

Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](https://www.sciencedirect.com)

International Journal of Geoheritage and Parks

journal homepage: <http://www.keaipublishing.com/en/journals/international-journal-of-geoheritage-and-parks/>



National Marine Park Karaburun – Sazan and today's trends for tourism development

Fatlinda Shkurti

Department of Education, Faculty of Human Sciences, "Ismail Qemali" University, Vlorë, Albania

ARTICLE INFO

Available online 9 April 2019

Keywords:

National marine park
Protected area
Biodiversity
Touristic values

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this paper is the identification, recognition, definition and analysis of the natural resources of the National Marine Park Karaburun– Sazan nowadays and prospective development of tourism in this geospatial. Different studies, analysis, projects have been made about the importance and the potentials that this area obtains. Sazan Island and the western part of Karaburun Peninsula are declared as First Marine Protected Areas in Albania with high levels of biodiversity and important natural habitats.

The shores of the Karaburun Peninsula and Sazan Island are characterized by a variety of landscapes of steep and impassable rocks, with caves, capes, small beaches.

These attractive formations become even more interesting to the visitor's eye thanks to the well-developed vegetation, which covers almost the entire peninsula from the top of the mountain to the shore. Environmental, natural, cultural, historical and archeological values, biodiversity and the variety of landscapes make this area one of the most attractive tourist attractions. In the area, there are good opportunities to enjoy alpinism, horseback riding and other sports alongside the water sports. There is also the possibility of a controlled access of tourists and visitors to the area from the forest and hilly areas with boats to the beaches and small bays, where there are anchoring options, such as the bay of St. Jan, of Bristan, of Dafna, etc. Local and central government should take measures for the development and controlled access of tourists and visitors so that the area does not lose its importance and touristic values.

© 2019 Beijing Normal University. Published by Elsevier B.V. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).

1. Introduction

The geographical area which we are analyzing has a special status as with the existent data the western part of Karaburun peninsula (Fig. 1) and the area of Sazan Island (Fig. 2) is distinguished from other similar areas by being announced as the First Protected Marine Area in Albania. With the proposal of the Ministry of Forests and Water Administration on 28th October 2010, the Council of Ministers with the decision Nr. 289 declared the area of Sazan-Karaburun as the first protected marine area in Albania (Marine Park). For this reason it was reasonable to be treated and analyzed for the particular features it brings as a protected marine area.

E-mail address: fshkurti@yahoo.com.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijgeop.2019.03.002>

2577-4441/© 2019 Beijing Normal University. Published by Elsevier B.V. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).



Fig. 1. Karaburun Peninsula.

2. Materials and method

For the realization of this study I have used the contemporary literature in the field of geology, physical geography, geomorphology and biology, which are found everywhere in the studies for geographical area in the study, studies and scientific articles published, workshops, tourist guides, expeditions in the terrain in this area, and the legislation for the protected areas. The study determines the points, stations of important residence, by previously regulating the basic elements, enhancing and indicative of the today development and in perspective of the tourism. The methods of study reflect the main goals, the phases of the study work by starting from the initial phase of collecting, describing, interpreting and evaluating-proposing, all by reflecting the treatment in continuance, organic, coherent and combined, toward the concluding goals with practical aims for this geographical area with the Marine and Coastal Area Protective Status.



Fig. 2. Sazan Island.



Fig. 3. Llogara Pass, erosion geosite.

3. General characteristics of the Marine National Park

The area includes the National park of Llogara (Figs. 3 and 4), mountainous range of Rrëza e Kanalit, Karaburun peninsula, the island of Sazan, lagoon of Orikum and the valley of Dukat. The Bay of Vlora, the peninsula of Karaburun and the island of Sazan, are found in the southern border of the Adriatic Sea where the Ionian Sea starts. The whole surface of the National Park of Karaburun-Sazan is over 12,000 ha, where the marine area close to Karaburun includes almost 10,000 ha and the marine zone close to the island of Sazan includes 2,721,87 ha (Dervishi & Petoshati, 2016). The peninsula of Karaburun in Turkish language means “the black tongue”, and it is the biggest peninsula in the country. It is found between the Bay of Vlora and the canal of Otranto, with a length of 15 km (The Council of Vlore District, 2003).

The Eastern coast of the Karaburun Peninsula starts from Pasha Liman to the Cape of Galloveci, going through some other capes such as Kallogjer, Raguzë, Saint Vasili, Gjatë, Dim Kushta and Saint Jan (Institute of Nature Conservation Albania, 2011). The natural area of the Vlora Bay and its suburbs constitutes an environment which is as geostrategic and geobioclimate very



Fig. 4. National Park of “Llogara”.

delightful not only through the history, but also nowadays. All this area full of natural scenery, not only with touristic, ecoagrotouristic, plants, animals, environmental, but also valuable antiques valuable from the geographical cultural aspect, historic, monumental and archeological areas, wide biodiversity areas of specific ecosystems (Abazi, 2004a, 2004b). According to the administrative aspect, the whole area belongs to the district of Vloa and one municipality, the one of Orikum, today the municipality of Vloa (Ministry of Environment, 2006). According to the aspect of petrological and paleo-geographical evolution it belongs to the Ionian and Sazan area. The Ionian area from the paleo-geographical aspect represents a furrow, set between two ranges, the Kruja in the East and Sazani in the West. The area of Sazan includes the island of Sazan and the Karaburun peninsula. From the paleo-geographical aspect, it represents a ridge through the Ionian furrow in the East and that of Umbre-Marke (Italy) in the West (Qiriazhi & Vranaj, 1998).

