

Emblematic **M**editerranean **M**ountains
as **C**oastal destinations of excellence
(**EMbleMatiC**)

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PARTICIPATIVE WORKSHOP REPORT

PP1

ÇIKA MOUNTAIN



Deliverable D 332

WP3 – Studying

**Activity A3.3 Conduction of the in depth study of the criteria composing
the emblematic dimension of the EMM**

October 2017



SUMMARY

Himara Municipality is responsible for the organization of the door to door meetings with stakeholders of the district of Himara and the area influenced by the mountain. The aim of these meetings is to unveil and emphasize the uniqueness of the emblematic mountain Çika and give an opportunity to the enhancement of the sustainable tourism in the area.

Unlike the rest of the partners this deliverable was accomplished using door to door meetings, held in the time interval between December 2017 and early February 2018 instead of a participatory workshop. The reason for this change sourced from the timing of this activity. Early November marks the end of the summer season, that is, most of the stakeholders leave the area to return in early April. In this case the only meetings held in Himare would be those with the local administration, representatives of the community and a few business representatives located in Llogara pass. A detailed list of all representatives met is included in this document.

There are already defined 10 criteria that reflect the multifaceted nature of both the mountainous area and the emblem concept and each participant in the workshop is invited to evaluate the severity of each criterion. Finally, for each area (mountain), options of an eco path will be proposed, which offer the traveler the magic and the sense of uniqueness of the mountainous massif.

The views of the stakeholders met will be recorded so that they can then be transferred to a case study completed by Himara Municipality and will be promoted to the contractor of the project study whose delivery will be a methodological operational assessment framework that can be applied in mountainous Mediterranean regions to identify the specificities that define them as emblematic.

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I. MEETINGS' SUMMARY

I.1. Summary list-

1st Meeting

Date: 22/12/2017 **Venue:** RCDC Premises

Time duration: 12:30 – 14:00

Host's name and title: Matilda Naco, RCDC Tourism Expert

Material provided: Folder, informative material, questionnaire, notebook.

Summary list of stakeholders that attended the meeting:

Nº	Name	Organization	Type / Sector of activity
1	Gentian Stratoberdha	Municipality of Himara	Local Authority
2	Matilda Naco	RCDC	Regional development organization
3	Ismail Beka	GIZ Albania	German Technical Cooperation
4	Kujtim Onuzi -	Federation of Alpinists Albanian Institute of Geology	Central organisation

2nd Meeting

Date: 17/01/2018 **Venue:** AKT (Albanian Tourism Agency) Premises

Time duration: 13:00 – 15:15

Host's name and title: Gentian Stratoberdha, Himara Municipality Local Coordinator

Material provided: Folder, informative material, questionnaire, notebook.

Nº	Name	Organization	Type / Sector of activity
1	Gentian Stratoberdha	Municipality of Himara	Local Authority
2	Matilda Naco	RCDC	Regional development organization
3	Alban Ajdini	AKT - Specialist	National tourism board
4	Mimoza Kola	AKT – Specialist	National tourism board
5	Marjel Halilaj	AKT – Head of Programming office	National tourism board

3rd Meeting

Date: 18/01/2018 **Venue:** RCDC Premises

Time duration: 10:30 – 17:30

Host's name and title: Gentian Stratoberdha, Himara Municipality Local Coordinator

Material provided: Folder, informative material, questionnaire, notebook.

Nº	Name	Organization	Type / Sector of activity
1	Gentian Stratoberdha	Municipality of Himara	Local Authority
2	Matilda Naco	RCDC	Regional development organization
3	Vedat Asllani	Uliksi	Adventure Travel agency
4	Enea Kumi	Albania Travel Net	Travel Agency
5	Berenger Thibaut	Albanie	Adventure Travel Agency
6	Niko Vogli	Llogara kompleks	Local Business

4th Meeting

Date: 2/02/2018 **Venue:** Himara Municipality Premises

Time duration: 12:30 – 15:30

Host's name and title: Raimonda Bedo, RCDC Tourism Expert

Material provided: Folder, informative material, questionnaire, notebook.

