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CONNECTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND PROTECTED AREAS

Community Involvement Assessment

The Country Snapshot Report

Overview of Assessment Results



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1. Introduction

Over the last twelve months, a team of four experts drawn from different countries and with a wide range of practical and academic experience prepared and supervised the assessment of community involvement in most of the protected areas in the Dinaric Arc region. These surveys were carefully devised and prepared in order to assess the existing interaction and involvement between each protected area and its local community as well as identify examples of good practice.

Following the assessment of the protected area and the local community, the results were evaluated and analysed so that a Capacity Development Plan with clear recommendations could be developed and implemented with the aim to improve skills and processes for practitioners.

In addition, the team of experts prepared a full report listing in great detail the methodology used in the project, the precise guidelines for selecting, training and preparing assessors and all the necessary information for a tool with which level of engagement between local communities and protected areas in other parts of the world can be assessed.

As a result of discussions between the project team and the WWF colleagues of the data of the assessment received, it was realized that, in addition to the core analysis of groups of protected areas based on the rankings, it is necessary to provide the overview of community involvement gaps and trends at the country level. For this analysis, non-validated, raw scores were used, because they better reflect main gaps and needs for improvements in the national policies and protected area practice. This overview may also be seen as a contribution to understanding countries' specific contexts and to the further planning – through communication between WWF, DAP and its members – of actions and steps toward improvement of community involvement policy and practice.

2. Country snapshots

2.1 Albania

2.1.1 The country results for Albania

Name of PA	1. Decision -making		2. Management planning		3. Communication		4. Education		5. Social development		6. Economic development		7. Equal rights		Average	
	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I
ALB1	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	3	3	2	2	1	1	2.0	2.6
ALB2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	5	3	3	1	3	1	2.9	1.9
ALB3	2	3	2	2	3	3	2	2	5	4	3	2	4	1	3.0	2.4
ALB6	3	3	2	3	3	2	2	2	4	3	2	2	2	1	2.6	2.3
ALB7	3	3	2	3	3	3	2	3	3	4	2	3	2	1	2.4	2.9
ALB8	3	2	3	2	3	3	2	3	5	4	1	2	1	1	2.6	2.4
ALB9	3	4	4	3	4	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	5	2	3.9	3.6
ALB11	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	3	4	4	2	2	1	1	2.3	2.4
ALB12	2	2	1	2	3	2	2	2	4	2	1	2	1	1	2.0	1.9
ALB13	3	5	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	1	2	2.7	3.4
ALB14	2	3	0	0	3	3	2	3	4	4	2	3	4	1	2.4	2.4
ALB16	2	2	3	2	3	2	2	2	4	3	2	2	2	1	2.6	2.0
AVG	3.09	2.53	2.75	1.93	3.36	2.78	2.98	2.62	4.53	3.38	2.66	2.45	3.14	1.89		

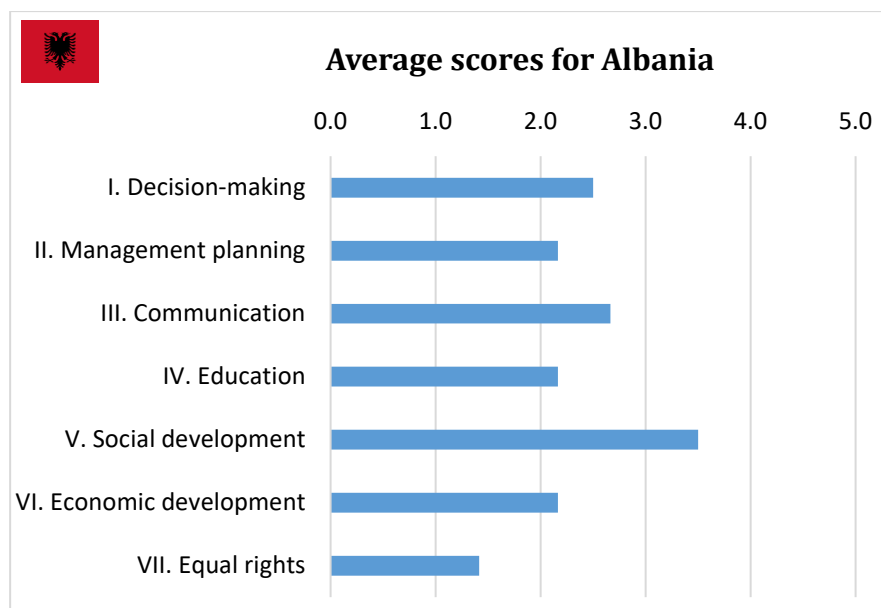
Key to protected areas in Albania:

ALB1-Gashi River Strict Nature Reserve
 ALB2-Valbona Valley National Park
 ALB3-Thethi National Park
 ALB6-Dajti Mountain National Park

ALB7-Shebenik-Jabllanicë National Park
 ALB8-Divjakë - Karavasta National Park
 ALB9-Prespa National Park
 ALB11-Tomorri Mountain National Park

ALB12-Vjosë-Nartë Protected Landscape
 ALB13-Sazan - Karaburun Marine National Park
 ALB14-Llogora National Park

2.1.2 Summary of gaps in trends in Albania



Unlike some of the other regions in the project, the scores in Albanian protected areas show less variance between the scores that the protected areas give themselves and those the local communities perceive. The highest rank average for protected areas in Albania is for social development, the lowest for the equal rights section. While the scores for Albanian protected areas generally show a smaller discrepancy between the protected area authority and the local community in comparison with other countries, the data shows that their highest agreement is in the areas of education/capacity development and economic development. In both sections, their common estimates are relatively low (between 2.45 and 2.98).

The highest variance in assessments between the protected area and the local community is shown in the area with the lowest scores, equal rights, but also in the highest-ranked area, social development. This indicates that special attention should be given to reasons for this discrepancy and to improvements in mutual communication on these issues between the protected areas and the local communities, in particular to the improvement of policy and practice of equal rights.

General observations

- All the protected areas in Albania show a fairly uniform total ranking, between 2 and 3. None reaches 4 or 5. Thus, it may well be possible to arrange for a common capacity-development programme with minor adjustments for the different rankings (plenary sessions and break-out groups according to rank).
- In general, protected areas with high scores in the decision-making section also score higher in other sections, which shows that local community participation is essential for the wellbeing of a protected area.

Section 1: Decision-making and influencing

In all but one the local community score is either the same or higher than those of the protected area, in two cases significantly so. There needs to be improved communication between the local community and the protected area so that the protected area can learn from the perceptions of the local community. The protected areas need to look at the Advancing Criteria tables and recommendations in the Capacity Development Plan to see how they can advance from their current ranking to a higher one. In

particular, the right governance structures need to be in place and explained to the local community.

Section 2: Management planning

In this section, the scoring by the local communities and the protected areas is similar, except in three protected areas, which suggests that the overall interaction is good. However, the scores are mostly average or below. Again, the protected areas need to look at the Advancing Criteria tables and recommendations in the Capacity Development Plan to see how they can advance from their current ranking to a higher one.

