourism.

Of special importance is the management of the wetlands in the zone and the management of habitats with the participation of the community. The lagoon of Vilun and the zone of Velipoja as a whole carry great potential values for the development of summer and winter tourism. There is every opportunity to effectuate very good management to ensure substantial revenue for the local population. The virgin beach close to the village of Baks Rrjoll is a sandy beach up to the zone of Rera e Hedhur. From there on it continues to be a rocky coast up to Shengjin.

The presence of a very interesting mountain peak up to 550 meters above sea level called Maja e Zeze, creates the possibility for the combination of coastal with mountainous tourism.

1.3.4 Forests

Forests grow into the inland close to the lagoon as well as along the banks of Buna. Vegetation is mainly bushy and of the tree kind. The western part of the lagoon is

forested. The eastern part close to the hills of Renc is currently deforested due to human impact and extra legal felling. The greatest part of the forests stretch along the reservoir. The piles of marine are located here and there in the low waters of the marshlands. These are very good habitats for water birds.

The forest has also a bush area and truncated trees (zone under regeneration) over an area of 170 ha. A great part of the reservoir forest is located in the northern part of the reservoir and contains trees of the kind of fraxinus and about 180 ha planted with pines and Canadian oak. In the habitat there are also endangered plants like the sea lily. The forests create corridors which connect with one another and create possibilities for the up close observation of the beauties of the reservoir of Velipoja and the flow of the River Buna close to the reservoir. In the cold winter, life in the forests is enlivened due to the birds that migrate to pass the winter in the zone of Velipoje.

In the last years a considerable part of the forests in the zone of the Reservoir and the Lagoon of Vilun has been undergoing an uncontrollable exploitation of the trees. However, the habitats and the plants of the forest and sub forest have been cruelly exploited particularly the medicinal plants.

Constructions in the pine forest have considerably reduced the area of the pine in about 19 ha. The condition of these forest areas is in constant degradation. Only few steps have been taken to regenerate the area of the forest. Overall, the condition of the forests in the zone of Velipoja and the zone of the delta of Buna is experiencing a growing degradation.

1.3.5 Erosion

Sea: The phenomenon of sea erosion is more visible alongside the sea coast of the lagoon of Vilun up to the end flow of the Buna River. Along the coast the inroad of the sea is about 2 meters especially close to the delta of the river Buna. Given this progression by the sea, the loss of the coast may be much more dramatic than the average estimates of the last fifty years which place it at 500 meters. One of the factors favoring the advance of the sea toward the land and the intensification of erosion is the blockage of the alluviums that used to come from the River Drin and the construction of hydropower stations over its bed.

As yet, no concrete steps are taken to ensure protection. Moreover, the damage to one of the natural protections of the coast is going on, namely the pine forest along the banks of Velipoja. Along the banks of Buna especially in the zone of Shirq and Obot, it is very visible the erosion of the lands bordering on the banks. This has led to the damaging of whole belts of forest trees along the river banks.

Land: Superficial erosion of the land in the zone amounts to 25 ton ha per year. Degradation of the arable land due to erosion and floods continues to be one of the most serious environmental problems in the zone of Dajc and Shirq. Decline of the vegetation, non cultivation of the land, inadequate irrigation methods are some of the factors accelerating erosion in the zone. Certain zones are used as grazing land in violation with any and all criteria, thus stimulating overexploitation of vegetation and consequently damages to the landscape.

River: Very problematic is the situation along the rivers of Drin, Buna and Kir. The rivers themselves and the human impact (extraction of gravels, damaging the mountainous dams, etc.) have caused serious problems along the banks of the rivers. This situation has a strong influence on the increase of sea and river erosion.

1.4 Development of tourism, community education and awareness building

1.4.1 Overview

The territory of Velipoja is one of the pearls of the Albanian nature providing for the harmonious combination of the sea with clean water, the virgin and curative sand, the forests, lagoons, the mountains, the fertile lands and the soft hills which preserve the traces of ancient habitats. Velipoja is the only outlet to the sea for the region and has served as a bridge connecting the town of Shkoder with other towns in other countries, through the River of Buna. About the year 1890, the Austrians built in Pulaj at the end flow of the Buna river a port for small vessels which remained functional until the beginning of the First World War. Through this port, Shkodra conducted trade exchanges with Austria for many years. Through this port, Shkodra has traded with Austria for many years. The local population used the River to navigate with small vessels to reach the town of Shkoder for trade or other purposes. In the past the River of Buna used to be an important communication channel connecting the town with overseas. The town even had a small harbor for ships to anchor. Around the years 1800-1900 the river of Buna has been a very important communication canal for the area. Proof of this is the existence of a well developed and highly sophisticated market on the Bridge of Buna at the entrance of the city of Shkoder which testifies to the importance of this 14 km river that transverse the territory of the commune of Velipoja. Buna is an asset with extraordinary economic, social and tourist values.

Among the priority areas for the economic development of Velipoje, the development of Tourism is number one. "Coastal, river and mountainous tourism, the constructions of harbors on the River Buna and the Lagoon of Vilun, the construction of tourist villages in Baks Rrjoll and Maja e Zeze are ambitious targets of the commune of Velipoje".²⁾

The sand of Velipoja is known for its curative values. In the years 1969 -1970, alongside the private houses, the government started to build two hotels and a number of cabins. Until the year 1990 Velipoja was destined for popular tourism with a limited number of visitors. Four hotels and a number of simple cabins, all government owned property, were the only buildings on the beach of Velipoje. The local villagers were free to rent rooms in their homes to the visitors for a modest fee. After the year 1993, following the privatization of the state farms, the local people gained title over agricultural land and at the same time clearly set the boundaries of inherited land. People with an interest bought land from the former owners but also from those who had occupied the lands claimed by no former owners. As a consequence, construction grounds were created and construction of hotels and second houses for citizens started to flourish thus creating the land market. Presently there is no free land. It has been fragmented to plots ranging from 100 m² up to 2000-3000 m². The local people rehabilitated their old time homes and made them into comfortable villas.

Currently, the beach of Velipoja (the official name of the village of Pulaj Bregdet) has a population of 1082 inhabitants, of which 50 per cent have arrived in the last 5-6 years. During the four months of the summer season the beach is visited by 10 thousand visitors who are alternated for periods of 14 days on the beach. An additional number of 15-20 thousand visitors commute to the beach daily. On Saturdays and Sundays the number of visitors exceeds 40,000 people.

Given the reputation of tourism as a reputable business, a number of 100 hotels have been built with rooms ranging from 6-30 complete with other service facilities. In

² Strategy for development of the commune of Velipoje, 2006 (Prepared by the commune of Velipoja)

addition there are about 80 bars and restaurants all new constructions made on the preference and personal plans for growth with no coordination at all and without any development perspective for making Velipoja an area of quality tourism.

The territory of Velipoja has a coastal line of 14 km which originates at the end flow of the River Buna and goes on up to Rera e Hedhur. The gorge of the communication of the Lagoon of Vilun with the sea splits the beach of Velipoja into two parts: the part of Velipoja (6 km) used as beach over 3,700 ml in a chaotic state of development and the beach of Rrjoll (8km) where construction and concrete is just budding.

Through the highway, in Velipoje one can cross to the Bridge of Gjon Luli, which can be considered the only communication road with the town of Shkodra and beyond.

The depression of this zone includes the Mountain of Maja e Zeze, 454 meters above the sea level, and the three hills which the local people call mele: Mali i Martinut, Mali i Bajzes and Mali i Rencit, which represents terrains that with their geographical and historical particularities add to the tourist values of Velipoja. In addition, there are the three canals and two hydrovours connecting the Lagoon of Vilun with the field and low marshy lands built to drain and dispose of surplus water from the land, which not only have their unique natural characteristics, but also serve as habitats for the various species of fish and migratory birds.

The commune has about 1000 ha of forests of which 639 ha represents a protected reservoir. Here grows a variety of flora and fauna which makes walking through the forest from its entrance up to the end flow of the Buna river a special pleasure.