The Llogora pass is a very important tectonic joint. Here both areas of Ion and Sazan get together and separates the antecinal of Cike and Karaburun. It is a very important orography joint, as from it sets off the range of Rreza of Kanal-Karaburun and starts the grabenal valley of Dukat (The Science Academy of Albania, the Center for Geographical Studies, 1991, 1991b, 1991c, 1991d, 1991e, 1991f, 1991g). Geographically the Llogora pass separates the peninsula of Karaburunit which starts with the Rrëza e Kanalit (the name of the mountain that starts close to this pass in the direction of the peninsula) and the range of Çikë – Lungarë. It is 1027 m high and very well known for mountainous tourism (University “Ismail Qemali”, 2008). The Pass of Llogora has a great strategic importance. It is the only land passing between the coast of Ion and Adriatic seas. For this reason it is exploited since antiquity as a transport passing road (The Science Academy of Albania, the Center for Geographical Studies, 1991, 1991b, 1991c, 1991d, 1991e, 1991f, 1991g).

The valley of Dukat is formed in the graben which holds the same name, between the tectonic area of Sazan and IonianSea. In the middle passes the river of Dukat which starts near the Pass of Llogora. It is 15 km long and very wide from a few hundred meters (upper part) to 6–7 km (lower part). The upper and the middle sector are involved in increasing tectonic movement (Qiriazhi, 2006a, 2006b). In the upper sector the valley gets tigher, the contrast grows and also grows the steepness of its ridges. Here we find the beautiful pine forest of Llogora. This forest, for special scientific and touristic values is announced “Nationa Park” (Qiriazhi, 1998). In the lower sector the valley is wide enough (the left wing) and has a very small steepness toward the sea. There it gets the field characteristics. The coast is lower and accumulative type, and there is found the small lagoon of Orikum (Qiriazhi, 2006a, 2006b). National Park of “Llogora” is found around 40 km in the SE of Vloa city, in the areal border between the Adriatic and Ionian seas. The height of this park varies from 470 m to 2018 m. This park contains beautiful scenery and areas with fantaqstic views, steep parts of the Vetetima Mountain and a better part of the Albanian Riviera (GeoALB, 2011). For this area is approved from the KRRTRShthe MasterplanLlogora-Grame-Palase, which foresees the development of elitary tourism with a capacity of 1000 beds (The Albanian Fund of Development, Orikum Municipality, 2009). The lagoon of Orikum (Fig. 5) is found in the Southern part of Vloa Bay. It has a surface of 150 ha and connects to the sea with two canals, one of them artificially created (Krutaj, Gaçe, & Abazi, 2001). The depth is 1–2 m. apart from fishing, there are archeological activities there too (University “Ismail Qemali”, 2008). It is a relatively shallow lagoon, located on the patamogene deposits of the Dukat River. The waters of the Orikum Lagoon are used for fishing. In this lagoon are caught sea fish of high quality, and in particular breams of this lagoon that are distinguished for their particular taste (Pano, 2008). The tectonic construction of this territory consists of anticline and synlinal ridges with stretches NW-SE. Cyclical and Tragias anticlinal area, mainly built by carbonates, stretches from the south of Saranda to Vloa, overflowing over the Dukati syncline. The synclinal belt of Dukat (Fig. 6) is a gravel valley, which is located between the Ionic and Sazani tectonic areas. It occupies a part of the great graben of the Vloa Bay that was formed in the plioquarternar. This



Fig. 5. Orikumi Lagoon.



Fig. 6. Dukati Valley.

graben is suppressed by the overflow of the anticlinal of Çikë-Lungarë to the west and the anticlinal of Karaburun toward the east (Academy of Science, 1990a, 1990b, 1990c, 1990d, 1990e). The Karaburuni peninsula is tectonically represented by two monoclinical structures: the Southern part of the mountain of Canal with the mainly western decline and northern part of Karaburun Mountain with mild eastern slopes, continuing on the island of Sazan (University "Ismail Qemali", 2008).