Even if the legal framework in the country does not require participation in management planning the protected area should involve the local community and all stakeholders in it for the benefit of both the protected area and the local community.

Section 3: Communication

In this section, too, the scoring by the local communities and the protected areas is similar, slightly higher than other section. It should be easy to advance the ranking by a common programme of improvement in line with the Advancing Criteria tables and recommendations in the Capacity Development Plan. For protected areas without any communication strategy it would be good if they could be helped to develop a route map towards a full communication strategy. If there is already a communication strategy, bringing it up to date and putting it into practice, with full explanation to the local community, would be an option to advance to a higher rank. Both can be done in one plenary group with break-out groups for the two levels.

Section 4: Education and capacity-development

Here the local communities seem to have a higher opinion of the protected areas' efforts than the view that the protected areas have of themselves. That is difficult to explain and may simply be the result of low expectations by the local communities. However, as the scores are relatively low it would be advisable to use the Advancing Criteria tables and recommendations in the Capacity Development Plan in order to improve the scores. Workshops or seminars could then also be used to match the local communities' expectations with the protected area provisions.

Section 5: Social development

In many cases the protected areas consider they are doing very well, with some giving themselves high scores. Even the local community scores are relatively high but 60% are lower. Better communication may help to overcome these discrepancies.

Section 6: Sustainable economic development

The scores in this section are generally low but 50 % of the protected areas score themselves higher than the local community scores. 50 % of the local community scoring is higher than that of the protected areas. The relevant stakeholders in the various protected areas must get together and examine what the needs of the area are and how the local community and the protected area can work together. The Advancing Criteria tables and recommendations in the Capacity Development Plan will give clear recommendations how this can be achieved. It is not at all clear if the concept of sustainable economic development in harmony with the landscape has been fully understood.

Section 7: Equal rights and equal opportunities

Overall, the protected areas give themselves higher scores than those perceived by the local communities. In four cases they are significantly higher suggesting the protected areas think they are doing much better than their local communities perceive. In general, the local community

scores are very low which indicates that protected area efforts to promote equal rights and equal opportunities are not seen by the local community. Protected areas must have a clear strategy which they put into practice in all their activities and inform the local community that they are doing it.

2.2 Bosnia & Herzegovina

2.2.1 The country results for Bosnia & Herzegovina

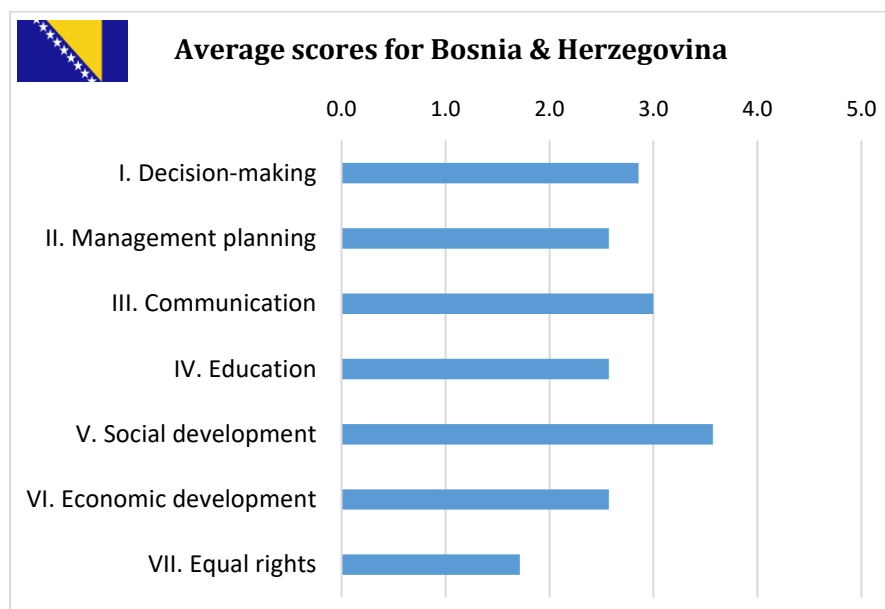
Name of PA	1. Decision- making		2. Management planning		3. Communication		4. Education		5. Social development		6. Economic development		7. Equal rights		TOTAL	
	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I
BIH17	4	3	4	2	5	3	4	3	5	4	4	3	5	2	4.4	2.9
BIH18	3	2	3	1	3	3	2	2	4	3	1	2	1	1	2.4	2.0
BIH19	4	4	4	2	5	3	4	3	5	4	4	4	2	3	4.0	3.3
BIH20	4	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	2	2	2	2	3.1	2.9
BIH21	2	3	2	2	2	2	1	2	3	3	2	2	1	2	1.9	2.3
BIH22	4	3	5	1	4	3	4	3	5	3	3	3	1	2	3.7	2.6
BIH23	3	3	4	2	4	4	2	4	5	4	2	3	4	3	3.4	3.3
AVG	3.42	3	3.71	1.86	3.71	3	2.85	2.86	4.43	3.57	2.57	2.71	2.29	2.14	3.3	2.7

Key to protected areas in Bosnia & Herzegovina:

BIH17-Sutjeska National Park
 BIH18-Kozara National Park
 BIH19-Una National Park
 BIH20-Hutovo Blato Nature Park

BIH21-Blidinje Nature Park
 BIH22-Vjetrenica - Popovo polje Cave Park
 BIH23-Kanton-level institute for protection of nature (managing protected areas
 Bijambare, Terebević, Skakavac, Vrelo Bosne)

2.2.2 Summary of gaps in trends in Bosnia & Herzegovina



At first glance it seems that the protected areas in Bosnia & Herzegovina are doing relatively well in communication and nearly as well in decision-making (reaching almost level 3), further improvements are necessary in terms of management planning, education, economic development and in assuring equity and non-discrimination in their policies and in practice. The highest rank again has been given to social development.

Both the protected area and the local community respondents find that equal rights and non-discrimination are not enough promoted and implemented (2.29 : 2.14) but it is the opposite in the area of management planning (3.71 : 1.86). It seems that these two areas need the highest

attention as first steps of improvement of community interaction in this country.

General observations

- Compared with other areas in the project, the scores in Bosnia & Herzegovina are more uneven than, say, the ones in Albania. The local community consistently scores lower than the protected area. The reasons for this should be examined in workshops or seminars as the local community clearly thinks that the protected area is not doing as well as the protected area thinks it is.
- The individual section scores are mixed ranging from 1 to 5. It should therefore be easy to pick out the low scores and advance the protected areas to a higher ranking fairly quickly. The total ranking is fairly low.
- In general, protected areas with high scores in the decision-making section also score higher in other sections which shows that local community participation is essential for the wellbeing of a protected area.

Section 1: Decision-making and influencing

This section shows a mixed picture with some high protected area scores. In two cases the scores of the protected area and the local community are the same. In the rest the local community scores are lower. There needs to be improved communication between the local community and the protected area so that the protected area can learn from the perceptions of the local community. The protected areas need to look at the Advancing Criteria tables and recommendations in the Capacity Development Plan to see how they can advance from their current ranking to a higher one. In

particular, the right governance structures need to be in place and explained to the local community.