1.4.2. Types of tourism

Nature has blessed Velipoja, a relatively small territory, with sea, sand, lagoon, mountain, forest, the sand dunes and the fertile fields, the sweet waters rich in fish and many more riches. These are a very good basis for the development of tourism. Visitors come to Velipoja for its very important attractions. In the month of May and particularly in the second half of the month of June from a semi rural zone where construction goes on non stop, Velipoja turns into a populated center. In the second half of July and in the month of August the beach of Velipoja reaches its peak of the tourist season with residential visitors staying in hotels and rented household rooms and also with visitors who commute daily from the northern and central part of the country. The beach of Velipoja is only 130 km away from Tirana.

In view of the diversity of the terrain, the climate, the flora, fauna, the large variety of cultures, Velipoja is an excellent site not just for coastal tourism, but also for other types of tourism and leisure time. Research conducted by the students of the University of Shkodra in the 10 villages of the commune of Velipoje under the logo "Our village has a tourist future", brought to the fore the artistic, historical, natural, cultural and other sources of tourism which need to be promoted in order to make Velipoja an attraction for tourists.

1.4.2.1 Coastal tourism with sun and sea bathing

Tourism in the beach of Rrjoll, in the homes of the villagers or in cabins built with light construction materials may well be combined with hipism, alpinism, walks in open air, boat sailing, climbing Maja e Zeze, the Mountain of Renc which stands almost vertical above the sea, strolling along the banks of Buna on foot or on boats, etc. Walking through the reservoir of the forest of Velipoja can be very recreational. There are observation points from where one can watch the landscape and the numerous birds of the forests and the small swamps deep into the territory of the reservoir. Almost over the entire territory of Velipoja and in the entire seasons one can observe the

numerous migratory and permanent birds of the area. However, care must be taken to avoid human presence in certain parts where the birds reproduce themselves and have their nests.

The sport of fishing may be practiced both in the internal sweet waters of the river, and the lagoons and canals as well as the sea.

In the hunting season, the hunting of wild animals especially of the birds is very relaxing. However, strict measures need to be taken in accordance with the management plans and the biological cycle of the species and kinds which so far have been totally absent and the situation out of control.

1.4.3. Tourist infrastructure and superstructure at the service of tourism

The beach of Velipoja connects with the city of Shkodra through a branch of the national highway Tirana-Shkoder which has been rehabilitated in the last four years in all of its 30 km. Now that the road has been rehabilitated, it is an urgent issue to start working on the widening of two relative long bridges which are both one way and therefore cause long delays to travel to Velipoja.

The main road is with two lanes used in both ways. It traverses the fields of Nen Shkodra, bypasses the villages of Berdica and Trush and enters Velipoja through the Bridge of Gjollili. The road passes through the five villages of the Commune: Mali i Kolaj, Baks i Ri, Gomsiqe e Re (the official seat of the commune administration), the village of Velipoje e Re and reaches the Beach of Velipoja. The four first villages in line must be considered to be pre-introductory to the tourist zone and may be seen as an option to accommodate visitors here.

The distance of the Beach from Mali Koja is 12 km; from Baks i Ri 6 km, from Gomsiqe e Re 6 km and from Velipoja 2 km. The four other villages of the commune: Casi, Luarzi, and Rec i Ri and Reç Pulaj, connect to the road leading to the Beach through the rural roads which are in need of partial asphaltting. (Qendër Luars, Varri i Hasanit-Ças over 8 km and the rest of the road from Misuke to Reçi i Ri). The road ahead to Reç Pulaj is in need of rehabilitation and asphaltting over a length of 6 km. In the beach of Velipoja from the village of Baks i Ri, one could also use the small boats through the canal of draining the waters of the filed and flowing into Vilun. In addition, from the villages of Luarz and Rec Pulaj the Beach can be reached through sailing the River Buna.

1.4.4 Accommodation units

The beach of Velipoja has about 80 hotels with 6-30 rooms each which serve to accommodate visitors. The accommodation capacity in the area is about 12,000 persons. The hotels are generally conceived as normal living premises to accommodate 4-5 people. In addition to the bedrooms and bathrooms they have a kitchen for the visitors to cook their meals. As such they meet the normal requirements for family life and are rented at 15,000 lek per 14 days in the month of June and 35-45 thousand leks in the months of July and August. The full board hotels cost about 70-90 thousand leks for four-member families for a period of 14 days.

The territory of the beach has a population of 1.200 people of which 700 have arrived in the last 10 years on official arrangements. At the center of the beach there is a public clinic which is in operation only in the summer time. There is no school. The children of the village have to walk a distance of 4 km to reach the school in Velipoje where they can receive 9 year elementary education. In the summer time, a number of bars, restaurants, cafés and retail shops become operational to cover the needs of the visitors. During the summer for three years now has been established an

ambulant market of agricultural and livestock products. The initiative has proven to be successful as the numerous small farms in the town are ever more gearing their efforts towards meeting the demands of the visitors on the beach with improved quality and variety of their products. However, there is a total lack of entities providing communal services. There is an ambulatory courier service but no banking and transfer companies. Although considerable funding has gone into the building of facilities, their quality degrades quickly due to lack of maintenance, the poor infrastructure in the surrounding environment which offers the sight of roads with holes, mud and dust, but also domesticated animals which stroll peacefully in the middle of humans.

1.4.5. Visitors in the recent years

The number of visitors to Velipoja has been increasing from year to year. Almost every year, 10-12 accommodation facilities are completed and ready to be rented out. They add to the accommodation capacity a number of 250 to 300 beds (one room generally has 4 beds). In the year 2005, compared to one year ago, the number of visitors who needed accommodation increased by 10 %, and the period of vacation for full board visitors also increased over the period 16 July- 15 August. In the year 2006, the number of visitors seeking accommodation fell considerably even at the peak of the season. As a consequence the hotels were not fully booked. However, this period saw an increase in the number of commuting visitors. According to a survey, it follows that the segment of the beach from the gorge of Vilun to the beach of Velipoja (a length of 4 km) formerly reserved for the leaders of the country, in the year 2006 was fully populated by visitors concentrated in the center and both wings. There is no formal study of the number of visitors in the beach of Velipoja. However, approximate estimations show that in ordinary days the number may be up to 25 000 up to 30,000 visitors; whereas at the peak of the season, the number may exceed 50,000. Recently, along the sand on the beach, observation points have been established which assist visitors in cases of emergency or in the event they need help. These people use radios and other communication means to connect with the center which is possessed of swift vehicles such as high speed boats, but they are equipped to move fast on the land and sand, too.

As a result of the improvement of transportation conditions and thanks to good promotional work in the various tourism fairs in the region, the beach of Velipoja has for the last three years been visited by visitors from Kosova and Skopje. Interviews with visitors on the beach show that 92 per cent of them visit Velipoja for its nice sand and water and the beauty of its nature, the rest for reasons of business and some visit with their family in the summer time.³⁾ Poor infrastructure of roads and other facilities, entertaining and otherwise, causes Velipoja to be visited only 3 – 4 months of the year.

The operation of the Beach of Velipoja has a number of economic and social implications. Given the growing demand of the market in summer for agricultural and livestock products, some households produce entirely for the market of the beach, whereas others sell on this market a part of their products which is a very good source of family income.

In the recent years, construction has become an important sector of employment not just for the local population, but also for workers living in the surroundings of the town of Shkodra. The construction works in Velipoja use the labor force of people from the villages of Shkodra who commute back and forth everyday. Construction is almost an all year activity and employs teams of 3-10 people. A number of 15 teams of construction workers work on the beach of Velipoja almost 70 % of the year.

³ Shkodra Workshop on the concepts of regional development, October 2005

In the summer time, the months of May and August alongside families who employ themselves in the retail shops, a growing number of people is employed in the service sectors, mainly young people; whereas women are mostly employed by the hotels. In the last three years the number of people employed in tourism has increased to 100. The most available professions are waiter and sanitation workers. In addition, in the last three years the commune has employed a team of workers to clean the beach for the four month period.

1.4.5. Public information

Provision of information to the public is a very important component of tourism development. The kind of information needed is of all kinds. Thus the public needs information on how to search a room, a restaurant, what the prices are, how to reach a certain tourist point, etc. The public also must be informed on the existence of master plans for the development of tourism in general and the beach in particular. Specializing information centers are absent. There are no maps for people to orient themselves in the event of an emergency. The hotels and bars only display their names; whereas the names of the roads, the squares and other public places do not have their own proper names which could serve to help visitors orient themselves quickly. There is a private company which supplies the service of fixed telephone connectivity, but the rates are very expensive. This company does not offer internet connectivity. However, the commune and several NGO-s have produced some promotional materials on the development of tourism in Velipoja.