The area of Sazan constitutes the eastern side of the apuljan platform (The Science Academy of Albania, the Center for Geographical Studies, 1990a, 1990b, 1990c, 1990d, 1990e). The costal marea of Karaburun extends on a surface of 120 km², from which the ex municipality of Orikum belong 60 km in coastal line. This area is extraordinary, especially when visited by boat from the sea, as it gives the possibility to discover the caves, canions and small beaches, the only true virgine areas in the Mediterranean zone. The underwater flora of the peninsula is also of a special beauty. This area also represents the best and most impressive part of the southern coast from the underwater tourism development. Today more than 8000 divers are looking the new diving destinations (The Albanian Fund of Development, Orikum Municipality, 2009). In continuance of the Karaburun peninsula is found the Island of Sazan, once joined to the land, but separated from the peninsula during the quaternary with a tectonic decline which today forms the ravine of Sazani. The Island of Sazani is the only island in our country, with a surface of 6.5 m² in a romboidal form. The relief is mountainous with two rounded peaks separated from a decline when there are constructed residential centers (The Council of Vlore District, 2003). From 1997 in the island were set some motorboats and navy ships of the Italian navy forces which assisted in the war against the illegal trafficking and helping the reconstruction of the operative capacities of the Albanian and Italian nval border police. In 2012, after 12 years of staying in the island, and a successful war against the illegal trafficking, the Italian forces left the island. The island will still serve as a naval base according to the Albanian Ministry of Defence. In July 2015, the island of Sazani was opened to the public from the National Agency of the Coast.

4. Characteristics of the Marine Park of Karaburun-Sazan

A protected Marine Zone (PMZ), the status of the National Marine Park of Karaburun-Sazan (Fig. 7) defined by the World Union of Nature Preservation (IUCN), is: each marine and coastal area, or tidal area, together with the water part associated with the flora, fauna, cultural and historical features, which are protected by law or other effective means to protect a part of all the determined environment (INCA, Critical Ecosystem, WWF, 2013a, 2013b, 2013c). The Strategic Plan for the Protective Marine and Coastal Zones in Albania, a definition of a protected coastal and marine area is based on a combination of the International Union for Nature Protection (IUCN) 2008-the definition for the area protection; The Biology Technic Group Ad-Hoc (GTEAH) 2004 of the definition of the Convention on the Biological Diversity CBD) of MCPA; and a definition on the coastal area in the same year, 2004. "A protected marine area is a protective area which covers the coastal and marine geographically close areas which compose the coastal area including the sea, elements of tides, the land and everything necessary to the ecosystem to function" (INCA, Critical Ecosystem, WWF, 2013a, 2013b, 2013c). A more specific definition related to the MPCA is the one of the Reserve of the Biosphere, which is a protected zone of the presentative land and coastal area and is recognized internationally under the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme, for their values in preservation and offering the scientific knowledge, skills and human values to support the stable development (INCA, Critical Ecosystem, WWF, 2013a, 2013b, 2013c). Geo area of the coastal part of Sazan Island and the western part of Karaburun peninsula is included in the protected marine zone because of the high values of biodiversity and important natural habitats. In Vlore district the area of Karaburun has a protective status



Fig. 7. Geographical position of the National Marine Park of Karaburun-Sazan (Source: Institute of Preservation of the Nature of Albania, 2011a, 2011b, 2011c).

as a Managed Natural Reserve. These are the territories that represent biocenters and bioareas which are very important for the region, or areas with plants, animals and paleontological findings especially the areas used for research, education or cultural studies. The decision for this part is: Regulation of the MP nr.1, on 27.07.1977. Area, position-coordinates: Managed Natural Reserve “Karaburun” extends in an area of 20.000 ha, found in the district of Vlora and the city of Vlora (AKZM, 2016). In the area of Sazan–Karaburun are found at least 36 species with national interest included in the endangered and/or protected status of some conventions. Here are included the sea weed, sponges, nidars, moluscs, crustaceans, fish, reptiles, seals and cetaceans



Fig. 8. Whitebelly Seal.



Fig. 9. *Monachus monachus*.

(The Institute for Preservation of the Nature in Albania, 2011a, 2011b, 2011c). Also in these waters very rare is encountered the species *Physeter catodon*, a kind of whale that enters the Mediterranean from the Atlantic. Also in rare cases is seen the whale with a beak, (*Ziphius cavirostris*) and the white belly seal (*Monachus monachus*) (Figs. 8 and 9). Usually these are encountered in the rocky coasts of Karaburun and Sazan, but sometimes in the shores of Adriatic Sea. From the types of tortoises (Fig. 10) is important the skinshell tortoise (*Dermochelys coriacea* L), which is very rare but also is one of the biggest of the time being (it weights up to 600 kg). More usual we notice the other type of the sea tortoise, *Caretta caretta* (Fig. 11), which is found everywhere in our waters (Academy of Science, 1990a, 1990b, 1990c, 1990d, 1990e). In the area of Sazan–Karaburun are registered 75% of the endangered species of the water animals in the national category, mainly macro-invertebrores of bentos, all of them included in the Red List of Albanian Fauna (2006) and (2007) (The Institute for Preservation of the Nature in Albania, 2011a, 2011b, 2011c). The natural conditions of Karaburun are not very good for the life of wild animals. Among the grass eating animals continues to be grown the wild hog, which is hurt form poaching, and the rabbit. There are predators such as the fox and the jackal which is mostly disappeared. The world of birds is mostly represented by wild pigeons, very spread in this area especially in the caves and canions, the mountainous quail etc. (Academy of Sciences of AR, the Center for Geographical Studies, 1991).