Section 2: Management planning

This section shows significant differences between the protected area and the local community scores (except one) and a very significant gap in one other. The uniformly low scores by the local community suggest that the protected areas are either not preparing or reviewing management plans or not involving the local community. The protected areas need to look at the Advancing Criteria tables and recommendations in the Capacity Development Plan to see how they can advance from their current ranking to a higher one. Even if the legal framework in the country does not require participation in management planning the protected area needs to involve the local community and all stakeholders in it for the benefit of both the protected area and the local community.

Section 3: Communication

The scores here are higher than in some of the other countries; three protected area scores are higher than those by the local communities and there are four matching scores. Broadly, local community scores are average and those higher protected area scores are significantly different which seems to indicate that those protected areas think their communications are better than they are. For protected areas without any communication strategy it would be good if they could be helped to develop a route map towards a full communication strategy. If there is already a communication strategy, bringing it up to date and putting it into practice, with full explanation to the local community, would be an option to advance to a higher rank. Both can be done in one plenary group with break-out groups for the two levels.

Section 4: Education and capacity-development

Generally, a very mixed picture. Some very low scores, others above average. The discrepancies between the local community scores and those of the protected areas are not too wide, mostly just one point. It may not be easy to devise a programme which suits all the protected areas in this country. Use the Advancing Criteria tables and recommendations in the Capacity Development Plan in order to improve the scores may need to be found, perhaps working with other protected areas in other countries.

Section 5: Social development

The overall scores suggest a better-than-average picture but there is still a gap between the protected area and local community scores. The local community scores need to be raised from an average and above base. Improvements in communications are likely to play a key part in lifting those scores.

Section 6: Sustainable economic development

The scores vary a great deal between the different protected areas. Overall, the local community average is slightly higher and, in general, the local community scores are average and below (except one). In order to improve the low average scores on both sides the relevant stakeholders in the various protected areas must get together and examine what the needs of the area are and how the local community and the protected area can work together. The Advancing Criteria tables and recommendations in the Capacity Development Plan will give clear recommendations how this can be achieved. Whilst in some protected areas the concept of sustainable economic development in harmony with

the landscape seems to have been understood it needs to be much more embedded in the economic structure of the protected areas.

Section 7: Equal rights and equal opportunities

Generally, a low range of scores with two very high protected area scores which are not equalled by the equivalent local community score. It is difficult to see how a protected area can claim such a high score for equal rights and equal opportunities if the local community does not feel it is happening in practice. Overall, even in those protected area with a high score, any programme needs to ensure that protected areas have a clear strategy which they put into practice in all their activities and inform the local community that they are doing it.

2.3 Croatia

2.3.1 The country results for Croatia

Name of PA	1. Decision-making		2. Management planning		3. Communication		4. Education		5. Social development		6. Economic development		7. Equal rights		TOTAL	
	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I
HRV25	3	3	3	2	3	2	2	2	4	4	3	3	1	1	2.7	2.4
HRV26	4	3	4	2	4	3	4	4	5	4	4	3	5	3	4.3	3.1
HRV28	2	2	3	1	3	3	3	3	4	3	2	2	5	2	3.1	2.3
HRV29	3	2	3	2	3	3	3	4	5	4	2	2	2	2	3.0	2.7
HRV31	3	2	2	1	3	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	3	1	2.6	1.9
HRV33	3	2	5	1	3	2	3	2	5	2	3	2	5	1	3.9	1.7
HRV35	4	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	5	4	4	3	4	2	3.9	3.0
HRV36	4	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	5	4	3	3	4	3	3.6	3.0
HRV37	3	2	3	1	3	3	3	3	5	4	3	3	2	2	3.1	2.6
HRV38	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	3	4	4	3	3	4	1	3.4	2.9
HRV40	3	2	3	1	3	3	3	2	4	3	2	2	2	2	2.9	2.1
HRV41	4	2	3	2	3	3	4	3	5	3	4	3	2	2	3.6	2.6
HRV42	3	2	4	2	3	3	4	2	5	3	2	2	2	1	3.3	2.1
HRV43	4	3	0	0	4	3	5	3	5	4	3	3	3	2	3.4	2.6
	3.31	2.46	3.08	1.69	3.23	2.84	3.38	2.85	4.69	3.54	2.92	2.62	3.15	1.85		

Key to protected areas in Croatia:

HRV25-Kornati National Park

HRV26-Krka National Park

HRV28-Northern Velebit National Park

HRV29-Paklenica National Park

HRV31-Risnjak National Park (pilot)

HRV33-Kopački Rit Nature Park

HRV35-Lonjsko Polje Nature Park

HRV36-Medvednica Nature Park

HRV37-Papuk Nature Park

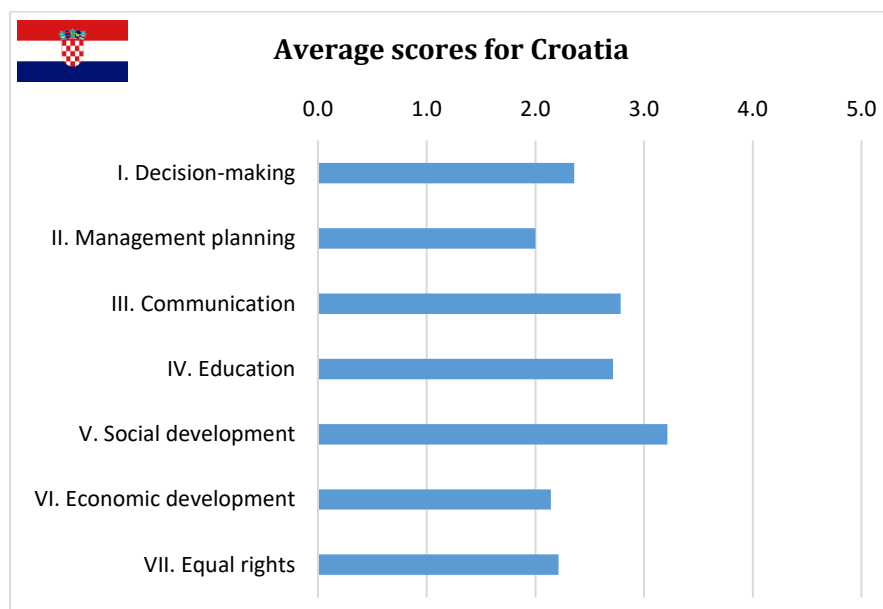
HRV38-Telašćica Nature Park

HRV40-Velebit Nature Park HRV41-Vransko Lake Nature Park

HRV42-Žumberak-Samoborsko Gorje Nature Park

HRV43-Grabovača Cave Park

2.3.2 Summary of gaps in trends in Croatia



The lowest rank given by respondents in Croatia is for management planning. At the same time, here we find the biggest discrepancy (3.08 : 1.69) between two groups assessing the community involvement in this area. These low or differing scores suggest that the protected areas are either not preparing or reviewing management plans with the local community. The other considerable discrepancy in the scoring of the protected areas and the local communities can be found in the equal rights section (3.15 : 1.85).