1.4.6 Education

The commune has 2 nine year schools and 4 primary 4 year schools. The number of pupils in the schools is 1.119, of whom 177 attend the secondary education⁴⁾

The secondary school was opened in Velipoja in the year 1974 as an agricultural vocational school whereas is now operated as a general education secondary school. Every year a number of 50 pupils complete their secondary education. School curricula involve environmental education and the program engages the pupils in such activities that disseminate knowledge about the natural, ecological and economic values of the lagoon of Vilun and the importance of preserving these values. Also they learn about the value of green belts and how they impact the environment. The pupils visit the places with tourist and other values and are made part of the community's efforts to discover and promote these values. However, environment education in school should place increased emphasis on the threats that the population may suffer from the damages wrought on the natural assets, the territories of the water, forests, sea and river. Education at school should aim to equip students with knowledge so that they may disseminate information in the households especially as regards the need to protect the environment, to administer waste and to be responsible in the everyday communal life. In addition, it could be a good strategic measure to open up a class with concentration on tourism.

Until the year 1995 there were in the commune 70 people who had finished higher education in the various profiles such agriculture and livestock, economy, teacher training, medicine, etc. The massivization of higher education has increased the number of those who have completed higher education to 100 people and many young people have enrolled in higher education programs. The establishment of market economy in Albania caused many higher education programs to become obsolete and those who hold these diplomas are now employed to do unqualified work. Instituting programs of retraining and re-qualification for such people would be an important investment.

⁴ Statistical data on education and schools in Velipoja, May 2006

1.4.7 Tourist attractions in Velipoja

Cultural assets.

- The hospitality traditions of Velipoja people;
- The specificities and combinations of cultures of the old time comes from the zone of Malesia e Shkodres with elements of culture carried by people coming from the areas of Dukagjin, Mirdita and Postriba. These cultures are manifested in all aspects of life, in speech, the marriage and death ceremonies, in simple normal communication. These represent values testifying to a population that coexists in a small territory despite their characteristics. Here one can see the different attires of people from Mirdita, from the mountains of Malesia e Madhe, from the villages etc. Not just in ceremonies, but also in everyday life people will wear these attires.
- A very rich cuisine, of fish, wild birds, pickled vegetables, raki and wine.
- The sacred objects, the Church of Velipoja, the Church of Rrjoll, the Church of Rec, the old Church in Pulaj, the Mosque of Luarz as well as the various cultural and sports facilities by the side of the churches.

Natural wealth

- The beach of Velipoja (the big beach according to the local people) measuring 3,700 m of which 150 m are covered by sand in a width of 50 m is utilized for sun bathing usually for 4-5 months of the year, but sun bathing can be extended up to 7 months and so can sea bathing. The optimal time is from the month of April to the month of October. The sand of the beach is renovated every year by the high and the low tides of the sea.
- The 2.300 meters in continuum of the beach towards the gorge of Buna, creates an interesting landscape which brings the sea and the forest together, contains small water oasis and creates the sight of the desert.
- The beach of Rrjoll, about 8000 m is very complex, but still unknown and unutilized. The Mountain of Maja e Zeze stands magnificently above the sea sometimes giving the impression of the Ionian Sea. The sand dunes, the small bushy forests, the transported sand, the caves at the foot of the mountain are all important components of the landscape.
- The mountain of Maja e Zeze with very beautiful meadows where often one comes across horses which the villagers let free in the mountain offers a spectacular view. The forest of trees like oak, fraxinus, etc., are breathtaking. Climbing and coming down the mountain may be strenuous but the pleasure is great. They can also be climbed and descended by using pedestrian paths. The closest inhabited quarter in Maja e Zeze is Lulajt which is situated on the northwestern side of the mountain.
- The bank of Buna in all of the 14 km that it transverses the commune of Velipoje is one of the miracles of nature. A walk but better still sightseeing by boat on the river will unfold the magnificence of the river which flows slowly between the two banks filled with trees, the beautiful birds which sing and fly here and there in search of food, the fish which can be seen moving in bunches. If one is lucky, one may have the opportunity to see dolphins jumping in water and a lot of other surprises which leave unforgettable impressions.
- The end flow of the River Buna and the two islands: Ada of about 5 ha which is under the jurisdiction of Montenegro and the island of Franc Josef which connects with the land in several points are places of magnificent sights. In addition, in these two islands one can bathe once into sea water the other time into river water.

- The grove of olives in Baks i Ri is a place of rest, but also a place for organizing picnics. In addition to the multitude of singing birds, here one has the opportunity to see Velipoja. The town may be considered as a special place for the observation of birds from the heights of hills in the lagoons and the reservoirs.
- From the surrounding hills, the view stretches beyond Velipoja. The far horizon reveals the mountains of Malesia e Madhe, the Mountains of Kruja and mountains up to Ulqin. The sites in Velipoja have interesting things to reveal: fragments of ancient ceramics in the Mountain of Martin, caves and traces of burial places in the Mountain of Kolaj. The terrain is very ragged with lime rocks and steep slopes. In the mountains visitors can see wild birds and animals and watch their nests.
- The lagoon of Vilun, the natural canal of which connects it with the sea separates the beach of Velipoja from the beach of Rrjoll. At this juncture the water changes direction in its communication with the sea, it enters and exits every six hours. The lagoon is very attractive to be visited at all times of the year to enjoy its beauties. It can be used for sightseeing, fishing or hunting.
- The marshlands inbuilt into the depth of the fields, besides the fish and the birds, offer a large diversity of plants and water plants, small islands in the middle of the swamp, etc.
- The Reservoir of the forest of Velipoja with an area of 639 ha, with rich flora and fauna and an almost virgin forest is in very good conditions thanks to its long time granted protection status.

These and many more historical, cultural and natural values which are not yet discovered represent great assets and valuable wealth for the region of Velipoja which from the tourist point of view may assume special importance and used to make the zone much more attractive than it presently is

2. List of problems



Problem a) It is expressed in negative terms to give the impression of the existing problem such as decrease, decline, loss, destruction, etc.	Cause/s (List of causes creating the problem. The causes may be natural or man made.)	Impact a) The idea is to describe the negative impact on: The environment, health, standards of living and other aspects identified. b) For each of the impact mentioned, when it is possible, a description is given of how it impacts the area given, for example, the frequency of disease incidence, frequency of floods, tree felling, etc.	Impacted population a) Number of population if not possible to give in accurate numbers is given in percentage. b) Whenever possible, the division according to gender is given thus showing which part of the population is more affected	Scale of impact Impact is assessed on the scale: a) high; b) medium; c) low. For each of the scales mentioned, reasons are also given	Prioritization Is measured on the scale: * = of little importance ** = of medium importance *** = Very important (calling for immediate solutions).
1. Urban situation: growth of the number of extra legal constructions (about 500 such constructions).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A number of master plans developed but none implemented. - Still not determined whether the beach of Velipoja will be a massive tourist site or a site for elite tourism. - The last plan developed by the Institute for Urban Studies does not take into consideration projects developed earlier on the environment, infrastructure and it does not detail steps to be taken in the process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The quality of the environment suffers from lack of such studies - The land is being constantly abused by extra legal constructions and other activities; - The quality of public services is drastically reduced and the costs of such service are substantially increased. - Hampers the development of tourism as one of the zone's greatest natural assets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The local population of 8270 inhabitants - foreign and local tourists who visit the areas 	High (since the chaotic situation of extralegal building is going on)	* * *

2. Partial water supply while the quality of water leaves much to be desired.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the net of pipes is highly amortized - some villages have no pipes at all 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of controlled water supply leads to the growth of incidence of infectious diseases - Increased the population costs of living by forcing them to purchase bottled water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local population (8270 inhabitants) - Foreign and local tourists visiting the zone 	Medium (increases expenditures in the budget of consumers by forcing them to purchase drinking water)	**
3. Commune Revenue from taxes and tariffs for the 2005 saw a decline as compared to the year 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inefficient work of the commune staff to collect taxes and educate the community on the need to meet obligations towards the local government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Less investment in the zone for infrastructure and environment which negative impacts the living standard of the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local population (8270 inhabitants) - Foreign and local tourists visiting the zone 	High (leads to lack of investment)	**
4. Absence of the sewerage systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Absence of good quality urban plans incorporating the establishment of sewage collections and disposal systems - Total lack of funding earmarked for studies and establishment of these systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increases the risk of environmental pollution - Increases the risk of sewage infiltrating drinking water - Increases the risk of pollution of underground waters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The whole commune - Visitors and tourists of the area 	High	**