The animal world on the island of Sazani is very poor. The house rabbits brought in the island at the beginning of the 20th century got wilder later and nowadays there are not present any more. Birds are a little bit better. On the rocky shores of the

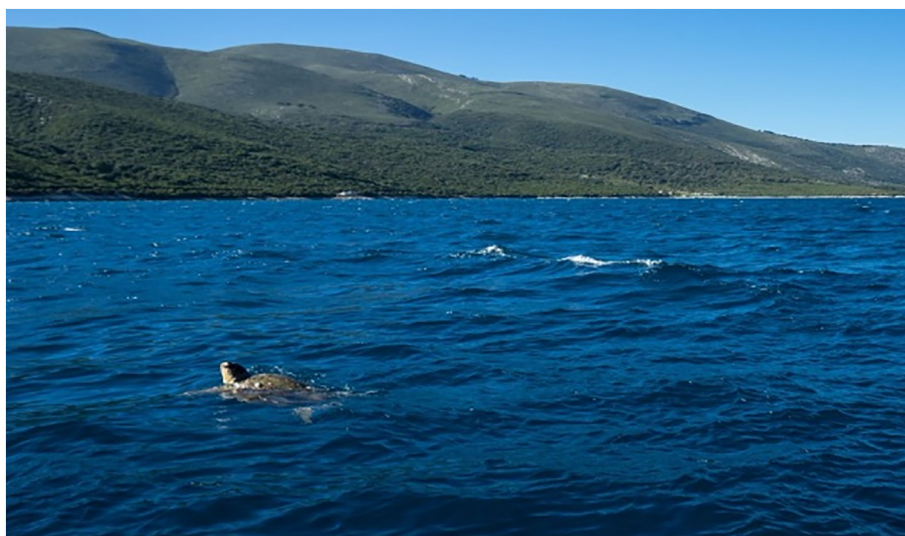


Fig. 10. Turtlein Karaburun.



Fig. 11. Carreta-carreta seatoroise.

western area there are lots of wild pigeons. Around the shores of the island there are plenty of seagulls that construct their nests within the caves (Academy of Sciences of AR, the Center for Geographical Studies, 1991). Among the birds we can mention the wild goose found in the lagoon of Pasha Liman. In the area of oaks we find the wild hog, not many in numbers. For this reason the hunting is limited. Here is found the fear too, which is very rare and its hunting is forbidden. The deer is also found in Llogara area (The Council of Vlore District, 2003). Fauna constitutes a rich national asset, not only for the economical importance, but also for the ecological, scientific touristic and esthetic-historical importance. The illegal hunting has brought the decrease in critical numbers of the animals, and even their full extinction. The pollution of the Mediterranean waters, especially the Adriatic Sea without a doubt affects negatively in our marine fauna which is becoming very scarce (Academy of Science, 1990a, 1990b, 1990c, 1990d, 1990e). In order to deal with this problem, complex measures are sanctioned by law not only for the protection of existing fauna from degradation and extinction, but also for its renewal. In 1969, was issued the decree "On the hunting", for which the Ministry of Agriculture drafted the Regulation on Hunting, which determined scientifically grounded rules for the hunting of wild animals and their preservation and breeding. According to this regulation, the National Marine Park Karaburun - Sazan was included in category "A" reserves, which serve for the rational use and utilization of animals or for the preservation of rare animals. Grazing, exploitation of forests and other interventions that hinder the normal growth of wild animals are prohibited in these reserves. Hunting all types of animals and wild birds is only done with the permission of the Ministry of Agriculture. In the "A" category reservoirs, wildlife populations are conducted in a controlled manner such as in the Reservat of Llogara-Karaburuni where wild boars and deers are grown (Academy of Science, 1990a, 1990b, 1990c, 1990d, 1990e). In the infralitoral area, the most important and most studied biocenosis is the sea grass (*Posedonia oceanica*). This habitat is included in Directive 92/43 of the EU for Habitats as a Habitat of priority conservation, while *Posedonia oceanica* as a species is included in Annex II (list of endangered or threatened species (Protocol for the special protected areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean). On the west coast of Karaburun, *Poseidonia oceanica* is generally grown on rocky substrates and rarely on sandy substrates (Institute for Nature preservation in Albania, preservation of marine biodiversity in Albania, 2011a, 2011b, 2011c). Sea-grass meadows within the Vlora bay have been measured and evaluated in 2010 and have an extension of 549 ha. The upper spreading line runs up to 5–8 m in depth, while the lower limit is 10–16 m deep. An important meadow is also located near the island of Sazan. The mediterranean shrub is the lowest area ranging from 50 to 800 m above sea level. The line of Mediterranean shrubs is often mixed with the oak line, and sometimes it is difficult to distinguish the exact boundary between them. The pine branch is represented only by black pines and starts at 600 m high in the Llogora area to reach 1500 m on the western and southern slopes of the mountains of Çika, Llogara and Qorra. The alpine pasture line starts over the pine line and is important above all for livestock. Karaburun is poorly covered with vegetation. Certainly, natural conditions are not favorable to its development, but in this aspect the humans have affected negatively. The peninsula lies extensively in the Mahogany range, which is rare and poor in species. The richest and densest is the mahogany on the eastern side, especially in the torrent valleys. Its main types are: xina, perrall, bezge, cochimary, malt, mersina, heather etc. (The Science Academy of Albania, the Center for Geographical Studies, 1991, 1991b, 1991c, 1991d, 1991e, 1991f, 1991g). Sazan's natural vegetation is largely of the type of Mediterranean vegetation with evergreens. The most widespread are perralli, xina (Fig. 12), bezge, heather (endangered), juniper (*Juniperus phoenicea*) and so on. The shrub is very dense on the western side. The mahogany forms compressed and bowed forests on the surface of the land in the direction of the east. From the high trees in Sazan (in the east) grows wild pine tree (*Pinus halepensis*), vermin and ulmus (*Ulmus foliacea*). The pine extends up to the height of 70–100 m (The Science Academy of Albania, the Center for Geographical Studies, 1991, 1991b, 1991c, 1991d, 1991e, 1991f, 1991g). The typical vegetation of the Dukati valley is the