While social development is scored relatively high by both groups we can see again that the perceptions differ significantly (4.69 : 3.54). This calls for

particular attention as the protected areas think that they are doing excellently in this area while the local communities do not think so.

Bearing in mind these trends in mind one needs to pay urgent attention in Croatian protected areas to improvements in management planning and equal rights, then economic development and decision-making.

General observations

- Compared with other areas in the project, the individual scores in Croatia are very mixed and more uneven than, say, the ones in Albania. The local community often scores lower than the protected area but sometimes matches. Where it is lower, this should be examined in workshops or seminars as the local community clearly thinks that the protected area is not doing as well as the protected area thinks it is.
- All the protected areas in Croatia are ranked between 1 and 3. None so far reaches 4 or 5 in total ranking. It may therefore be difficult to arrange for a common capacity-development programme. However, it should be possible to group protected areas together when they are particularly weak in some sections.
- In general, protected areas with high scores in the decision-making section also score higher in other sections which shows that local community participation is essential for the wellbeing of a protected area.

Section 1: Decision-making and influencing

In this section, only two protected area scores match with the local community scores. All other protected areas score higher. The local community scores are either average or below average. The local communities are not convinced that they are part of the decision-making and influencing in their protected areas. There needs to be improved

communication between the local community and the protected area so that the protected area can learn from the perceptions of the local community. The protected areas need to look at the Advancing Criteria tables and recommendations in the Capacity Development Plan to see how they can advance from their current ranking to a higher one. In particular, the right governance structures need to be in place and explained to the local community.

Section 2: Management planning

The majority of the protected areas score markedly higher than the local communities indicating that protected areas think they are better than their local communities perceive. The average scores in the last row of the table shows clearly the low scores that local communities give to their protected areas. One protected area shows a worryingly large discrepancy. These low or differing scores by the local community suggest that the protected areas are either not preparing or reviewing management plans or not involving the local community. There needs to be an increased meaningful local community participation, even if there is no legal requirement to do so. The protected areas need to look at the Advancing Criteria tables and recommendations in the Capacity Development Plan to see how they can advance from their current ranking to a higher one. Even if the legal framework in the country does not require participation in management planning the protected area should involve the local community and all stakeholders in it for the benefit of both the protected area and the local community.

Section 3: Communication

The overall scores are broadly similar, yet only average which highlights that much more effective communication is required. Both the local

communities and the protected areas indicate that their communication needs improving. For protected areas without any communication strategy it would be good if they could be helped to develop a route map towards a full communication strategy. If there is already a communication strategy, bringing it up to date and putting it into practice, with full explanation to the local community, would be an option to advance to a higher rank. Both can be done in one plenary group with break-out groups for the two levels.

Section 4: Education and capacity-development

Here the scores are evenly matched but largely average. In two protected areas the score varies significantly suggesting a gap in perception. It should not be difficult to devise a programme which suits all the protected areas in this country as long as those protected areas with the largest gap receive some extra attention. Once the reasons for the large differences have been found the Advancing Criteria tables and recommendations in the Capacity Development Plan can be used to devise a programme to improve the scores.

Section 5: Social development

Generally high protected area scores overall but only two local communities match; there is a significant gap between the perceptions of the protected areas and the local communities. The protected areas appear confident in this area but extra work needs to be done to increase appreciation and understanding of social values and development in all local communities. Improvements in communications are likely to play a key part in bring those scores into line with each other.

Section 6: Sustainable economic development

The overall local community scores are average and below and the protected areas match this in 75%. The local community average is only slightly lower than the protected area average. This could be a good starting point for working more closely in particular with the economic stakeholders in the protected areas to examine what the needs of the area are and how the local community and the protected area can work together. The Advancing Criteria tables and recommendations in the Capacity Development Plan will give clear recommendations how this can be achieved. Both the protected areas and the local communities, especially stakeholders with an economic interest, must ensure that the concept of sustainable economic development in harmony with the landscape is fully understood and embedded in the economic structure of the protected areas.

Section 7: Equal rights and equal opportunities

The scores in this section show significant gaps between the protected area and local community averages. Five protected areas scored significantly higher than their local communities and one scored very low. Overall 70% of the local communities scored lower than the protected areas suggesting fundamental differences in the perception of how equal rights and opportunities are managed in practice. This calls for a careful analysis what real provisions have been made by protected areas in the country and how they are applied in practice. Are the right policies in place? Do they find their way into practical work and are the local communities supporting them?

2.4 Kosovo

At the time of preparing this report, the results from the single protected area in Kosovo had not been completed.

2.5 Macedonia

2.5.1 The country results for Macedonia

Name of PA	1. Decision-making		2. Management planning		3. Communication		4. Education		5. Social development		6. Economic development		7. Equal rights		TOTAL	
	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I
MKD48	3	3	0	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	3	3	3	3	2.7	3.1
MKD49	4	2	4	2	3	3	2	2	4	4	2	2	1	2	2.9	2.4
MKD50	3	2	4	2	4	3	4	3	5	4	3	2	5	2	4.0	2.6
	3.33	2.33	2.67	2.33	3.33	3	3	2.67	4.33	4	2.67	2.33	3	2.33	3.2	2.7

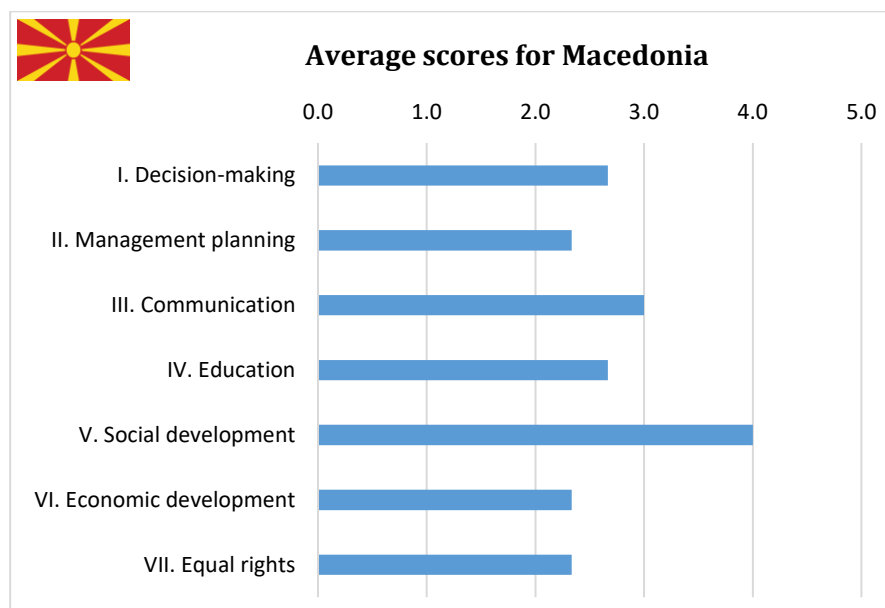
Key to protected areas in Macedonia:

MKD48-Pelister National Park

MKD49-Mavrovo National Park

MKD50-Galičica National Park

2.5.2 Summary of gaps and trends in Macedonia



The average scores in this country are the lowest in management planning and economic development. Based on the data of the assessment, the highest disagreement on perceptions between the protected areas and the local communities are in the area of decision-making (3.33 : 2.33) and the equal rights section (3 : 2.33). Solid agreement and the highest scores can be found in the area of social development.