5. Lack of an establishment work to process sewage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of funds for studies and investment works - Lack of cross institutional cooperation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hampers tourism development and substantially reduces the image of the zone; - Increases the risk of environmental pollution - Increases the risk of pollution of waters used for drinking and home consumptions - Increases the risk of pollution of underground waters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The entire commune - The tourists and visitors of the area 	High	***
6. Pollution of the water and sand due to the absence of lighting in the public toilets on the beach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lack of toilets in the coast and the public places on the beach - Lack of funds to carry out studies and implement these studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases the risk of environmental pollution of the sea water and sand Increases the risk of infectious diseases and skin diseases Seriously damages the image of tourism Discourages visitors from coming to the beach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The entire commune - The tourists and visitors of the area 	High	***
7. Increase of the amounts of urban waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased density of the population especially close to the beach - Large number of tourists, still growing - Growth of consumption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collection of great amounts of waste - Standing long time in the points of collection - decomposition of urban waste in open space - difficulty with waste disposal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The entire commune - The tourists and visitors of the area 	High	***

8. Concentration of large amounts of waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Growth of consumption - Low levels of community awareness - Lack of funding to dispose of waste - Lack of funding to implement long term projects and programs for waste collection and disposal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - difficulty with waste disposal - long time remaining in the collection points - decomposition of urban waste in open air - increase he risk for the spread of infectious and contagious diseases and also asthma - pollution of underground waters - negative impact on the fauna - upset of the natural landscapes with negative impact on the development of tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The entire commune - The tourists and visitors of the area 	High	** *
9. Lack of a sanitary field for the collection of urban waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of general and specific plans for the points of waste collection - Issues of land ownership - Lack of experience in the management of urban waste - Relatively low levels of community awareness - Inadequate capacities and insufficient numbers of staff - Lack of funds for relevant studies and investment projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On the health of the community thus increasing the risk of infections from the decomposition of waste in open - on the protection of the environment , pollution of the air and water, etc. - Damage to the ecosystems - Negative impact on the economy, on the tourist zones , bad management of waste sends tourists away - Risk of spread of epidemic disease 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The entire commune - The tourists and visitors of the area 	High	** *

10 Land ownership issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Distorted implementation of the law on agricultural land and immovable property - Apathy of the local and central government with regard to providing a solution to the issue of ownership - Ownership title not being given to the farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The land has been fragmented into small plots to be used as construction ground - Damage to the forest belts and degradation of the trees - Fierce social conflicts 	Entire commune	High (it remains the main obstacle to the development of the zone and the launching of the implementation of master plans)	***
11. Lack of efficiency in the maintenance of drainage canals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of funds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brings the substantial decline of agricultural productivity - causes floods and the degradation of the quality of the land 	All farmers in the commune	High	***
12. Fragmenting agricultural land into very small plots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Issues of land property - Lack of cooperation among the farmers for the systematization of the plots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of concentrated stations of mechanical machines for farming - High levels of damage to the environment as a consequence of the overexploitation and abuse 	The entire community in the area	Medium	**

<p>13. Decline of the quality of the biological diversity in the zone through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the shrinking of agricultural areas b. the reduction of the number of kinds of medicinal plants c. new additions to the list of endangered species of plants and animals in the area d. reduction of the number of birds that build their nests in the lagoon and the forests e. decline of fish resources f. damage to the habitats and drying of the swamps and felling of marshy plants g. urbanization of the zone h. Absence of a plan for the development of the region which will include the protection of the natural values and of biodiversity h. low levels of environmental awareness among the population of the region; little understanding of the need to protect biodiversity i. lack of awareness on the part of the visitors and tourists to preserve biodiversity in the zone. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - burning wood for fire - felling trees to create clearances for construction - overexploitation of the kinds of medicinal plants and abusive commercialization of the resources - damage to the habitats of the birds - pollution of the waters of the lagoon of Villun and the swamp of Domni - hunting birds outside the season - unlicensed fishing - development of massive tourism in Velipoja - Lack of action plans for the protection of species - Lack of centers for environmental information and awareness in the zone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decline of the biodiversity values which negatively impacts income generation; loss of species which affects the value of tourism and ecotourism - The interest of the people to visit and explore the zone declines. - Damage of the habitats brings the damage of the landscape - The opportunities of the zone as one with great potential for tourism development are reduced. 	<p>As always the most affected are the inhabitants of Velipoje; the beach inhabitants in Velipoje and Baks Rrijoll</p> <p>In view of the fact that the Delta of the Buna River extends over several villages of the commune of Dajc that connect with the zone of the Swamp, then the number of affected inhabitants increases by far.</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>The population has other sources of living which connect to the values of biodiversity such as the development of tourism potentials and especially the premises for its ecological development.</p>	<p>**</p>
--	--	---	--	---	-----------

<p>14. The bad management of the protected zones as expressed in:</p> <p>a. the reduction of the area taken up by forest habitats and the damage of water habitats within the territory of the protected zone;</p> <p>b. the administrative structure for the management of the protected zone are insufficient and the logistic means are scarce;</p> <p>c. reduction of the number of animal and plant species especially in the lagoon and the forests;</p> <p>d. The serious damage to the eco tourist values of the region due to extra legal constructions</p> <p>e. Lack of a plan for the management of the protected zone</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Absence of protection for a very long time - Limited staff of the administration and the limited number of environmental managers within the administration; - Lack of political will to place the zone under protection - Non implementation of the laws for the protection of the environment including by laws. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The lack of the management of the zone has its consequence on the damage caused to the landscape. It has also reduced potentials for the regeneration of the flora and fauna in the area. - The tourist potential of the zone has been weakened due to the lack of infrastructure in the urban zones within the territory of the protected zone. 	<p>The communes of Velipoja and Dajc;</p> <p>The population of Shkodra who overwhelmingly uses the Velipoja beach during the summer time</p> <p>The villages of Pentar, Obot and Oblike</p>	<p>Relatively high</p> <p>The exploitation of the nature's potential of the zone by the community has been totally cruel and in disregard for nature's laws.</p> <p>The community has not been directly involved in the design of the plan for the management of the previous protected zone.</p>	<p>* * *</p>
--	---	---	---	---	--------------

15. Decline of the forest area characterized by: a. shrinking of the area sown with forests b. reduction of the number of the kinds of medicinal plants at the sub forest level c. reduction of the number of birds which build their nests in the forests; d. lack of associations of communal forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of efficiency of the Directorate of Forest Service; - Use of wood for fire - Felling of trees to create clearances for construction ground; - Low level of economic development in the zone; - Low levels of environmental awareness among the population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shrinking of the forest area leads to reduction of biodiversity - Damage to the forest brings the decline of economic gains. - Reduction of the forest area causes the decline of tourist potentials; - The landscape is destroyed by the destruction of the forest habitats as a consequence erosion rises and destroys the land 	The communes of Velipoja, Dajc and Obot. The areas of the villages of Mali Kolaj and Pentar	Medium. There are still in the area protected zones which can be maintained and enhanced. The strengthening of law implementation and the designation of the zone as a protected area is expected to create better opportunities for protection and management.	* * *
16. High levels of erosion characterized by : a. reduction of the space sown with trees on the banks of the Buna River. b. Increased human activity on the banks of the rivers c. non utilization of the agricultural land; d. absence of dams on the shores of Velipoja close to the end flow of Buna; e. The use of certain segments of the Drin River to extract gravel and inert materials increases the chances for erosion of the banks of Buna, too.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The dynamics of the banks; - exploitation of the lumber - felling of the trees to clear space for construction - Extraction of gravel and sand from the river banks; - low levels of awareness - The local authorizes have no power to institute concrete interventions - Low levels of economic development in the zone; - Low levels of environment information and awareness on the part of the local population. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduction of the area of the banks as a direct consequence. - Loss of sea coast brings about the loss of maritime ecosystems and species; - Loss of the beach area has consequences in the loss of the zone's tourist potentials. - Damage and reduction of the tree sown area; - Destruction of the landscape and the destruction of the forest habitats. 	The communes of Velipoja, Dajci and Oboti. The zone of the villages of Malit Kolaj and Pentari. The commune of Shirq and Obot.	High The problem is linked with a whole range of other negative impacts on the biodiversity, the forests as well as the loss of the beach area.	***