Fig. 12. Xina.

Mediterranean bush, especially perralli and xine. In the upper part of the valley at an altitude of 800–1000 m, there is a large and very beautiful coniferous forest (Llogara Forest), one of the most important areas of Southwestern Albania, which is declared a national park. The most common pine trees here are Black Pine (*Pinus nigra*), Greece's fir (*Abies cephalonica*), Sparrow (*Pinus heldreichii*). There are also some shrubs such as Bush or Buckwheat (*Buxus sempervirens*) that form a very dense subforest with various bushes (The Science Academy of Albania, the Center for Geographical Studies, 1991, 1991b, 1991c, 1991d, 1991e, 1991f, 1991g). The area is very rich with the different types of medicinal and aromatic plants. There are 57 types with various values of their use. Most of them are well known from the locals who have a long tradition in their collection, not only for personal use but also for trading purposes. This trade is the main form of earning the living for the locals. Recently in these area is collected the mountain tea (*Sideritis reiserii*) (Fig. 13) and oregano (*Oryganum vulgare*) (The Albanian Fund of Development, Orikum Municipality, 2009).

The shores of Karaburun peninsula and the Island of Sazan are characterized by a variety of scenery with steep rocks, caves, canyons, capes, small beaches and bays, these attractive formations become more interesting for the eye of the visitors (Institute for Nature preservation in Albania, preservation of marine biodiversity in Albania, 2011a, 2011b, 2011c). The coastal line of Karaburun is in general a little separated. However, the light windings here and there are more pronounced, forming



Fig. 13. Wild mountain tea.



Fig. 14. Grama Bay.

small tectonic abrasive bays such as the bay of Raguza, and the bay of Saint Jani on the eastern part, the bay of Bristan, which is the most beautiful and the biggest, entering the land with 750–800 m and the bay of Dafina on the western shore. The bay of Grama (Fig. 14) is found on the southwest of the Karaburun peninsula. Between the rocks of this bay we find epigraphies of early times and Middle Ages. The bay has served as a quarry during the IV century BCE. Together with two other stone pits of Karaburun they have served for the construction of Durres, Apollonia, Orik and Amantia. The early epigraphy is the one left by the sailor Q. Vebrius Klemntinus with his boat “Restituto” in the year 11 BCE. According to Barlet, the graffiti of Grama describes the cults of well known dioscures in Mediterranean and Adriatic (Krutaj et al., 2001). The peninsula of Karaburun is distinguished for the great development of carst and especially the formation of caves and hollows. Among the biggest caves is to be mentioned the cave of Haxhi Ali (Fig. 15), found on the NW of Karaburun, between the cape of Gjuheze and Galloveci opposite the southern area of Sazan. The western line of the Sazan Island is a little steepy. On the west side almost in the middle is formed the ravine of Xhenhem, with a small bay, but opened and very deep. On the eastern shore is formed the bay of Shenkolli where is constructed the harbor of the island and in the south is the bay of Japraaku. We can also find here the gravel beach of Admirali (Academy of



Fig. 15. The cave of Haxhi Alia.



Fig. 16. Sunken ship.

Sciences of AR, the Center for Geographical Studies, 1991). The environment, natural, historical and archeological values, biodiversity and variety of the scenery make this area one of the most attractive areas on the tourism aspect. The interesting underwater topography, with caves and various micro habitats, and the presence of sunken ships (Figs. 16 and 17) give the area more touristic values, especially for the passionate about the diving sport (Institute for Nature preservation in Albania, preservation of marine biodiversity in Albania, 2011a, 2011b, 2011c).