Despite the higher scores in decision-making as compared with management planning, the highest discrepancy between two groups is there. It would seem therefore necessary to start from this segment in improving community involvement in protected areas in Macedonia.

Considering these gaps and trends for Macedonia, a note of caution needs to be added as only three protected areas took part in the assessment.

General observations

- The individual scores in these Macedonian protected areas are mixed and uneven. The local community often scores lower than the protected area but sometimes matches. A programme with workshops or seminars could be devised so that the Macedonian protected areas learn from each other and achieve more even scores.
- The protected areas in Macedonia are ranked between 2 and 3. None reaches 4 or 5 in total ranking. Using the Advancing Criteria tables and recommendations in the Capacity Development Plan would ensure that all the Macedonian protected areas achieve more even and higher results.
- In general, protected areas with high scores in the decision-making section also score higher in other sections which shows that local community participation is essential for the wellbeing of a protected area.

Section 1: Decision-making and influencing

One protected area matches the local community scores but the two other protected areas score higher, one significantly. There is a need to find out what is causing this overestimation and how can it be rectified creating higher scores. Improved communication between the local community and the protected area will help here. The protected areas need to look at the Advancing Criteria tables and recommendations in the Capacity Development Plan to see how they can advance from their current ranking to a higher one. In particular, the right governance structures need to be in place and explained to the local community.

Section 2: Management planning

Some of the protected area scores show that the protected areas think they are better than they are being perceived to be by their local communities. Even when the local community scores the same way as the protected area the scores are only just above average. All protected areas need to look at their decision-making processes and make sure that local communities are fully involved if there is no legal requirement to do so. The protected areas need to look at the Advancing Criteria tables and recommendations in the Capacity Development Plan to see how they can advance from their current ranking to a higher one. Even if the legal framework in the country does not require participation in management planning the protected area should involve the local community and all stakeholders in it for the benefit of both the protected area and the local community.

Section 3: Communication

The overall scores are broadly similar, yet only average which highlights that much more effective communication is required. Both the local communities and the protected areas indicate that their communication can be improved. For protected areas without any communication strategy it would be good if they could be helped to develop a route map towards a full communication strategy. As the scores are around 3 it must be assumed that the protected areas do have a communication strategy. That needs checking as does the fact whether or not it is up to date and put fully into practice. This can be done relatively easily in plenary sessions without break-out groups, once all the facts as described above have been examined.

Section 4: Education and capacity-development

Here, too, the overall scores are broadly similar with one protected area, though, significantly higher. All show average values. It should not be easy to devise a programme that suits all the protected areas in this country using the Advancing Criteria tables and recommendations in the Capacity Development Plan.

Section 5: Social development

Generally high protected area scores overall from both the protected areas and the local communities. Since these scores are already fairly high it would be better to concentrate on other sections to improve the total rankings of these protected areas.

Section 6: Sustainable economic development

The overall scores are low, both for the local community and the protected area values. To start, the protected areas and economic stakeholders in the area need to get together and find out why it is and what can be done to improve it. It is likely that there are no plans for sustainable economic development. The Advancing Criteria tables and recommendations in the Capacity Development Plan will give clear recommendations how this can be achieved. Both the protected areas and the local communities, especially stakeholders with an economic interest, must ensure that the concept of sustainable economic development in harmony with the landscape is fully understood and embedded in the economic structure of the protected areas.

Section 7: Equal rights and equal opportunities

The scores are low overall but with one protected area and local community score very much at odds with each other suggesting a

mismatch in perception. The latter needs careful analysis to root out the cause of this mismatch. After that, groups of local community and protected area representatives can discuss what real provisions have been

made by protected areas in the country and how they are applied in practice. Are the right policies in place? Do they find their way into practical work and are the local communities supporting them?

2.6 Montenegro

2.6.1 The country results from Montenegro

Name of PA	1. Decision-making		2. Management planning		3. Communication		4. Education		5. Social development		6. Economic development		7. Equal rights		TOTAL	
	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I
MNE52	3	2	4	1	4	2	4	2	5	3	2	2	2	2	3.4	2.0
MNE53	4	2	3	3	4	3	4	3	5	3	2	2	4	2	3.7	2.6
MNE54	3	2	3	2	4	2	3	2	5	3	3	2	2	2	3.3	2.1
MNE55	5	2	5	2	4	2	4	2	5	3	4	2	5	2	4.6	2.1
MNE56	3	2	3	2	4	2	3	2	5	3	2	2	5	2	3.6	2.1
MNR87	3	3	4	3	3	3	2	3	5	4	2	3	3	2	3.1	3.0
	3.43	2.29	3.57	2.14	3.71	2.43	3.43	2.43	4.86	3.29	2.43	2.14	3.43	2	3.6	2.4

Key to protected areas in Montenegro:

MNE52-Lovćen National Park

MNE53-Skadar Lake National Park

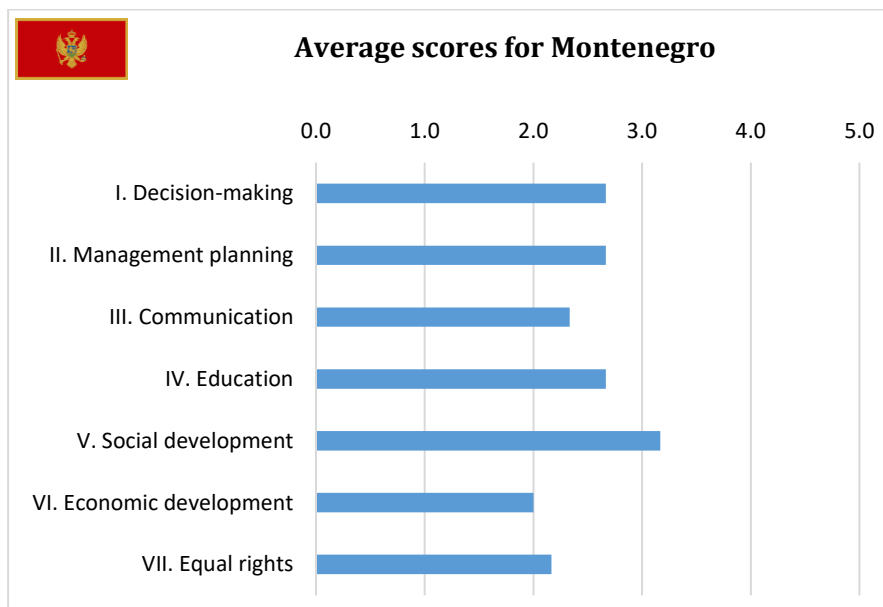
MNE54-Durmitor National Park

MNE55-Prokletje National Park

MNE56-Biogradska Gora National Park

MNR87-Piva

2.6.2 Summary of gaps and trends in Montenegro



At first glance it looks as if the assessment data for local community interaction are generally moderately well developed, with social development being the highest ranked again. However, there is a clear and consistent gap between the protected area and the local community data in Montenegro. The highest gap perceived is for management planning, communication, then decision-making, followed by equal rights and opportunities. The lowest discrepancy between two groups is seen in the area of sustainable economic development (2.43 :2.14).