17. Clear vision for the development of the future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The chaotic situation creates; - Lack of coordination among the three sectors; central level, local level of government and NGO (business included as a major factor for development) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Degradation of the natural values - Uncontrollable and chaotic development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The entire commune - The region 	<p>High</p> <p>An obstacle to serious investment</p>	***
18. Lack of public toilets in the zone of the sand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of the technical design and funding for its implementation - Lack of management capacity on the part of local government authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pollution of the water and sand - Tourists alienated from the zone 	<p>All visitors who love the sea; 40- 50 thousand people.</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>In the events of high numbers of visitors on the beach, the levels of pollution rise to high levels</p>	**
19. Lack of places and facilities for entertainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of a development plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tourists being sent away 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tourists - the active population who seeks sports and other activities as entertainment 	<p>Medium</p>	**

20. Lack of infrastructure to communicate with the villages of the zone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of funds - Lack of vision to tackle every aspect of development by the local authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The population cannot fully utilize the beach as a source of income although they are only at a distance of 4-5 km from the beach. 	The population of the commune; farmers who wish to trade their agricultural and livestock products on the beach of Velipoja	Medium	***
21. Shortfalls on the part of the population with regard to observing the rules for living together in the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education and awareness efforts insufficient; - Inefficient methods for educating the public to participate in communal life and decision-making; - Corruption and lack of capacity on the part of the administration; - Low levels of economic development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People are indifferent to the communal spaces (the road, the forests, waters, etc.) - Creates premises for the design of plans and policies which fail due to non participation of the beneficiary public. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The entire community and the day and overnight tourists and visitors - Tourists - Investors - Future generations 	High	***



3. Opportunities - Recommendations

Problem 1. Extra legal constructions

List of opportunities for sustainable solutions:

1. Accurate identification of all construction work in the territory of the commune;
2. Urban study for all the villages of the commune;
3. Regulate extra legal constructions in accordance with the law and demolish constructions that cannot be regulated

Most preferred option:

Urban study for all the villages of the commune.

Which observes:

- Natural values;
- Reduction of poverty and stimulation of income generation;
- Development of sustainable tourisms;
- Public awareness;
- Improvement of health.

Problem 2. Absence of partial urban studies

List of opportunities for sustainable solutions:

1. Cooperate with the investors, the owners and the local and central government for the zoning of space in accordance with the overall regulating plan.
2. Attract powerful donors for investment

Most preferred option:

Cooperate with the investors, the owners and the local and central government for the zoning of space in accordance with the overall regulating plan.

Which observes:

- Natural values;
- Reduction of poverty and stimulates income generation;
- Development of sustainable tourisms;
- Public awareness;
- Improvement of health.

Problem 3. Absence if sewage systems and pipes.

List of opportunities for sustainable solutions:

1. A complete and accurate study of the situation.
2. Consultations with interest groups.
3. Planning sewage systems and pipes and implementing the plans
4. Secure the necessary financial resources

Most preferred option:

Planning sewage systems and pipes and implementing the plans

Which observes:

- Natural values;
- Reduction of poverty and stimulation of income generation;
- Development of sustainable tourisms;
- Public awareness;
- Improvement of health.

Problem 4. Absence of a system for the treatment of sewage waters	
List of opportunities for sustainable solutions: 1. Study and plan the establishment of a factory for the processing of sewage based on the system of legatine. 2. Construct a system for the collection and pumping of sewage waters; 3. Conduct a study for the implementation of better “technologies” for the septic holes.	
Most preferred option: Study and plan the establishment of a factory for the processing of sewage based on the system of legatine.	Which observes: - Natural values; - Development of sustainable tourisms; - Public awareness; - Improvement of health.

Problem 5. Increased amounts of urban waste.	
List of opportunities for sustainable solutions: 1. Build management capacities to solve this problem 2. Study and plan actions in accordance with development trends 3. Ensure funding sources either from the government budget or from donor money	
Most preferred option: Study and plan actions in accordance with development trends and implement the plans.	Which observes: - Natural values; - Reduction of poverty and stimulates income generation; - Development of sustainable tourism; - Public awareness; - Improvement of health.

Problem 6. Large amounts of litter	
List of opportunities for sustainable solutions: 1. Ensure funding for effective projects of cleaning public spaces. 2. Building awareness of the community. 3. Cooperating with donors.	
Most preferred option: Ensure funding for effective projects of cleaning public spaces and build awareness of the community.	Which observes: - Natural values; - Reduction of poverty and stimulates income generation; - Development of sustainable tourism; - Public awareness; - Improvement of health.

Problem 7. Urban waste is collected in open space, in an unprocessed state and close to the urban and populated areas

List of opportunities for sustainable solutions:

1. Designate suitable collection site for waste.
2. Include Velipoja in the regional landfill of Bushat

Most preferred option:

Include Velipoja in the regional landfill of Bushat

Which observes:

- Natural values;
- Reduction of poverty and stimulates income generation;
- Development of sustainable tourism;
- Public awareness;
- Improvement of health.

Problem 9. Issues of land ownership

List of opportunities for sustainable solutions:

1. Recognize land ownership in the manner distributed by law.
2. Identify and solve conflicts; avoid overlapping and recognize land ownership as granted by the land reform law.

Most preferred option:

Recognize land ownership in the manner distributed by law.

Which observes:

- Natural values;
- Reduction of poverty and stimulates income generation;
- Development of sustainable tourism;
- Public awareness;
- Improvement of health.

Problem 10. Problems in the cleaning and maintenance of the drainage canals

List of opportunities for sustainable solutions:

1. Establish and strengthen associations for irrigation and drainage
2. Systematic cleaning of the first and second tier canals by the water enterprise
3. Allocate governmental funding to clean third tier canals for a period of 10 years,

Most preferred option:

Establish and strengthen farmers' associations for irrigation and drainage.

Which observes:

- Natural values.
- Poverty reduction and income generation.
- Public awareness.

Problem 11. Fragmentation of agricultural land into small plots

List of opportunities for sustainable solutions:

1. Complete the process of land distribution and give out the certificates of ownership
2. Relieving the procedures for land registration
3. Establish cooperatives on the basis of private property
4. Create a land market to sell and lease out land

Most preferred option:

Complete the process of land distribution and give out the certificates of ownership.

Which observes:

- Natural values
- Reduction of poverty and income generation
- Development of sustainable tourism
- Public awareness

Problem 12. Decline of biodiversity in the zone

List of opportunities that can give a positive and sustainable solution to the problem:

1. Design of local strategies for protection of biodiversity in the zone based on the national biodiversity strategy.
2. Strengthening the management capacities of the local government authorities for the protection of natural resources of flora and fauna.
3. Encourage people to create suitable conditions for the development of the wild life.
4. Educate people with love of nature and the species of plants and animals.

Most preferred option:

Strengthening the management capacities of the local government authorities for the protection of natural resources of flora and fauna.

Which observes:

- Natural values;
- Reduction of poverty and stimulates income generation;
- Development of sustainable tourism;
- Public awareness.

Problem 13. Decline of the forest area

List of opportunities that can give a positive and sustainable solution to the problem:

1. Design management and action plans for the protection of forests in the zone.
2. Strengthening local and regional authorities for forest management and protection.
3. Putting together a natural collection with trees autochthonous to the zone and create parks for visitors.
4. Educate the population on the advantages of protecting forests and banning the abusive felling of trees.

Most preferred option:

Strengthening local and regional authorities for forest management and protection.

Which observes:

- Natural values;
- Reduction of poverty and stimulates income generation;
- Development of sustainable tourism;
- Public awareness;

Problem 14. Inefficient management of the protected zone

List of opportunities that can give a positive and sustainable solution to the problem:

1. Expand the staff charged with the protection of the zone
2. Establish working groups with the participation of many actors, including from the community, to design plans for the management of the protected zones
3. Encourage the community to participate in the plans for the management of the zone.

Most preferred option:

Establish working groups with the participation of many actors, including from the community, to design plans for the management of the protected zones.

