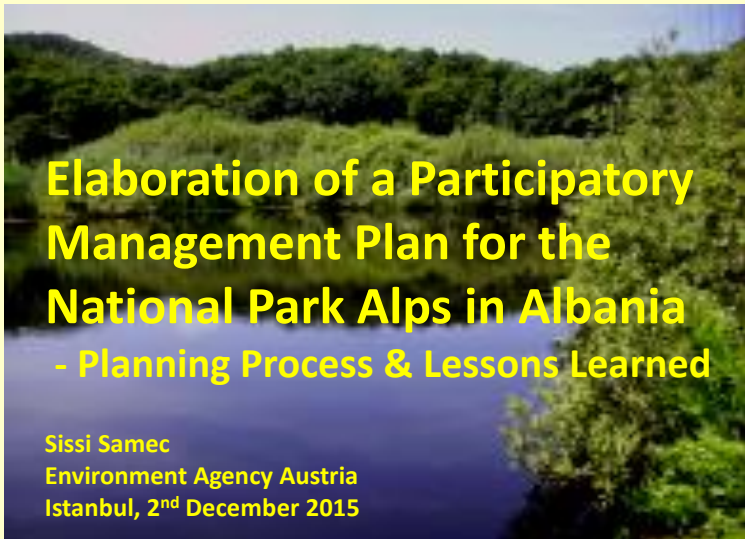




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**Elaboration of a Participatory
Management Plan for the
National Park Alps in Albania
- Planning Process & Lessons Learned**

Sissi Samec
Environment Agency Austria
Istanbul, 2nd December 2015

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Content

- ECRAN approach to develop a MP
- What does 'participatory' mean?
- Why should we involve stakeholders?
- Who should be involved?
- How can stakeholders be involved?
- Different phases of the planning process
- Lessons learned



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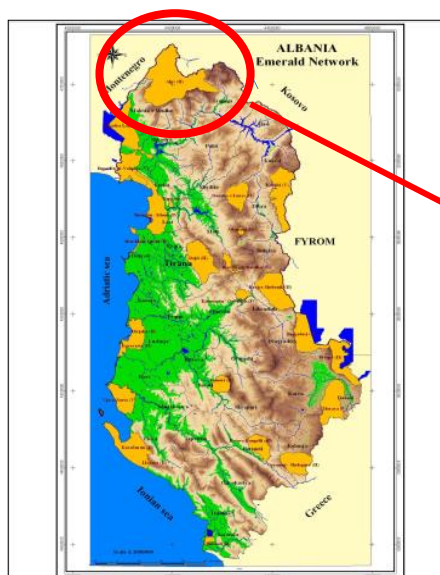


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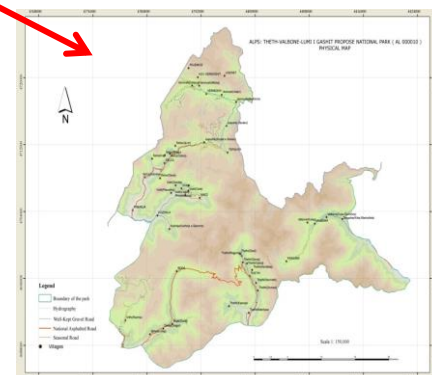
National Park Albanian Alps was selected as a pilot site

→ Ministry of Environment committed to prepare and finance the 'ordinary part' of the management plan

→ ECRAN is responsible to add the 'participatory component'



**Emerald Site → future
National Park Alps**



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ECRAN Approach

- MP development is not 'outsourced' to foreign consultants
- MP is prepared by a national consulting team under the supervision of the Ministry of Environment ('home made' / capacity building)
- **MP is developed in a 'participatory' way, assisted by the ECRAN Project**

Project

- never applied before in Albania, new approach
- will guarantee an efficient management jointly agreed with the people living in the region
- what does 'participatory' mean?



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'Participatory'

..... to involve those persons / stakeholders who live in and use the area and will be affected by the management plan



‘Participatory’????

- ... has to do with communication
-allowing people to influence the outcomes
- to involve stakeholders already in the planning phase

to agree with stakeholders on
the zoning concept and
protection schemes of the
National Park !!

- ideally,
stakeholders should become partners



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Levels of involvement

- **Information** – the first step
- **Consultation** – here participation starts, to get their opinion
- **Active involvement** – highest level
 - participation in planning and decision-making



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Why ?

..... improving decision-making →→ making sure
that decisions are influenced by those who are affected and
are, therefore, accepted

.....if not, leading to rumors, fears, opposition,
conflicts

..... learning from mistakes we made in the past



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Example: Verwall in Austria

- 4 alpine villages/5.500 inhabitants, cattle, forestry,
hunting, tourism
- no information → annoyance, refusal to cooperate,
aggression, mistrust
- mediation needed
→ nearly two years
→ approx. 100.000 €



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Management Planning is a Process...