Again, social development is scored the highest as the graph above shows. However, there is also an obvious assessment difference in this section between the protected areas (the highest marks given in comparison to all the other segments) and local communities (4.86 : 3.29). This clearly

indicates a different understanding of the social provision by protected areas. There is a need for improvements in communication and education.

General observations

- The local communities in Montenegro consistently score lower than the protected areas and matches only rarely. The reasons for this should be examined in workshops or seminars as the local community clearly thinks that the protected area is not doing as well as the protected area thinks it is.
- The protected areas in Montenegro are ranked between 2 and 3. None so far reaches 4 or 5 in total ranking. Using the Advancing Criteria tables and recommendations in the Capacity Development Plan would ensure that all the protected areas in Montenegro achieve more even and higher results.
- In general, protected areas with high scores in the decision-making section also score higher in other sections which shows that local community participation is essential for the wellbeing of a protected area.

Section 1: Decision-making and influencing

Only one protected area matches the local community scores; all other protected areas rank themselves consistently higher, with one being very high. This suggests protected areas need to examine what is causing this difference and how the local community scores can be raised. Improved communication between the local community and the protected area will help here. The protected areas need to look at the Advancing Criteria tables and recommendations in the Capacity Development Plan to see how they can advance from their current ranking to a higher one. In

particular, the right governance structures need to be in place and explained to the local community.

Section 2: Management planning

With the exception of one, all protected areas score markedly higher showing that the protected areas think they are better than local communities think they are. More effort must be made to involve the local community in management planning even if not legally required to do so. The protected areas need to look at the Advancing Criteria tables and recommendations in the Capacity Development Plan to see how they can advance from their current ranking to a higher one. Even if the legal framework in the country does not require participation in management planning the protected area should involve the local community and all stakeholders in it for the benefit of both the protected area and the local community.

Section 3: Communication

There is a consistent pattern (with one exception) of overall protected area scores being significantly higher than local community scores. A detailed analysis needs to be made to try and bridge the communications gap between the protected areas and local communities to achieve higher scores. Find out which protected areas have a communication strategy and which ones do not. For protected areas without any communication strategy it would be good if they could be helped to develop a route map towards a full communication strategy. If there is already a communication strategy, bringing it up to date and putting it into practice, with full explanation to the local community, would be an option to advance to a higher rank. Both can be done in one plenary group with break-out groups for the two levels.

Section 4: Education and capacity-development

Most protected areas, again, score higher or significantly higher than local communities except for one where the position is reversed. With the help of the Advancing Criteria tables and the recommendations in the Capacity Development Plan the protected areas should be able to increase local community learning and capacity in order to achieve more equal scores.

Section 5: Social development

This section shows very high scores from all protected areas with lower local community scores showing a significant gap. There is a strong need to increase appreciation and understanding of social values and development a protected area can offer. The local community scores need to be raised up to the level of the protected area scores. Improvements in communications are likely to play a key part in lifting those scores.

Section 6: Sustainable economic development

The overall scores in this section are generally low with the exception of one high protected area value and one local community score higher. In order to improve from a very low base the protected areas and economic stakeholders in the area need to get together and find out why it is and what can be done to improve it. It is likely that there are no plans for sustainable economic development. The Advancing Criteria tables and the recommendations in the Capacity Development Plan will give clear indication how this can be achieved. Both the protected areas and the local communities, especially stakeholders with an economic interest, must ensure that the concept of sustainable economic development in harmony with the landscape is fully understood and embedded in the economic structure of the protected areas.

Section 7: Equal rights and equal opportunities

Three of the protected areas scored highly and two scored low but all had low scores from their local communities indicating that the local communities do not share the high opinion protected areas have of themselves. This mismatch needs careful analysis to root out its cause. Once the reasons for the mismatch have been found, groups of local community and protected area representatives need to discuss what real provisions have been made by protected areas in the country and how they are applied in practice. Are the right policies in place? Do they find their way into practical work and are the local communities supporting them?

2.7 Serbia

2.7.1 The country results for Serbia

	1. Decision-making		2. Management planning		3. Communication		4. Education		5. Social development		6. Economic development		7. Equal rights		TOTAL	
SRB57	3	3	3	2	3	3	4	3	4	4	2	2	3	2	3.1	2.7
SRB58	3	2	4	1	4	2	3	2	5	2	4	2	5	1	4.0	1.7
SRB59	3	3	2	2	3	4	3	3	5	4	3	4	3	4	3.1	3.4
SRB60	3	2	2	1	3	3	4	2	5	3	3	2	5	2	3.6	2.1
SRB63	4	2	3	2	4	3	4	2	5	3	4	2	5	2	3.4	2.0
SRB64	4	2	3	1	3	2	3	2	4	3	2	2	5	2	3.4	2.0
SRB65	3	3	2	2	4	3	1	2	4	3	1	2	2	1	2.4	2.3
SRB66	2	2	2	1	4	2	3	2	5	3	3	1	4	2	3.3	1.9
SRB67	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	5	4	2	3	5	3	3.3	3.0
SRB68	3	1	2	1	3	2	3	2	4	2	3	2	4	1	3.1	1.6
SRB69	3	2	4	1	4	3	2	2	4	3	3	2	4	3	3.4	2.3
SRB70	3	1	2	1	3	2	2	2	4	2	4	2	4	2	3.1	1.7
SRB71	2	3	1	2	4	3	3	3	5	3	2	2	4	2	3.0	2.6
SRB72	3	2	3	1	4	3	4	2	5	3	3	3	3	2	3.6	2.3
SRB86	3	2	3	2	4	3	3	3	5	3	3	3	4	2	3.6	2.6
SRB73	4	2	3	2	3	3	3	2	5	3	3	3	4	2	3.6	2.4
	3.1	2.24	2.59	1.65	3.53	2.82	3.06	2.41	4.65	3.11	2.82	2.35	3.94	2.06	3.3	2.4