Which observes:

- Natural values;
- Reduction of poverty and stimulates income generation;
- Development of sustainable tourism;
- Public awareness;

Problem 15. High levels of erosion in the area (land, sea and river)

List of opportunities that can give a positive and sustainable solution to the problem:

1. Design a cross sectoral study on the risk of erosion in the zone, especially the sea erosion.
2. Efficient functioning of the Directorate of the Water basin for the protection of shores from erosion.
3. Educate the population on the need to protect forests and stop the abusive felling of trees

Most preferred option:

Design a cross sectoral study on the risk of erosion in the zone, especially the sea erosion.

Which observes:

- Natural values;
- Reduction of poverty and stimulates income generation;
- Development of sustainable tourism;
- Public awareness;

Problem 16. Absence of plans for sustainable development as a protected zone

List of opportunities for sustainable solutions:

1. Implementation of the master plan of the ELPA project for the tourist zone which takes count of the natural values in complete interaction of their impact on the development of the zone.
2. Increase awareness of the interest groups to institute steps towards the creation of a common vision to observe the laws of sustainable development

Most preferred option:

Implementation of the master plan of the ELPA project for the tourist zone which takes count of the natural values in complete interaction of their impact on the development of the zone.

Which observes:

- Natural values;
- Reduction of poverty and stimulates income generation;
- Development of sustainable tourism;
- Public awareness;
- Improvement of health.

Problem 17. Absence of recreational and greens space for tourists

List of opportunities for sustainable solutions:

1. Immediate banning of extra legal constructions.
2. Implementation of master plans which observe the criteria of green belts to give the area the possibility to respire.
3. Build campaigns to educate private undertakings to use their investments towards this end.

Most preferred option:

Implementation of master plans which observe the criteria of green belts to give the area the possibility to respire.

Which observes:

- Natural values;
- Reduction of poverty and stimulates income generation;
- Development of sustainable tourism;
- Public awareness;
- Improvement of community health.

Problem 18. Lack of recreational facilities and space

List of opportunities for sustainable solutions:

1. Identify space suitable for such facilities
2. Implement the master plans that honor this criteria
3. Encourage private undertakings to invest in entertainment facilities

Most preferred option:

Encourage private undertakings to invest in entertainment facilities.

Which observes:

- Natural values;
- Reduction of poverty and stimulates income generation;
- Development of sustainable tourism;
- Public awareness;

Problem 19. Destruction of the tourist zone of Rrjoll, a still unknown beach with a multitude of values

List of opportunities for sustainable solutions:

1. Implementation of the master plan ELPA for the tourist zone which observes the nature's values in full harmony with the development of the zone
2. Ban constructions that use concrete
3. Ban the fragmentation of the land into small plots for construction grounds

Most preferred option:

Implementation of the master plan ELPA for the tourist zone which observes the nature's values in full harmony with the development of the zone.

Which observes:

- Natural values;
- Reduction of poverty and stimulates income generation;
- Development of sustainable tourism;
- Public awareness;
- Improvement of population health.



4. Action Plan

Urban development							
					Policy link*		
Problem	Actions	Priority	Timeline	Responsible actors and potential collaborators	Effect (description of the positive effect)	REAP Action Plan	Pilot Plan
		Measured on the scale: * of little importance ** of medium importance *** of high importance	Measured on the scale: Short term up to 5 years; Mid term up to 10 years Long term up to 15 years				NES
1. Extra legal constructions and uncontrollable development	1.1 Design an overall regulation plan for the commune 1.2 Prepare partial plans 1.3 Review plans designed as of today. 1.4 Establish structures at the local government level to pursue, integrate and implement widely accepted plans.	***	Short term	1. Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports 2. Ministry of Public Works, Transportation and Telecommunication 3. Commune 4. World Bank	Legalization of the property to start constructing in accordance with urban plans Observe natural values and establish the basis for sustainable development which will turn Velipoja into a competitive beach on the entire Adriatic coast.	Human dynamics and use of territory table, row No. 1	Sections 5.1, 5.2 and 9.1 of the document
2. Absence of partial urban plans	2.1 Secure funding and implement such plans 2.2 Strict implementation of such plans in accordance with the laws and by-laws especially of the Law for Assessing Environmental Impact	***	Long term	1. Commune 2. MTCYS 3. Ministry of Public Works, Transportation and Telecommunication 4. Donors	Fast improvement of the existing situation	Human dynamics and use of territory table, row No. 1	Sections 2.6, 5.1 and 5.2 of the document
							Sections 2.4.2 and 3.3.4 of the document

*) This section indicates the link between national, regional and local plans prepared under ELPA project. The purpose is to help readers (interested stakeholders and actors), decision makers and undertakers the views of sustainable development in integration with other national policies and laws.

Sewage systems and canals							
3. Absence of systems of sewage pipes	3.1. Assess the situation in the inhabited areas 3.2. Design of the master plan for the development of the tourist territory to include the sewage systems. 3.3. Carry out urban studies including the study of sewage collection and disposal for the populated areas of the commune. 3.4. Ensure funding for the projects of sewage systems 3.5. Prepare plans for the administration and finalize these plans by carrying them out to the end.	***		Mid term	1. Ministry of Public Works 2. Ministry of Tourism 3. Commune 4. World Bank	Final solution to the issue of sewage waters. Create the premises for the development of contemporary tourism Protection of the natural values	Human dynamics and use of territory table, row No. 1 Section 2.6 of the document Sections 2.4.2 and 3.3.4 of the document
4. Absence of a waste water treatment plant for the processing of sewage waters	4.1 Design a feasibility plan for the best kind of system to be used 4.2 Establish a group at the Commune for exploring possibilities for funding the implementation of the plan	***		Mid term	1. MTCYS 2. Ministry of Public Works, Transportation and Telecommunication 3. Commune 4. Other donors	Meet international standards for hygiene levels in community life. Development of tourism in line with international standards	Human dynamics and use of territory table, row No. 1 Section 2.6 of the document Sections 2.4.2 and 3.3.4 of the document
5. The risk of pollution of the sand and water due to the absence of the public toilets on the beach	5.1 Establish eight toilets along the seaside as well as number of other toilets in other public territories	***		Short term	1. Commune 2. Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports	Protection of the environment from pollution Improvement of the conditions for the inhabitants and the visitors	Human dynamics and use of territory table, row No. 1 Section 2.6 of the document Sections 2.4.2 and 3.3.4 of the document

Waste						
6. Large amounts of urban waste	6.1. Prepare action plans to cope with the growing amounts of waste	***	Mid term	1. Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports 2. Ministry of Public Works, Transportation and Telecommunication 3. Ministry of the Environment, Forests and Water Administration 4. Commune	Upgrading a very significant service for the zone Improve tourists attractions of the zone Improve the quality of life in a healthy environment The community, especially the younger generation is educated to abide by certain rules when living in community	Human dynamics and use of territory table, row No. 3
Collection of huge concentrations of waste	6.2 Establish a system that may respond to the need for this kind of service					
Lack of sanitation fields for waste collection	6.3 Cooperate with the regional authorities to include Velipoje in the landfill of Bushat. 6.4 Prepare a management plan for the costs of this service 6.5 Strengthening the role of the commune in waste management 6.6 Increase community education and awareness through various forms of drawing them into community life					
						Sections 2.6 and 8.2 of the document
						Sections 2.4.2 and 3.3.3 of the document