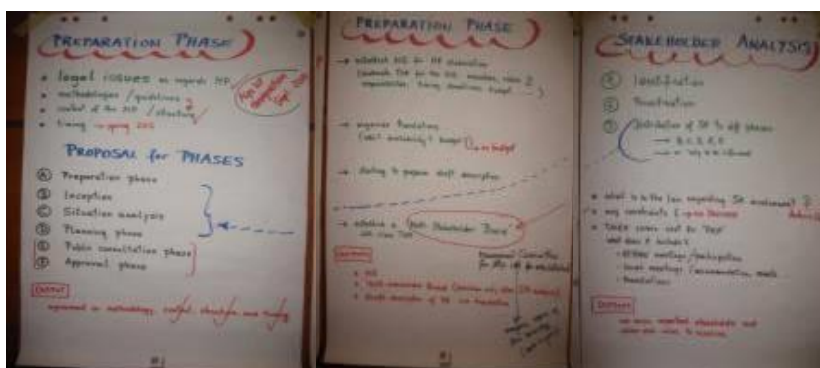


... and does not end with a Plan

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How?

Developing and agree with beneficiary on a methodology for the planning process



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Phases for the development of a MP

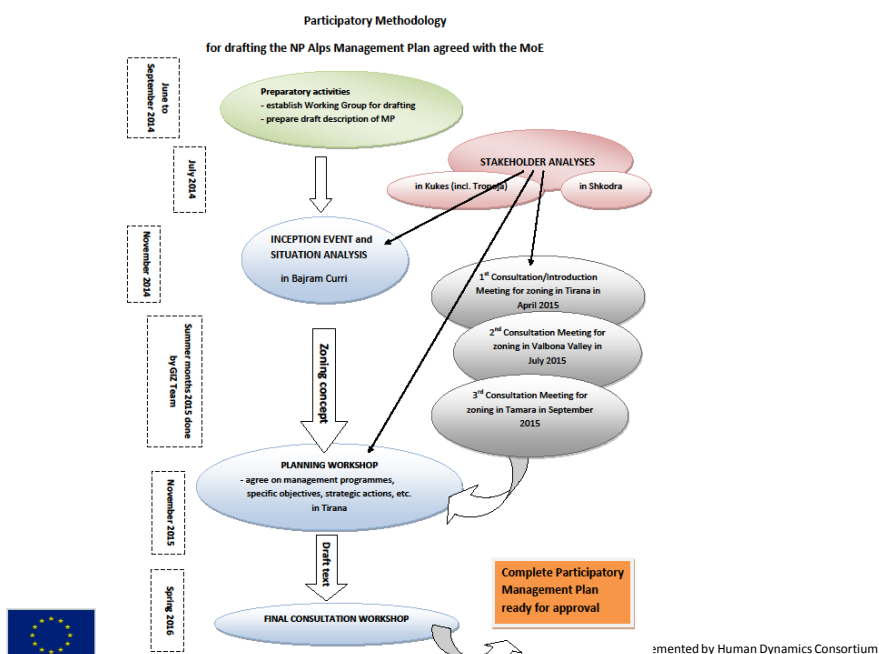
1. Preparation phase
2. Stakeholder analysis
3. Inception event
4. Situation analysis
5. Planning phase
6. Public consultation phase
7. Approval phase

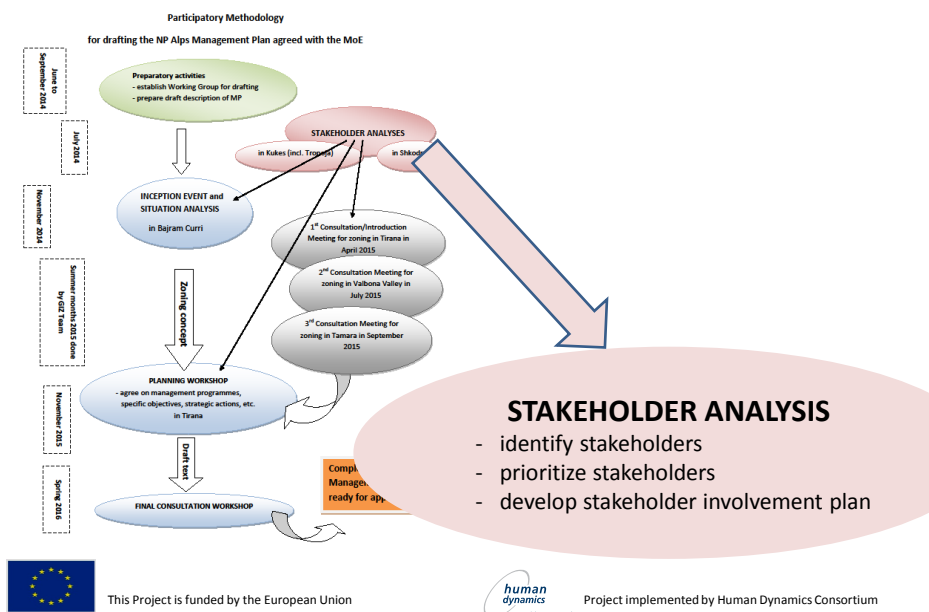


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Who should be involved and how?