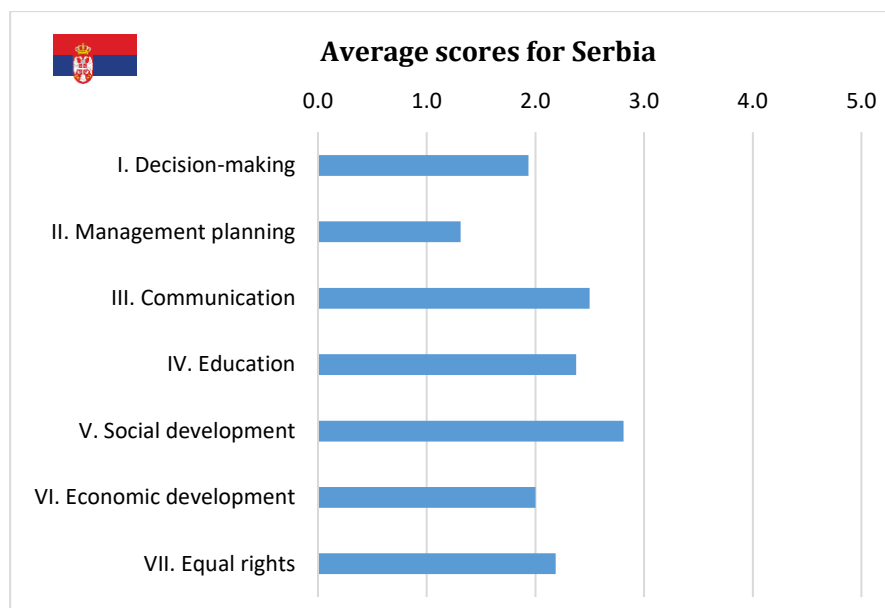
Key to protected areas in Serbia

SRB57-Đerdap National Park
 SRB60-Tara National Park
 SRB65-Stara Planina Nature Park (pilot)
 SRB68-Bagremara Special Nature Reserve
 SRB71-Vlasina Nature Park
 SRB86-Nature park Zasavica (pilot)
 SRB73-Vršačke planine Nature Park

SRB58-Fruška Gora National Park
 SRB63-Golija-Studenica Nature Park
 SRB66- Deliblato Sands Special Nature Reserve
 SRB69-Kovilj - Petrovaradin marche Special Nature Reserve
 SRB72-Klisura reke Gradec Nature Park

SRB59-Kopaonik National Park
 SRB64-Gornje Podunavlje Special Nature Reserve
 SRB67-Obedska swamp Special Nature Reserve
 SRB70-Uvac Special Nature Reserve

2.7.2 Summary of gaps and trends in Serbia



Of all the sections assessed, it is obvious that in Serbia the area of management planning is the weakest. It is therefore clear that procedures of involving the local communities in all the stages of planning and implementation need to be improved.

Discrepancies between perceptions of the protected areas and local communities are shown with great consistency in all the sections. In the lowest ranked one, management planning, the relationship is 2.59 : 1.65. However, the highest gap is identified in the highest-ranked area: social development (4.65 : 3.11). This gap is, once again, a good indication of which areas need the most urgent intervention as far as local community interaction in protected areas is concerned.

General observations

- The local communities in Serbia consistently score lower than the protected areas and matches only rarely. The reasons for this should be examined in workshops or seminars as the local community clearly thinks that the protected area is not doing as well as the protected area thinks it is.
- The protected areas in Serbia are ranked between 2 and 3. None so far reaches 4 or 5 in total ranking. Using the Advancing Criteria tables and recommendations in the Capacity Development Plan would ensure that all the protected areas in Serbia achieve more even and higher results.
- In general, protected areas with high scores in the decision-making section also score higher in other sections which shows that local community participation is essential for the wellbeing of a protected area.

Section 1: Decision-making and influencing

In 75% of cases the local communities give lower scores than the protected areas and in three cases significantly, which illustrates an overestimation. The scores are broadly average and below. This suggests protected areas need to examine what is causing this difference and how the local community scores can be raised. Improved communication between the local community and the protected area will help here. The protected areas need to look at the Advancing Criteria tables and the recommendations in the Capacity Development Plan to see how they can advance from their current ranking to a higher one. In particular, the right governance structures need to be in place and explained to the local community.

Section 2: Management planning

The results show uniformly very low scores by the local communities giving an overall low average. Three protected area scores are significantly higher than those of their local communities which suggests an overestimation. The scores suggest that protected areas are either not preparing or reviewing management plans or not involving local communities in a structured and meaningful way. More effort must be made to involve the local community in management planning even if not legally required to do so. The protected areas need to look at the Advancing Criteria tables and recommendations in the Capacity Development Plan to see how they can advance from their current ranking to a higher one. Even if the legal framework in the country does not require participation in management planning the protected area should involve the local community and all stakeholders in it for the benefit of both the protected area and the local community.

Section 3: Communication

The majority of protected areas score higher than LC with one reversed. The protected area scores are average and above with the local community scores average and below. It suggests that the protected areas think their communications are better than they are. A detailed analysis needs to be made to try and bridge the communications gap between the protected areas and local communities to achieve higher scores. Find out which protected areas have a communication strategy and which ones do not. For protected areas without any communication strategy it would be good if they could be helped to develop a route map towards a full communication strategy. If there is already a communication strategy, bringing it up to date and putting it into practice, with full explanation to the local community, would be an option to advance to a higher rank. Both

can be done in one plenary group with break-out groups for the two levels.

Section 4: Education and capacity-development

In this section 75% of protected areas score higher and some significantly so than the local communities. The local community scores are generally on the average-to-low side suggesting that the protected area activities regarding education and capacity-development are not as effective as the protected areas think. With the help of the Advancing Criteria tables and the recommendations in the Capacity Development Plan the protected areas should be able to increase local community learning and capacity in order to achieve more equal scores.

Section 5: Social development

The overall scores by the protected areas are the highest all round, with all high/very high scores resulting in a very big difference in the average. However, the local communities do not seem to appreciate fully the protected areas' contribution to the social development of their area. There is a need to analyse, first of all, if the protected area assessment of its part in the social development is correct or possibly too high. If it is shown that the protected areas do make such a large social contribution to their areas, efforts must be made to increase the appreciation and understanding of social values and development a protected area can offer. The local community scores need to be raised up to the level of the protected area scores. Improvements in communications are likely to play a key part in lifting those scores.

Section 6: Sustainable economic development

The overall scores are low with exception of three high-scoring protected areas and one-high scoring local community. The protected areas and economic stakeholders in the area need to analyse whether or not these scores reflect the practical reality on the ground or if these are just the perception of the local community regarding the protected area role in sustainable economic development. The low scores and significant score gaps could also suggest that the concept of sustainable economic development in harmony with the landscape is not fully understood and far from well embedded in the economic structure of the protected areas. The central organisation of Serbian protected areas would lend itself well to improving the situation. The Advancing Criteria tables and the recommendations in the Capacity Development Plan will give clear indication how this can be achieved.

Section 7: Equal rights and equal opportunities

The majority of the protected areas score high or very high but with a big difference between the scores of most protected areas and their local communities. This suggests that the protected areas think they are much better than the local communities perceive. Could it be that the central organisation of protected areas in Serbia has most of the right policies in place but they are not embedded locally or supported by the local communities? A careful analysis is needed to find out the reasons for the mismatch so that the protected areas can either adjust their policies or ensure that the adopted policies find their way into practical work and are supported by the local communities.