Biological Diversity		***	7.1 - 5 years 7.2 - 5 years 7.3 - 5 years 7.4 - 5 years 7.5 - 5 years 7.6 - 5 years 7.7 - 5 years 7.8 - 5 years - 10 years 7.9 - Continuously 7.10 - 5 years 7.11 - 2 years 7.12 - Continuously 7.13 - 2 years	Directorate of Public Health Local Government Commune Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration NGO-s Administration of the Reservoir Zone Fishing enterprise Local Government Ministry of Tourism Ministry of Public Works, Telecommunications and Transport, Municipality of Shkoder Donors in the zone	The forest area increases. The habitats are rehabilitating improved Community income improved; amount of medicinal plants increased; flora and fauna in the zone improved. The living habitats of plants and animals improved The migratory movement of people placed under control The tendency to occupy natural land to construct human habitats is placed under control. Pollution of ecosystems curbed Pollution in the urban zone of the Velipoja beach reduced Better management of waste in the zone The population and visitors are made aware of the need to protect the environment, the flora and fauna. Opportunities created for dissemination of environmental information and population educating materials Entertainment and leisure opportunities for people increased	Biodiversity and protected areas able, row No. 1	Sections 6.1 and 7.1 of the document	Sections 2.4.6 and 3.3.6 of the document
7. Reduction of biological diversity in the zone characterized by: a. reduction of forest areas; b. reduction of the types of medicinal plants c. Reduction of the number and types of the endangered plants and animals; d. reduction of the number of birds nesting in the forests and lagoons e. decline of fishing resources; f. damage of the habitats by drying swamps and destroying wetland vegetation; g. urbanization of the zone; h. Lack of a long term plan for the development of the region involving the protection of the values of the nature and biodiversity. h. low levels of environmental knowledge and information on the part of the population of the commune as regards the need to protect biodiversity i. Lack of awareness of the visitors on the need to protect biodiversity in the zone.	7.1. Increase the forest area by rehabilitating the existing ones and forestation new ones 7.2 Create experimental models for the sustainable cultivation of medicinal plants with economic gains for the local population. 7.3. Ban the hunting of wild fauna for a five year period. 7.4. Ban the hunting of birds for a five year period. 7.5. Rehabilitate the bird habitats. 7.6. Ban fishing with illegal methods such as dynamite and electricity 7.7. Rehabilitate the marshy spaces. 7.8. Curb peoples tendency to construct in the zone. 7.9 Reduce the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers in farming. 7.10 Establish a large landfill in the zone 7.11. Train the population to protect biodiversity. 7.12. Hold continuous meetings among the local government authorities, the NGO-s and the communities. 7.13. Establish a health center in the zone.							

Protected areas						Biodiversity and protected areas	Sections 6.1 and 7.1 of the document	Sections 2.4.6 and 3.3.6 of the document
8. Bad management of the protected zones characterized by:	8.1 Rehabilitation of forests belts inside the territory of the protected zone. 8.2 Improvement of water ecosystems in Buna, its end flow and in the Lagoon of Vilun and the swamps surrounding it. 8.3 Creation of artificial habitats resembling the natural habitats in the interior of the protected zone. 8.4 Establishment of new management structures in the protected zone. 8.5 Training the staff who work for the protected zone. 8.6 Establish an environmental center in the territory of the protected zone. 8.7 Design action plans for the key species and habitats in the protected zone. 8.8 Training the community and school children for the protection of the habitats, the flora and fauna inside the protected zone. 8.9 Ban hunting in the territory of the protected zone. 8.10 Demolish extra legal constructions in the forests and in the zone of the beach in Velipoja. 8.11 Ban construction permits in the interior of the protected zone. 8.12 Design a management plan for the protected zone. 8.13 Promote environmentally friendly products in agriculture and in the everyday life of the community.	***	8.1 - 5 years 8.2 - 5 years 8.3 - 5 years 8.4 - 5 years 8.5 - Continuously 8.6 - 5 years 8.7 - 5 years 8.8 - Continuously 8.9 - 5 years 8.10 - Immediately 8.11 - Continuously 8.12 - Immediately 8.13 Continuously	Local Government Commune Directorate of Forest Service; NGO-s Communities	Increase forest area inside the protected zone. Increase the ecological potential of the zone with strong impact on the preservation of biodiversity values. Key habitats improved. Situation of species improved. Management capacities in the zone improved. Capacities of staff in the zone upgraded. Environmental information and awareness increased. Key habitats and species improved. Participation of the community in the management of the zone increased. Ecosystems within the territory of the protected zones improved. Values strengthened and norms of environmental laws and conventions observed. Urbanization impact on the protected zone curbed and controlled. Public service quality improved. The plan for waste management implemented.	Biodiversity and protected areas No. 1	Sections 6.1 and 7.1 of the document	Sections 2.4.6 and 3.3.6 of the document

Forests								
9. Reduction of forest area characterized by: a. reduction of the area sown with forest trees; b. reduction of the kinds of medicinal plants in the level of the sub forest. c. reduction of the birds nesting in the forests; d. lack of associations of communal forests e. Limited capacities in the Directorate for Forest Service.	9.1. Rehabilitation of the existing forest area. 9.2. Rehabilitation of the forest belt along the Buna River. 9.3. Sowing new pines in the pine belt from the center at the delta of the Buna rivet up to Vilun. 9.4. Creation of experimental plots for the cultivation of medicinal plants. 9.5. Rehabilitation of birds nests in the pine forest. 9.6. Protection of the nests during the period of nesting by birds. 9.7. Creation of the association of communal forests; 9.8. Lease out the forests to the forest associations and the members of the community. 9.9. Enforce the law and impose fines for individuals and entities that damage the forests 9.10. Train the staff of the forest service.	**	9.1 - 5 years 9.2 - 5 years 9.3 - 5 years 9.4 - 5 years 9.5 – Continuously 9.6 - Continuously 9.7 - 5 years 9.8 - 5 years 9.9 - Continuously 9.10 - Continuously	Local Government Prefecture Commune Directorate of Forest Service Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration; NGO-s Donors Communities	Forest area expanded Erosion reduced and habitats rehabilitated Medicinal plants increased and economic gains enhanced. Increase of wild fauna especially of ornithofauna Biodiversity enhanced; capacities of the community improved with regard to managing natural resources especially the forest resources; Opportunities from forest management increased. Legislation strengthened Capacities of specialists increased; environmental awareness of the community improved.	Biodiversity and protected areas No. 3	Sections 6.1 and 7.1 of the document	Sections 2.3.2, 2.4.6 and 3.3.6 of the document

Erosion							
10. High levels of erosion characterized by: a. reduction of area sown with forests on both banks of the Buna River b. Increased human activity on the banks of the rivers c. non utilization of the agricultural land; d. lack of dams to protect the banks of Velipoje close to the delta of the Buna River. e. Extracting inert materials and gravel from the Drin River increases the risk of erosion of the Buna Banks.	10.1. Plant forests on the banks of the Buna river 10.2. Construct dams (or concrete belts) 10.3. Cultivate and plans crops on the fields along the river. 10.4. Construct dams and concrete belts for protection in the delta of the river where erosion is highest. 10.5 Ban unlicensed undertakings from extracting gravel and sand from the rivers.	***	10.1 - 5 years 10.2 - 5 years 10.3 - 5 years 10.4 - 10 years 10.5 - 5 years	Local government Commune Directorate of Forest Service NGO-s Community Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration. Ministry of Construction and Territorial Regulation.	Minimization of the effects of erosion on the Buna banks. Rehabilitation of the Buna banks. Rational use of land for agricultural places. Minimization of the effect of coastal erosion. Protection of banks and inert materials.	Biodiversity and protected areas No. 4	Section 2.3 of the document Sections 2.4.3 and 3.3.5 of the document
Development of tourism and awareness of the community							
11. Lack of urban study for sustainable development as a tourist zone.	11.1. Implementation of plans for integrated development; these plans should give the communities the keys to development given the great resources of the zone. 11.2 Implement the principles of the ELPA project for the coastal area.	***	Short term	1. Commune 2. Line Ministries	Premises for a zone with sustainable tourism created. Only in this way can the commune make steps ahead in the road to development.	Tourism table, row No. 1	Sections 2.4 and 4 of the document Sections 2.3.3 and 3.3.7 of the document

12. Lack of public toilets in the zone of the sand used for tourist services.	12.1. Designate the proper and functional sites for this purpose. 12.2. Design blueprints and draw bill of quantities. 12.3. Strengthen the role of the commune in the maintenance of public toilets. 12.4. Develop he soonest possible an alternative for the disposal and processing of sewage water in the commune	**		Mid term	1. Commune 2. Donors	Hygienic conditions for the visitors created; Living standards improved. The population educated about the need to have a healthy communal environment.	Tourism table, row No. 1	Sections 2.4 and 4 of the document	Sections 2.3.3 and 3.3.7 of the document
13. Lack of entertainment facilities.	13.1. Design the creation of a sport place: football field, basketball, etc. in harmony with the overall plan for development. 13.2. Create various entertainment facilities	*		Long term	1. Commune 2. Businesses 3. NGO-s	Velipoja will have not just the beach, the sand and water but also places for leisure and entertainment.	Tourism table, row No. 1	Section 4 of the document	N/A
14. Insufficient knowledge and awareness levels on mutual rights and obligations of people living in communities.	14.1. Educate people to come to think that rule of law is number one in democracy. 14.2. Educate people to abide by the rules of communal life and community co-existence. 14.3. Educate people to demand respect for the rules and norms in society. 14.4. Establish public information centers.	**		Mid term	1. Commune 2. NGO-s 3. Various donors	The degree of community involvement increased and premises created for fresh development in harmony with the nature and the tourist perspective of the zone. A more responsible younger generation created.	Tourism table, row No. 2	Section 6.2 of the document	Sections 4.6 and 5.11 of the document