Nº	Name	Organization	Type / Sector of activity
1	Gentian Stratoberdha	Municipality of Himara	Local Authority
2	Raimonda Bedo	RCDC	Regional development organization
3	Elvira Ruci	Municipality of Himara	Local Authority
4	Erida Rrushi	RCDC	Regional development organization
5	Elton Marko	Municipality of Himara	Local Authority
6	Mihal Xhani	Albanian Development Fund	Development organization

5th Meeting

Date: 10/02/2018 **Venue:** RCDC Premises

Time duration: 12:30 – 14:30

Host's name and title: Matilda Naco, RCDC Tourism Expert

Material provided: Folder, informative material, questionnaire, notebook.

Nº	Name	Organization	Type / Sector of activity
1	Gentian Stratoberdha	Municipality of Himara	Local Authority
2	Matilda Naco	RCDC	Regional development organization
3	Enton Diamanti	World Bank Project	International organisation

1.2. The meetings in brief

The meetings took place in Tirana and Himara and was hosted in various premises such as the RCDC meeting room, Himara Municipality meeting room and AKT meeting room.

Hosts of the meeting were Mr. Gentian Stratoberdha, Head of Urban Development Department of Himara Municipality, at the same time Local Coordinator of EMbeMatic and Mrs. Matilda Naco, tourism expert working for the Regional Cooperation and Development Centre –RCDC, the organisation that has been subcontracted by the Municipality to provide external expertise towards the implementation of the project.

Both hosts were knowledgeable about the topic and the stakeholders' of Himara and Cika mountain in particular.

PP1 managed to organise 5 such meetings assisted by RCDC. These door to door meetings were held in the time interval between December 2017 and early February 2018.

Only one of these meetings was held in Himara and that served for the local administration and development organisations actually active in the area, namely the Albanian development fund and representatives of the community.

Meetings hosted in Tirana focussed on contacting representatives of businesses established especially in Llogara pass as well as travel operators that specialise in adventure tourism and the alpinists society. Representatives of AKT, national body responsible for the promotion and branding of Albania, as well as other international organisations that operate in the area were considered very important for coordination and transferring purposes of the project at a later stage.

A detailed list of all representatives met is included in this document. Thirteen (13) representatives were met in 5 dedicated meetings representing ten (11) bodies, from public and private sector of the territory, Municipal authorities, national and international development agencies, Associations of professionals, a Alpinists society, academics etc.

The variety of stakeholders that participated in these meetings had the will and knowledge to judge about the criteria and the definition of eco-itineraries.

The pattern of the meetings was less formal. In all the cases a request for meeting was made via email or phone call. The availability was a crucial factor that determined the dates and duration of the meetings, hence the dispersion of these meetings in time and place.

Some of the stakeholders were aware of the project from the early stages of the application since the municipality had already consulted active tourism & travel professionals on the initiative.

Nevertheless the host provided informative material and the questionnaire in order to trigger discussion and record the information. Set of printed brochures of Himara villages and extracts from articles of "Himara ne Shekuj" – a publication of the Albanian Academy of Sciences (partially in English) were also used for references.

A brief presentation of the Interreg MED program, the EmbleMatiC project and the role of the Municipality made by the host would lead seemingly to the start of the discussion as per the structure of information asked in the questionnaire, that is the ten (10) emblematic criteria.

Evaluating Cika mountain from the point of view of these criteria was rather challenging but very productive at the end.



Fig. 1 Moments of Meeting with Adventure travel agents, Vedat Asllani, Uliksi Travel

At the end of the discussion the invitees were also asked to fill the scorecard on base of which the meeting host(s) would calculate the average score of each criteria.

Last but not less important part of the discussion was considered also the opinion of the invitees about an eco-itinerary and interventions that need to be made for an improved performance of the mountain as a house to future visitors. Basically most of the suggestions made over 50% were focused on the infrastructural improvements, the rest on management and marketing issues of the territory. The host was committed to provide outcomes of the meeting as soon as prepared. The invitees showed interest to be part of the TNM4 that will be held in Himare in September 2018.