5. Types of tourism

Balnear tourism represents the most massive form of tourist movement which is applied through the sunbathing, water sports and fishing. As a form of blue tourism, in addition to spending free time, relaxing, entertainment and sports, it provides health effects to various organs. Coastal environments with their diversity enable the time period of the tourist season from

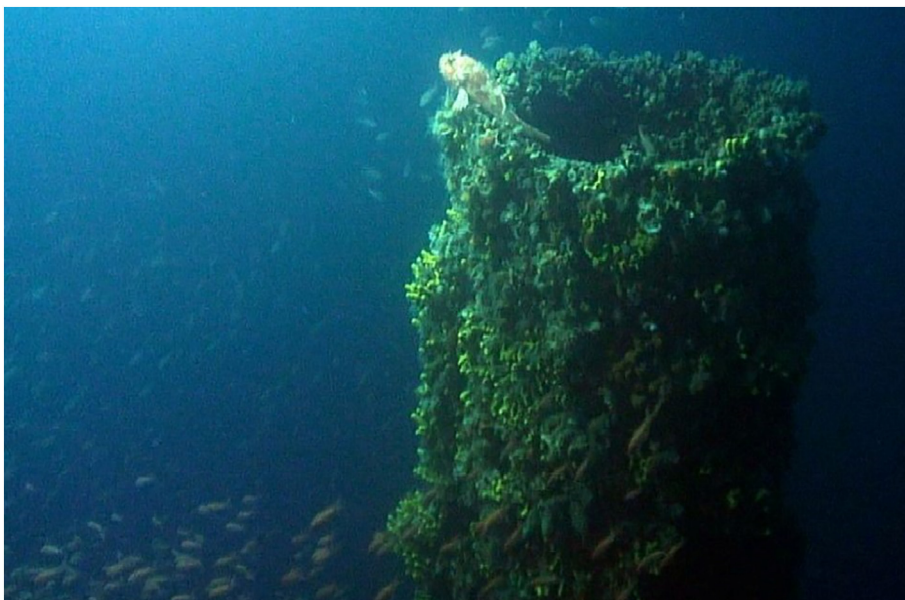


Fig. 17. Ship relics.

May to October. Sazani Island has potential for this kind of tourism that in the future will be a tourist destination for a number of tourists. Great prospects are presented to turn the virgin bays of St. Jan and Saint Vasily into tourist spot as they are so beautiful and picturesque. (Krutaj et al., 2001). In these last five years, with the “opening” of the island and the lifting of the speedboats’ moratorium, there has been a considerable number of tourists to the island, coves and caves in Karaburun. There is a great number of tourist ships with different travel hours as well as a significant number of boats competing for this tourist market. There are some of the tourist resorts such as Teuta 1, Teuta 2, Rexhina, Julka, Acua Marine, etc. with capacity of 35, 50, 50, 80, 80 tourists. At peak times of the seaside tourism season, the average daily number of tourists reaches 200–250 tourists a day. This growing number of tourists has increased tourist pressure on space, causing problems in space utilization, waste disposal, drinking water requirements, and food in the restaurants of these areas. However, there are opportunities for a controlled access of tourists and visitors to the area through trails crossing from hilly areas and/or by boats to the beaches and small bays where boats can anchor, such as in the Ragusa bay and the bay of St. Jani in the eastern shore, and the bay of Bristani, the Dafina and Grame bay in the west coast of Karaburun (The Institute for Preservation of the Nature in Albania, 2011a, 2011b, 2011c).

The sportive tourism is the second type more massive in the tourism movement after the blue tourism. People have started to attend some sportive activities with spectacle values, health and cultural other than true sportive values such as hippism, hunting, water sports and olimpiads etc. Sailing sports today are extended in types, means and techniques and in general they are for entertainment, apart from the professional aspect of competition (Doka & Draçi, 2009a, 2009b). It is a success and pride that Llogoraas a classic touristic place in Vlorë has entered the European map as an important place for aerial sportive tourism (International University of Struga, 2016). The vast variety of topographic formations with steeped and impassable rocks, canyons, trails and plains (such as Ravenna’s field) offers good opportunities to run alpine sports, horseracing or other sports alongside water sports. The places for diving in Albania are mostly found in the area between Saranda and most of them are located in the outer part of Karaburun peninsula and Sazani Island. The diving activity in Albania is not very developed and there are deficiencies in organization and infrastructure. Actual legislation does not foresee or recognize diving as an entertainment sports activity. Vlorë Bay and the Karaburuni peninsula, up to Dhermi area, have been investigated to identify diving sites (The Institute for Preservation of the Nature in Albania, 2011a, 2011b, 2011c).

Moving tourism involves the movements on various itineraries with a cognitive, fun-filled function throughout the year, especially in the spring and fall. Other forms of tourist movement are walks, excursions, marches and tourist expeditions. Walking, as one of the easiest forms for mass tourism, is made on foot, on bicycle, and by car (University of Tirane, University “Eqerem Çabej”, 2009). The massive tourist excursions take place on long distance routes such as in Ravenna, St. Jan’s Bay, St. Vasilias, Grama etc., in the caves and hollows on the island of Sazan.

