

Example of good practice	First online portal preventing environmental crimes in Albania- www.syrigjelber.info
Categories	Wildlife; Management
Organization	Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania (PPNEA)
Partners	WWF Adria, State Inspectorate, National Administration of Protected Areas, OSBE
Country	Albania
Scope of implementation (local, national)	National level
Time	1 year
Number of projects	1
People (Staff)	Full time: Project coordinator
Budget	3.000 EUR
Funding	WWF Adria
Project info	www.syrigjelber.info / www.ppnea.org
Contact	Xhemal Xherri (xh.xherri@ppnea.org)
Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and creation of a watchdog group with 250 high school students to report for environmental crimes cases at syrigjelber.info • Reporting 18 crime cases of environmental crime (logging, poaching, animals in captivity etc) • Building strong cooperation with state institutions such as regional administration of protected areas and state inspectorate throughout a memorandum of understanding. • Assessment of the implementation of hunting moratorium and logging moratorium in Albania, published in the online portal, syrigjelber.info • Communication throughout social media, websites etc.

Problem/opportunity	
Problem	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of community interest and engagement to report environmental crime cases to the website. 2. Lack of financial and logistical capacities of the state inspectorate and Regional Agency of Protected Areas in Albania (RAPA) to prevent the reported cases. 3. Lack of capacities of the state inspectorate and RAPA to identified specific crime cases. 4. Lack of community interest to protect the natural environment.
Opportunity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engagement of youth in nature conservation 2. Need for data related environmental crimes helpful for wildlife monitoring assessment <p>Raising awareness for the importance of nature conservation</p>
Planning	
Pre-requisites for success	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A wide network of nature lovers of PPNEA 2. The expertise in nature conservation of PPNEA in project implementation.

	<p>3. The financial and technical support of WWF Adria in the project implementation.</p> <p>4. The strong collaboration with relevant institutions preventing environmental crimes and their readiness to take action against environmental crime.</p>
Initial idea	<p>As one of the biggest environmental NGO's in Albania, PPNEA receive several environmental cases in its social media (Facebook & Instagram) and in the official email. The environmental crime cases related to wildlife (poaching, logging, wildlife persecution, animals in captivity etc.).</p> <p>Due to this PPNEA created built an online portal (www.syrigjelber.info) which collects the environmental crime cases and report it in relevant institutions such as state inspectorate, municipalities and regional administration of protected areas.</p> <p>PPNEA created a watchdog group with young students which will report environmental crime cases in case they will face one.</p>
Strategies	<p>This project in helping in several directions, but mainly in nature protection.</p>
Partner roles	<p>State Inspectorate,- helping in preventing and taking action against environmental crimes.</p> <p>National Administration of Protected Areas, - helping in preventing and taking action against environmental crimes.</p> <p>OSCE in supporting with contacts and promoting our work in their meetings.</p>
Implementation	
Project key stages	<p>The strategy was to prevent and stop the environmental crime in natural environment throughout raising awareness about the importance of the environment and reporting in time environmental crime cases.</p> <p>First we build an online platform when other people may report different types of environmental crimes cases and. Project coordinator together with web designer design the portal and made it accessible and easy to report.</p> <p>Meeting with state inspectorate, regional administration and made our network stronger against environmental crime.</p> <p>Creation of a watchdog network with high school students of Puke – Mirdite region which will report environmental crime cases in the portal.</p> <p>The data collected helped to have a clear panorama of the actual situation of the environmental crime in Albania and if the relevant institutions are capable to manage these negative phenomena.</p> <p>The collected data were reported to relevant institutions, such as ISHMPUT and NAPA. For some of the cases the relevant institutions took action and proceed the offenders.</p> <p>Moreover, we promote the website in our popular social media such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Youtube.</p>

Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creation of a watchdog group with young students. 2. Strengthening cooperation with state inspectorate to prevent environmental crime cases. 3. Collaboration with WWF Adria local coordinator to raise awareness 4. Field expeditions with state inspectorate to prevent poaching and logging 5. Elaboration of data collected by the website syrigjelber.info to assess the implementation of hunting moratorium and logging moratorium 6. Promotion of the website syrigjelber.info on social medias and mass media
Stakeholders selection	<p>During the project implementation, PPNEA tied to involve the main stakeholders and as much as possible, such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Municipalities of Albania 2. State inspectorate against environmental crimes (ISHMPUT) 3. Regional administration of Protected Areas (RAPA) 4. State police 5. CSOs 6. OSBE 7. High school students and teachers 8. Media (ATSH & BIRN)
Stakeholder involvement	throughout email list and previous meeting with majority of them
Vulnerable groups involvement	From previous and their contribution was crucial, serving as watchdog experiences we have a good network, especially with rural youth, which were in focus in this project.
Rights to information	Every document and other information materials related to the project implementation is published in the website www.syrigjelber.info.
Communication	The project had a developed communication plan in line with the communication strategy of PPNEA. The information was shared in different channels such as social media websites and media, throughout press releases, posts etc. There were also tow fieldtrips with journalist witch published article in their respective madias such as BIRN and ATSH. But the main channel for visibility were Facebook and Instagram, because these are the main medias when we receive more environmental crime reports.
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of logistic and financial capacities of state inspectorate to prevent environmental crime cases, after was reported by us. • Lack of capacities on legal expertise related environmental crime cases. • Lack of environmentalist journalists, to investigate specific environmental crime cases.
Change	
Positive effects on environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preventing environmental crime • Raising awareness about this negative phenomena • Valuable data to assess wildlife trends
Positive economic and social changes	<p>The public sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase of involvement and readiness of state institution to take actions against environmental crime.

	<p>The business sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two bars stop making “tourism” by having wild animals in captivity.
	<p>The local community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase of environmental crime reports by local people. • Reduced illegal activities?
	<p>The scientific community: The collected data by the website are taken in consideration researchers to make different assessment about the wildlife.</p>
Key benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preventing environmental crimes and raising awareness among local people
Replication and recommendations	
Essential things to replication	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reducing cost by merging activities and expeditions. 2. Appropriate staff hiring 3. Collaboration and diversity of partners in project implementation.
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Being active in social media for more visibility. 2. Make a compact and reliable network of nature lovers and activists. 3. Get support for coordination between stakeholders. 4. Ensure that public institutions are committed and active in the process 5. Engage youth in activities. 6. Collaborate and coordinate actions with main stakeholders.
Sustainability	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fundraising in national and international level throughout foundations. 2. Sharing our initiative for stopping the phenomena of environmental crimes. 3. Expanding the network with more nature lovers.
Idea application	There have been similar initiatives but, as far as we know, were not sustainable.
Needed policy improvements	Design and implementation of a hunting platform, coordination between agencies and ministries and better use of nature resources.
Your interests	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. End of environmental crime phenomena. 2. Nature conservation. 3. Prevention of the environmental crime cases.