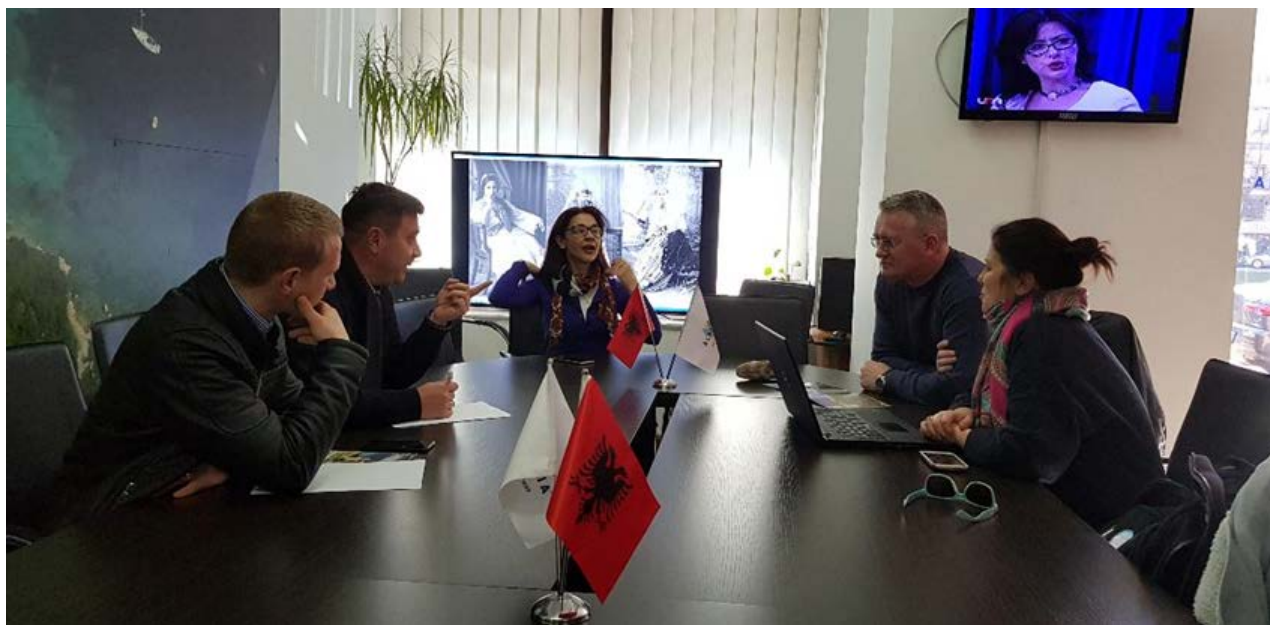


Fig.2 Moments from the meeting with the AKT team

The **main findings** of the meetings were:

On emblematic criteria:

- C1. SPATIAL COHESION

There is a sharp division of the territory, population and economic performance defined by the range into the North-West-South and East as well as upper and lower villages. Both areas demonstrate oscillations of activity throughout the year and that relates to the driving sector of economic development being tourism. The coastal and lowland areas have the largest residential and economic gatherings however they demonstrate a very high seasonality problem. Tourism and residential development in these areas is expected to increase with the construction of the nearby airport of Vlora and that is expected to become the major challenge for the territory. The loop route that connects 2/3s of the area/range cyclically is rather basic, long and without any interconnections so going from one side of the massif, introducing thus indirectly a discontinuity. Distances between settlements on each side of the massif separately are small and have similarities in the physical and human geography. There are only a few settlements in higher levels and the usually connect with the mountain peak, pastures and the other side through paths not fully explored. There are no underground roads, parallel roads, etc. There are a few tunnels that were and still are used for a small scale hydropower center built under communism.

- C2. INSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION

There is an institutional recognition of the mountain, partially.

It must be said that it is not a recognition of the massif per se. Same goes for international recognition.

So far no Planning paper prepared for the area ever included or referred to the mountain range in particular as an integral component of the territory. Bearing in mind the importance of a Management Plan for the mountain in terms of its sustainability and institutional recognition this paper is crucial for the future of the mountain.

▪ C3. REPUTATION

Although Cika may not have a global fame but it certainly is famous nationally. It is well-known amongst hikers and climbers in and out of the country as an ultra-desirable mountain which hosts one of the six ultras of Albania or one of the 115 of Europe. Further, it has a 3.5 km long summit ridge. The global fame is dedicated more to its natural attractiveness than other elements. It is not the highest mountain in Albania but the highest in the south and closest to the sea.

C4. LEGENDS AND MYTHS

Known as CERAUNE or “lightening edges” from Greek, Cika and the surrounding heights are referred by this name featuring the climate. Most of the myths and legends are of pagan origin referring to lightening as Dragon and Kucedra, the latest very typical of Albanian myths more or less comparable to a fire mouth dragon.

▪ C5. POWER OF INSPIRATION

Mount Cika and the surrounding were a spiritual inspiration for many important people in the history. Amongst them:

- *Eduard Lear*
- *Petro Marko*
- *Lord George Gordon Byron*
- *Pougeville (the French ambassador by Ali Pasha Court)*

The territory itself has been a source of inspirations for folk art including poetry, polyphonic songs, music. Other than that painting, photography, in national and international level.