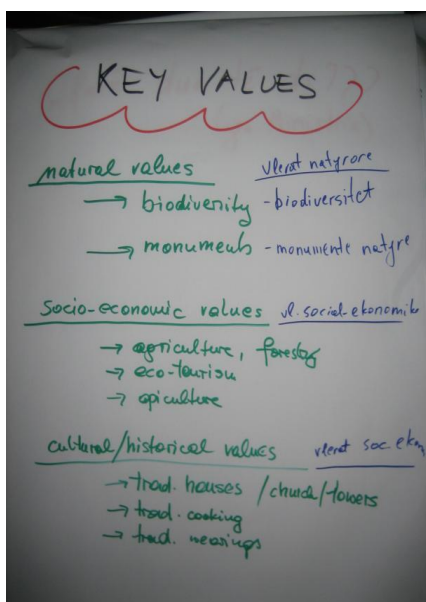
..... identified through stakeholder analyses in Shkodra and Kukes in July 2014



First discussions on values & threats

[illegible]

Inception and Situation Analysis Workshop in Bajram Curri



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Situation Analysis Workshop

Working Group Outcomes

- ✓ key values
- ✓ problems/threats
- ✓ opportunities



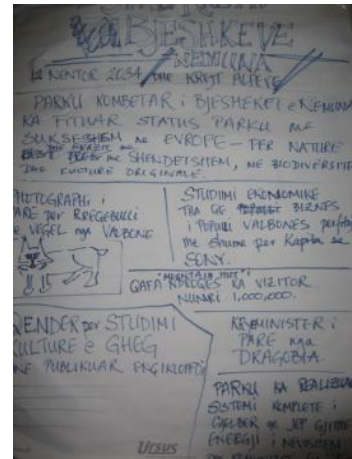
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Situation Analysis Workshop

Developing a vision for the National Park Alps

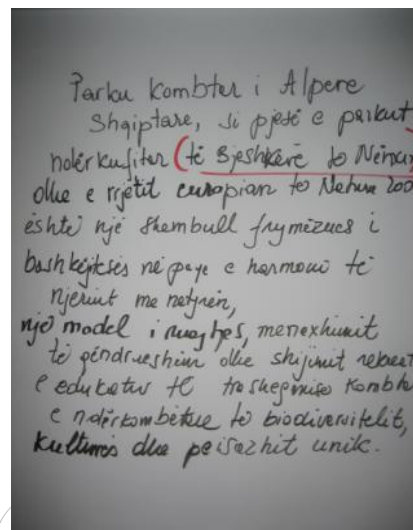


human
dynamics

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Situation Analysis Workshop

- ✓ listing key words for a vision statement
- ✓ proposals



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Defined during the
situation analysis
workshop

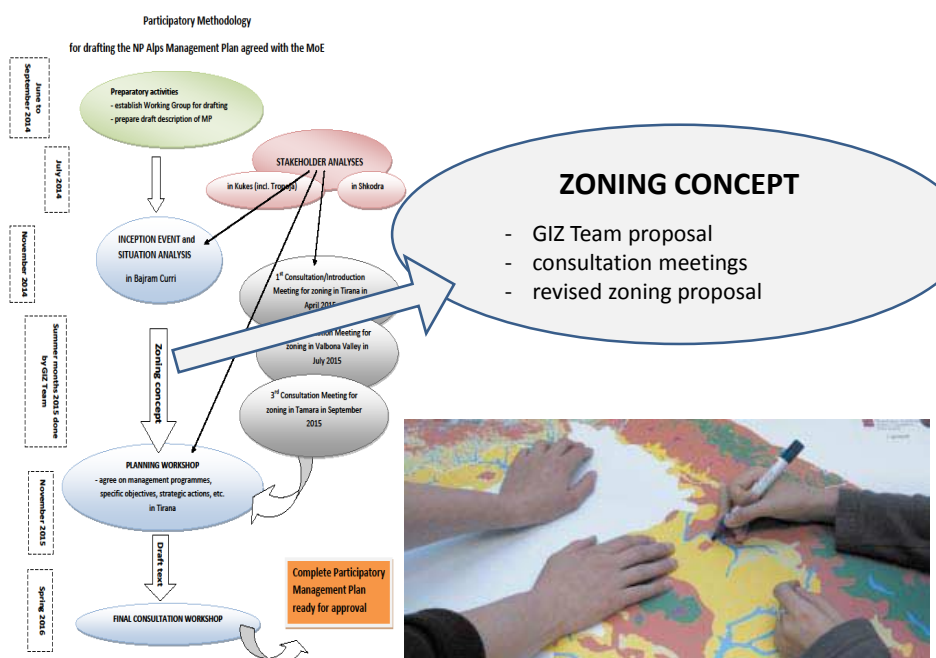
To be defined during
the planning
workshop