2.8 Slovenia

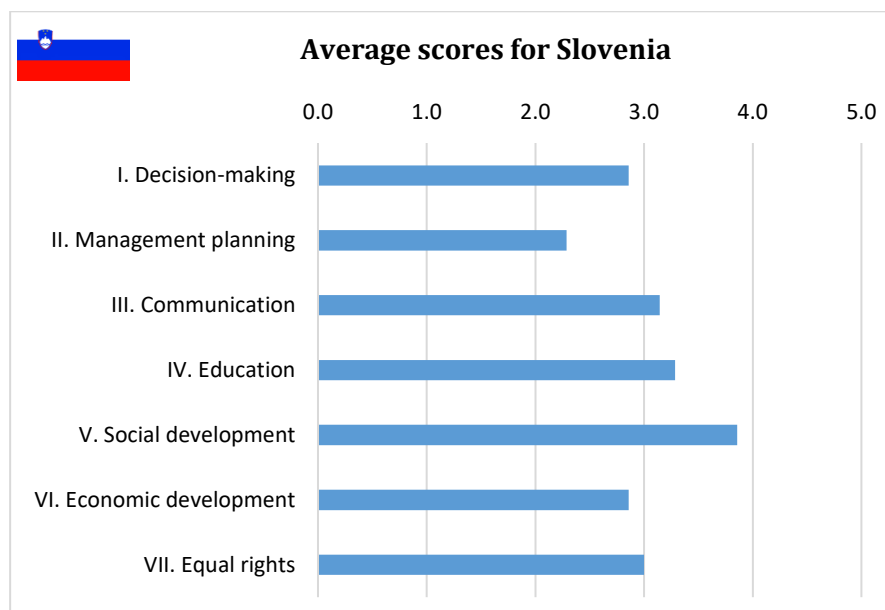
2.8.1 The country results for Slovenia

Name of PA	1. Decision-making		2. Management planning		3. Communication		4. Education		5. Social development		6. Economic development		7. Equal rights		TOTAL	
	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I	PA-I	LC-I
SLO74	4	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	3	3	3	2	3.7	3.6
SLO75	4	3	4	1	4	3	4	3	5	4	4	4	5	4	4.3	3.1
SLO76	4	3	2	2	4	3	4	3	5	3	3	2	2	2	3.4	2.6
SLO80	3	3	2	3	3	4	3	3	5	4	2	3	5	3	3.3	3.3
SLO81	3	3	2	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	3	4	2	3	2.9	3.6
SLO83	3	2	2	3	3	2	4	2	5	3	2	2	5	1	3.4	2.1
SLO85	4	3	1	2	3	3	3	3	5	3	3	2	3	2	3.0	2.6
	3.5	2.83	2.16	2.83	3.33	3.16	3.5	3.16	4.83	3.83	2.83	3	3.83	2.5		3.04

Key to protected areas in Slovenia

SLO74-Triglav National Park
 SLO75-Kozjansko Regional Park
 SLO76-Škocjan caves (pilot)
 SLO80-Sečovelje Salina Landscape Park
 SLO81-Goričko Landscape Park
 SLO83-Ljubljana Marshes Landscape Park
 SLO85-Pivka Intermittent Lakes Landscape Park

2.8.2 Summary of gaps and trends in Slovenia



The trends shown above indicate clearly that in Slovenia the areas of education and communication score generally somewhat higher in the assessment than in the majority of areas in other countries. Not surprisingly, social development scores tend to be the highest ranked as far as the average score for both groups is concerned.

However, there seems to be an interesting and typical tendency for protected areas in Slovenia is that in a few sections the local communities score their involvement or the protected area performance higher than the representative from protected areas did. This shows, for example, clearly in the sections for management planning section (2.16 : 2.83) and

for sustainable economic development (2.83 : 3). Interestingly, this gap can also be seen in the highest ranked area – social development.

In comparison with other countries in the assessment, equal rights and opportunities tend to attract higher scores in Slovenia. This could possibly be related to the economic context and the fact that Slovenia is the country with the region's longest membership of the EU.

General observations

- Scores in Slovenia show a reasonable degree of consistency and balance but with some significant variations. In order to advance to a higher level it would be prudent to target any capacity-development programme in those areas where the scores are low or show a significant gap. Management planning, communications and equal rights are good sections to start on. The situation regarding sustainable economic development should be analysed to find out the reason why the protected area scores are lower than those of the local communities (see also section 6 below).
- Most of the protected areas in Slovenia are ranked 3 with one in rank 2. None so far reaches 4 or 5 in total ranking. Using the Advancing Criteria tables and recommendations in the Capacity Development Plan would ensure that all the Slovenian protected areas achieve more even and higher results.
- In general, protected areas with high scores in the decision-making section also score higher in other sections, which shows that local community participation is essential for the wellbeing of a protected area. The correlation between the management planning sections and the overall score is particularly strong.

Section 1: Decision-making and influencing

Two thirds of the protected areas score higher at decision-making with local community scores overall being average. This suggests protected areas need to examine what is causing this difference and how the local community scores can be raised. Improved communication between the local community and the protected area will help here. The protected areas need to look at the Advancing Criteria tables and the recommendations in the Capacity Development Plan to see how they can advance from their current ranking to a higher one. In particular, the right governance structures need to be in place and explained to the local community.

Section 2: Management planning

The local communities consider the protected areas are doing better with management planning than the protected areas think they are, some significantly so. Yet in one protected area it is the opposite. The scores suggest that all protected areas except one are either not preparing or reviewing management plans or not involving local communities in a structured and meaningful way. More effort must be made to involve the local community in management planning even if not legally required to do so. The protected areas need to look at the Advancing Criteria tables and recommendations in the Capacity Development Plan to see how they can advance from their current ranking to a higher one. Even if the legal framework in the country does not require participation in management planning the protected area should involve the local community and all stakeholders in it for the benefit of both the protected area and the local community.

Section 3: Communication

A balanced set of scores but with some variation showing room for improvement. It seems to indicate that the protected areas taking part in Slovenia do work in line with some kind of communication strategy. Working together with their local communities, the protected areas should strive build on the progress achieved and try to listen to the local communities to get a clear idea of their expectations.

Section 4: Education and capacity-development

Again reasonably consistent scores providing an average or above-average picture with the exception of one protected area being scored low by its local community. If improvements are targeted on section like communication and management planning one could expect scores in this section, education and capacity-development, to rise as well. With the help of the Advancing Criteria tables and the recommendations in the Capacity Development Plan the protected areas should be able to level out the scores and increase the ranking.

Section 5: Social development

All the protected areas scored highly or very highly with most of the local community scores agreeing. However, in two protected areas there was a significant gap. It would be advisable to analyse the reasons for this gap and decide if lessons be learnt from protected areas in Slovenia.

Section 6: Sustainable economic development

A mixed but broadly balanced picture with average scores close but with three protected areas scoring higher than their local communities and one the other way around. The situation regarding sustainable economic development in the different protected areas should be analysed to find

out the reason why the protected area scores are lower than those of the local communities. With some high scores there may well be a case for protected areas and economic stakeholders from different parts of Slovenia to get together and analyse whether or not these scores reflect the practical reality on the ground. Is the concept of sustainable economic development in harmony with the landscape fully understood by both the protected areas and the local communities? The Advancing Criteria tables and the recommendations in the Capacity Development Plan will give further indications of how to achieve a higher ranking.

Section 7: Equal rights and equal opportunities

In all but one protected area the local community perception was lower and in two cases significantly so. In general, these scores are higher than in most other parts of the area survey by this project. They suggest that the right policies are in place but may need strengthening in some areas of discrimination, after which the protected areas must make sure that all these policies find their way into practical work and are supported by the local communities.