6. Problems of tourism and their management

The Vlorë coast represents a safe retreat zone for Albanian and foreign tourists not only for its natural beauty, but also for the opportunities that offers in sports such as fishing, swimming, etc. (Vlorë Region, Vlorë Prefecture, Italo - Albanian Chamber of Commerce, 2002). The development of tourism today faces many difficulties. Although there is a significant increase and expansion of tourist infrastructure, there are problems regarding hosting capacity and their furnishing, service network, cleaning, water and energy security (Doka & Draçi, 2009a, 2009b). We can mention the difficult infrastructure situation of the country as a whole and the touristic one in particular. It is good news that the beginning of the new century (XX finds Vlorë in the short-term and long-term plans of the state’s tourism agenda and private initiative (Abazi, 2004a, 2004b). The community should be aware that the ensuring the tourist clientele requires quality and cultural services, clean and healthy environment, comfortable areas, recreation areas, traditional hospitality, safety, specialized services, quality products etc. (Ministry of Environment, University “Ismail Qemali”, 2004). The bay of Vlorë is characterized by a large accumulation of sediment and clay coming from the river Vjosa, which, after being transported by sea currents, is deposited in the central part of the bay. The management of ecosystems in Albania suffers from a shortage of institutional framework including insufficient capacity, non-consideration of environmental problems in managing these ecosystems in relevant sectorial policies, and poor performance in addressing concerns about marine ecosystems (Institute for Nature preservation in Albania, preservation of marine biodiversity in Albania, 2011a, 2011b, 2011c).

Current pressures on ecosystems of this geospatial area include:

- ✓ Uncontrolled urban development of the infrastructure and the tourism along the coastal area; the movement of the residents from the rural areas toward the urban areas, mainly resided on the coast.
- ✓ Eutrophication and degradation of the shore lagoon; drying of the moors, construction of the watering and drainage systems, management of the river flows etc.
- ✓ Overexploitation of the natural marine and coastal resources especially the fish sources and new uncontrolled practices of fishing has affected negatively the marine ecosystems.
- ✓ Illegal fishing and the uncontrolled use of the fishing resources has also had a negative effect on the ecosystem.
- ✓ Poaching is the main way of disrupting the elements of biodiversity, especially during the winter times being dangerous for the immigrating birds
- ✓ In the coastal areas of this geo area the sewage and industrial waste of the bigger urban areas go directly onto the sea
- ✓ The fires in the forest close to the sea has been more and more frequent becoming a very worrying problem

- ✓ The coastal erosion is becoming a sensitive environmental problem as more than 1/3 of the Adriatic coast is being eroded continuously.

7. Conclusions

- The marine park of Karaburun- Sazan represents a natural area with diverse tourism potential and the importance of the first marine protected area in Albania (PMA).
- Within this geographical area are found: Llogara Park, Biomonument of the Flag Pine, Orikum Lagoon, many beautiful bays, caves, canions and rock hollows.
- Fauna is a great national natural wealth not only for economic importance, but also its ecological, scientific, tourist and cultural-esthetic importance.
- Illegal hunting has often put in danger many animals and even their complete extinction.
- In Sazan-Karaburun area there are at least 36 species of international interest included in the list of endangered and/or protected species of several conventions.
- The vegetation of the area is mainly of the Mediterranean type of evergreens. From the high trees in Sazan (in the east) grow in natural condition the wild pine and the vermin.
- Environmental, natural, cultural, historical and archeological values, biodiversity and diversity of landscapes make this area one of the most attractive tourist attractions.
- There are some types of tourism used by elite tourism (in Llogara, Sazan, Karaburun, Ravenna etc.), which provides high profits such as the balnear, strolling, archeological, etc.
- The important issue for the area is the existence and implementation of an actual Management Plan with the participation of local and central decisionmakers, not waiting for investments from donors and projects from international environmental organizations that have provided concrete assistance