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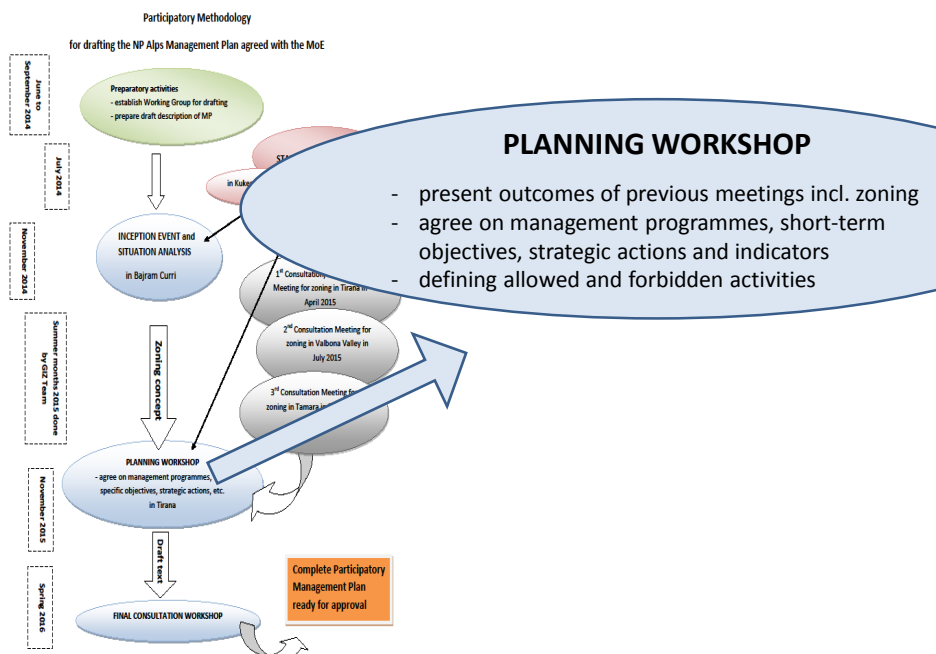


Consultation Process



Consultation Process





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Management Programmes / Themes

- Biodiversity and landscape conservation
- Sustainable natural resources protection and use
 - a) agro-biodiversity, cultural/historical values
 - b) tourism
- Strengthened protected areas administration & local authorities – shared governance
- Education and communication
- Monitoring & research



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Planning Workshop

Defining short-term objectives
and possible activities



Discussing the
final zoning



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Expert group for drafting the text of the MP

Using information from:

- **the relevant (and corrected) parts of the SELEA project** (Management Plan for Thethi & Valbona Valley National Parks and Gashi River Strict Nature Reserve)
- **the outcomes of ECRAN meetings**
- **the knowledge of the expert team from different fields**
- **inputs from local stakeholders**
- **new scientific developments**



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Lessons learned – advantages

- **getting aware of different positions and interests**
- **better and broader understanding**
- **learning about fears**
- **instrument for getting awareness**
- **mechanisms for communication and changing attitudes**
- **leads to better acceptance**
- **building up trust for future cooperation**



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Lessons learned

- **to have the expert group for drafting the MP already in place at the beginning of the process**
- **transparent information flow**
- **need for a contact point in the authorities (national/regional)**
- **respecting stakeholder's views and providing feed back**



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Lessons learned

- **being aware of tensions and conflicts**
- **importance of balanced interests (protection / development)**
- **MP should be very clear (allowed / forbidden activities)**
- **the process for developing the MP should be moderated**
- **need for an efficient administration in the area**



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Lessons learned – disadvantages

It's not easy as such approaches need

- **time** (long process)
- **energy & nerves** (often 'endless' discussion)
- **resources** (organizing many stakeholder meetings)
- **commitment** (the approach has to be taken seriously)
- **you don't see the benefits immediately** (for you, for society, for nature)

..... but it's worth to go through the process !!



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