5. Monitoring and Evaluation



Problem	Expected change	Indicators for measuring	Evaluation
1. Illegal constructions and uncontrollable development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legalization of the property to start constructing in accordance with urban plans • Observe natural values and establish the basis for sustainable development, in order to make Velipoja into a competitive beach on the entire Adriatic coast. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No. of registration requests to the Governmental Unit for legalizations (ALUIZNI); 2. No illegal construction in the area; 3. Demand for new houses and buildings compared to the land allocation. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 100 % of known illegal buildings registered by the first half of year 2007; 2. Starting from 2007, all initiatives for investments, submitted to commune;
2. Absence of partial urban plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fast improvement of the actual situation regarding the territory planning 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. The regulatory plan for Velipoja commune enters in force; 5. No. of requests to the local authority for partial studies. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Regulatory plan agreed and adopted in local and regional level; 4. At least, partial studies for the beach area are planned.
3. Absence of systems of sewerage pipes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final solution to the issue of sewage waters. • Create the premises for the development of contemporary tourism • Protection of the natural values 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Percentage of the communal funds allocated for public services; 7. Amount of sewerage pipelines constructed per year. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Discussion held according to the governmental policies for funds.
4. Absence of a waste water treatment plant for the processing of sewage waters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet international standards for hygiene levels in community life. • Development of tourism in line with international standards 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. No. of a waste water treatment plant per inhabitants number; 9. No. of families connected to the system; 10. No. of septic tanks/holes closed in the area. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. At least one WWTP constructed within year 2008 7. At least 50% of families covered by this service 8. At least 30% of families covered by this service
5. The risk of pollution of the sand and water due to the absence of the public toilets on the beach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of the environment from pollution • Improvement of the conditions for the inhabitants and the visitors 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. No. of sanitary public toilets placed in the beach area; 12. No. of houses and tourist accommodation buildings connected to the sanitary system; 13. Amount percentage of pollution of the waters, sand and soil. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. At least, 5 toilets are functional 10. 100 % of buildings connected to the WWTP by 2008; 11. At least 50% decrease
6. Large amounts of urban waste Collection of huge concentrations of waste Lack of sanitation fields for waste collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrading the service significantly for the whole area • Improve tourists attractions of the zone • Improve the quality of life in a healthy environment • The community, especially the younger generations, are educated and environmental sensitive 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. No. of sanitary waste treatment fields in the commune area; 15. Amount of waste produced by inhabitants and tourists per year, collected by the landfills; 16. Inclusion of the commune in regional sanitary waste treatment plant (Bushati project). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Closure of the existing waste field by year 2008; 13. All waste produced is collected and disposed; 14. Velipoja is included in the project scheme of regional landfill in Bushat by year 2007.

7. Reduction of biological diversity in the zone.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased forest area, rehabilitated habitats Community income increased; The living habitats of plants and animals improved The migratory movement of people placed under control The tendency to occupy natural land to construct human habitats is controlled. Pollution of ecosystems prevented Pollution in the urban zone of the Velipoja beach reduced Better management of waste in the zone The population and visitors are aware of the need to protect the environment. Increased opportunities for environmental information and educating materials dissemination to population Increased entertainment and leisure opportunities for people 	<p>17. No. of migratory species visiting the area;</p> <p>18. No. of visitors and tourists interested to visit the natural values in the area;</p> <p>19. Increase of the quality of waters and soil especially in protected areas.</p>	<p>15. At least all species occurred in the area return regularly during 2008;</p> <p>16. At least students and children's coming from outside Velipoja visit the protected areas regularly each year;</p> <p>17. No discharge of waste waters and waste in the protected areas by 2008.</p>
8. Bad management of the protected zones.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase forest area inside the protected zone. Increase the ecological potential of the zone with strong impact on the preservation of biodiversity values. Key habitats improved. Situation of species improved. Management capacities in the zone improved. Capacities of staff in the zone upgraded. Environmental information and awareness increased. Key habitats and species improved. Participation of the community in management of the zone increased. Ecosystems within the territory of the protected zones improved. Values strengthened and norms of environmental laws and conventions observed. Urbanization impact on the protected zone curbed and controlled. Public service quality improved. The plan for waste management implemented. 	<p>20. Amount of funds allocated by central government for the protected areas;</p> <p>21. Enforcement of REA Shkodra (better equipped and more human resources);</p> <p>22. Preparation of the management plan for the protected areas;</p> <p>23. Adoption of regulatory plan for the commune area.</p>	<p>18. Increase of funds for the protected areas (amount to be discussed according to the total funds allocated by the CG);</p> <p>19. Management Plan for the protected areas prepared and adopted by year 2008;</p> <p>20. Regulatory plan for the commune adopted and agreed by all stakeholders by year 2008.</p>

9. Reduction of forest area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest area expanded • Erosion reduced and habitats rehabilitated • Medicinal plants increased and economic gains enhanced. • Increase of wild fauna especially of ornithofauna • Biodiversity enhanced; capacities of the community improved with regard to managing natural resources especially the forest resources; • Opportunities from forest management increased. • Legislation strengthened • Capacities of specialists increased; environmental awareness of the community improved. 	<p>24. No. of trees planted per year;</p> <p>25. Increased number of populations of flora and fauna;</p> <p>26. No. of penalties for environmental damages given per year;</p> <p>27. Quantity of erosion per year (possible decrease or stopping).</p>	<p>21. An action plan for planting trees prepared by the DFS by 2007 and start implementing by 2008;</p> <p>22. An improvement of flora and fauna population given by the report of MEFWA;</p> <p>23. Stopping of erosion in some parts of the costal area and along Buna River by 2009.</p>
10. High levels of erosion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimization of the effects of erosion on the Buna banks. • Rehabilitation of the Buna banks. • Rational use of land for agricultural places. • Minimization of the effect of coastal erosion. • Protection of banks and inert materials. 	<p>28. Quantity of marine, river and soil erosion per year (possible decrease or stopping);</p> <p>29. No. of trees planted along river banks and costal area;</p> <p>30. Level of salinity of the land and waters bodies in the area.</p>	<p>24. Stopping of erosion in some parts of the costal area and possible progressing of sand in some parts of Adriatic coast by 2008.</p> <p>25. At least the areas along protected area (reserve of Velipoja) all regenerated by 2009.</p>
11. Lack of urban study for sustainable development as a tourist zone.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Premises for a zone with sustainable tourism created. • Only in this way can the commune make steps ahead in the road to development. 	<p>31. Adoption of NES by central government and starting of implementation of REAP, LEAP and Pilot Plan for the area;</p> <p>32. No. of recommendations implemented per year;</p> <p>33. No. of visitors and tourists visiting the area against previous year;</p> <p>34. Improvement of quality of services and tourist infrastructure;</p> <p>35. Increase of number in population of flora and fauna.</p>	<p>26. Adoption by Albanian Government of plans prepared by ELPA project by 2007 and starting implementing of recommendations by 2008;</p> <p>27. WWTP constructed for the beach area no late than year 2008.</p> <p>28. No. of visitors increased by 10% by 2007.</p>

<p>14. Insufficient knowledge and awareness levels on mutual rights and obligations of people living in communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The degree of community involvement increased and premises created for fresh development in harmony with the nature and the tourist perspective of the zone. • A more responsible younger generation created. 	<p>36. No. of environmental activities carried by local NGOs of community based organizations; 37. No. of educational hours allocated for environmental education in the school of the area; 38. No. of information centers established in the area.</p>	<p>29. Establishment, at least, one information center in the Velipoja by 2007; 30. Establishment of ecological group at the schools of commune by 2007; 31. At least one environmental education book is introduced in the school curricula by 2007.</p>
--	--	--	---



Local Environmental Action Plan

Commune of Velipoja

*for a healthy community
in a healthy environment*