References

- Abazi, H. (2004a). The actual geohistorical and geotouristic treatment of the natural space of Vlora's Bay. *The environment, tourism and steady development of the region of Vlora* (pp. 23) (Vlora).
- Abazi, H. (2004b). Geological and geo-current treatment of the natural area of Vlora bay. *Environment, Tourism and Sustainable Development of the Vlora Region* (pp. 23) (Vlora).
- Academy of Sciences of AR, & the Center for Geographical Studies (1991). *Physical geography in Albania II*. Tirane: Poligraphic Company - New Publishing House, 411.
- Academy of Sciences of AR, & The Center for Geographical Studies (1991b). *Physical geography in Albania II*. Tirane: Poligraphic Company - New Publishing House, 414.
- Academy of Sciences of AR, & The Center for Geographical Studies (1991c). *Physical Geography in Albania II*. Tirane: Poligraphic Company - New Publishing House, 416.
- Academy of Sciences of AR, & The Center for Geographical Studies (1991d). *Physical Geography in Albania II*. Tirane: Poligraphic Company - New Publishing House, 413.
- Academy of Sciences of AR, & The Center for Geographical Studies (1991e). *Physical geography in Albania II*. Tirane: Poligraphic Company - New Publishing House, 415.
- Academy of Sciences of AR, & The Center for Geographical Studies (1991f). *Physical geography in Albania II*. Tirane: Poligraphic Company - New Publishing House, 418.
- Academy of Sciences of AR, & The Center for Geographical Studies (1991g). *Physical geography in Albania II*. Tirane: Poligraphic Company - New Publishing House, 413.
- Academy of Sciences of AR, & the Center of Geographical Studies (1990a). *Physical geography of Albania. Vol. I*. (pp. 416). Tirane: Poligraphic Company - New Publishing House, 416.
- Academy of Sciences of AR, & the Center of Geographical Studies (1990b). *Physical geography of Albania. Vol. I*. (pp. 66). Tirane: Poligraphic Company - New Publishing House, 66.
- Academy of Sciences of AR, & The Center of Geographical Studies (1990c). *Physical geography of Albania. Vol. I*. (pp. 349). Tirane: Poligraphic Company - New Publishing House, 349.
- Academy of Sciences of AR, & The Center of Geographical Studies (1990d). *Physical geography of Albania. Vol. I*. (pp. 351). Tirane: Poligraphic Company - New Publishing House, 351.
- Academy of Sciences of AR, & The Center of Geographical Studies (1990e). *Physical geography of Albania. Vol. I*. (pp. 353). Tirane: Poligraphic Company - New Publishing House, 353.
- Council of Vlore District (2003). *Profile of Vlore District*. Tirane, Albania: Toena Publishing, 22.
- Dervishi, P., & Petoshati, D. (2016, May 29). Gazeta "Dita". Retrieved from <http://www.gazetadita.al>.
- Doka, D., & Draçi, B. (2009a). *Tourism geography*. Tirana, Albania: SHBLU, 208.
- Doka, D., & Draçi, B. (2009b). *Tourism geography*. Tirana, Albania: SHBLU, 73.
- GeoALB (2011). Mineral resources and their perspective. In F. Shkurti (Ed.), *Natural Monuments of the district of Vlora, as heritage and values of development* (pp. 455). Mitrovicë: National and University Library of Kosovo.
- INCA, Critical Ecosystem, & WWF (2013a). *Njohuri bazë mbi Zonat eMbrojtura Detare*. Tiranë: INCA, 4.
- INCA, Critical Ecosystem, & WWF (2013b). *Njohuri bazë mbi Zonat eMbrojtura Detare*. Tiranë: INCA, 6.
- INCA, Critical Ecosystem, & WWF (2013c). *Njohuri bazë mbi Zonat eMbrojtura Detare*. Tiranë: INCA, 7.
- Institute for Preservation of the Nature in Albania (2011a). *Preservation of marine biodiversity in Albania*. Tirane: INCA, 1 National Marine Park Karaburun – Sazan.
- Institute for Preservation of the Nature in Albania (2011b). *Preservation of marine biodiversity in Albania*. Tirane: INCA, 7 National Marine Park Karaburun – Sazan.
- Institute for Preservation of the Nature in Albania (2011c). *Preservation of marine biodiversity in Albania*. Tirane: INCA, 9 National Marine Park Karaburun – Sazan.
- International University of Struga (2016). Pasuritë natyrore si premisa për zhvillimin e turizmit të qëndrueshëm në Parkun Kombëtar Detar Karaburun – Sazan. *Scientific challenges for sustainable development. I* (pp. 472–493) (Struga: Ezerski Lozja 1, 6330 Struga).
- Krutaj, F., Gaçe, B., & Abazi, H. (2001). *Vlora, the southern Adriatic port*. Tiranë, Albania: Toena Publishing, 7.
- Ministry of Environment (2006). *The preservation of the Ligatines and coastal ecosystems in Mediterranean area Management plan*, 34.
- Ministry of Environment, & University "Ismail Qemali" (2004). Environment, tourism and sustainable development of Vlora Region. *Creating a tourist image in the new tourist developments of our country* (pp. 68) (Vlore).
- National Agency of Protected Areas – AKMZ (2016). List of protected areas in Albania. available at www.akzm.gov.al.
- Pano, N. (2008). *Water assets of Albania*. Tirane: Kristalina KH PUBLISHING, 342.
- Qiriaz, P. (1998). *Physical geography of Albania. Vol. 2*. (pp. 251). Tirane, Albania: University Book Publishing House, 251.
- Qiriaz, P. (2006a). *Physical geography of Albania*. Tirane, Albania: Ideart Publishing, 307.
- Qiriaz, P. (2006b). *Physical Geography of Albania*. Tirane, Albania: Ideart Publishing, 307.
- Qiriaz, P., & Vranaj, A. (1998). *Physical geography of Albania I*. Tirana: SHBLU, 26.

- The Albanian Fund of Development, Orikum Municipality (2009). *The plan of local development - Orikum Municipality. Nr 180.* (pp. 18). Tirane: Grand Prind, Rr: "Mihal Grameno", 18.
- University "Ismaïl Qemali" (2008). *Geomonuments from the peak of Çike to the Vjosa river. Scientific Bulletin, Nr 12,* 145.
- University of Tirane, & Faculty of History and Philology, University "Eqerem Çabej" (2009). *Albanologica studies. Area transformation and the role of the geographer in their management. IV.* (pp. 193). Tirane: SH.B. "Arbëria", 193.
- Vlora Region, & Vlora Prefecture, Italo – Albanian Chamber of Commerce (2002). *Master plan of tourist activities in Vlora Region.* (Ancona-Vlorë: Fast Edit typography by Acquaviva Picena).