▪ C6. PICTURESQUE LANDSCAPE

Cika's Unique Landscape aesthetic features are very famous for the Albanians and the visitors.

The steep mountain side creates the most dramatic views of rock diving into the blue Ionian sea and the visual impact is even stronger when coming out of Llogara park at Llogara Pass. Unique picturesque combination of alpine and coastal landscapes unfolds a variety of geotopes like gorges, ravines, cliffs. The mountain and the territory are home to caves and plenty of geomonuments, river Shushica and the springs, high peaks, meadows while it borders the coast for more than 100 km. A clear alpine zone and vegetation close to the sea, make this contrast a very attractive element of the mountain. The existence of protected areas and parks with the rich and rare vegetation and wildlife add to its criteria. The area is a Geotope candidate due to evidence of the Ionian tectonic plaque

▪ C8. PARTICULAR CULTURAL IDENTITY

In all Municipal/Local Communities the local architectural heritage is an element of pride. It has been well-preserved beside the very severe consequences of the Communist past and the transformation and violation the ex-regime caused to the property, spiritual and cultural identity in Albania overall.

Cultural events are held mostly during summer along with sport events such as paragliding or tandem flight festival. Himara municipality is encouraging the establishment of an event calendar in order to boost entertainment but not only. The municipality has supported the establishment of the local folk singers that practice polyphony. Other than organized cultural events individually people practice rites of singing in moments of joy, but even sorrow.

Lamenting is one strong element of cultural identity still present in the area. Shepherds are known to be the best flute players and the instrument is usually combines in the singing. Polyphony is a UNESCO protected human heritage.

C9. SUSTAINABILITY AND ANTHROPOGENIC ENVIRONMENT

By special legislation, any kind of exploitation of the claimed protected areas and natural parks is banned.

Beside these restrictions pressure for physical developments is still strong. The local and central government is trying however to balance operational spaces and the environment.

Under communism the lower area was used intensively for agriculture purposes cultivating citrus and olives. This tradition seems to have been abandoned as the land ownership problems surfaced after the collapse of the regime. Stockbreeding is however one activity that is still present in the eastern side of the mountain and heights along the range.

C10. HISTORIC PLACES

In the wider area of Cika, on both sides of the mountain there are many historic and sacred places. Castle and establishment remains from ancient times and castles/fortifications including villages from middle ages are more evident and spread along the range while 4 of these establishments are considered historic places and claimed so recently by a special decision of the government. These 4 historic centers are still inhabited.

Beside these monuments there are many Christian monuments, monasteries and chapels. The population belief is mainly orthodox Christian however a past of the population (mainly in the eastern side of Cika) is Muslim and it is believed to have been converted into Muslim during the long years of the Ottoman invasion.

Albania was marked as one of westernmost borders of the Ottoman Empire in Europe and a place of resistance.

Corraj, the village of Maro Konda, who sacrificed herself diving into the abyss dragging an Ottoman garrison with her, is a landmark of heroism and self sacrifice.

Moreover findings on strategic development and eco-itinerary:

- It is important to produce a management plan for the mountain and the area of influence. This will enable an in-depth recognition of the mountain and the opportunities it has for alternative tourism forms and models. Interventions on tourism infrastructure will be part of this plan as well as improved marketing.
- There is an insufficient a reputation global wise and that is due to interest by the administration.
- Branding of the mountain and campaigns for a better promotion should be undertaken soon.
- Strategic planning of the region should consider the mountain as an integral territory.
- More printed materials (maps of trails included) should be available and a dedicated webpage or portal for the territory promoting the destination and the services.



Fig.3 Moments from the meeting with Himara staff and the representative of the Albanian Development Fund

The **outcome** of the meetings were:

Cika and the whole territory of influence, such as the parks and the surrounding settlements must be considered as an integrated entertainment area, which will enrich experiences of inhabitants and visitors while consuming time in the area.

The next challenge for the territory administrate and the community (stakeholders) is to find a vision for the sound future development of the area in terms of prosperous economic development with less impact in the nature and culture. Branding the territory is a challenge that should be handled with care and love by everyone beside the complexity of problems surrounding the area.

An aggregated opinion and scoring of the invitees yielded by the meetings is presented below.

II. DISCUSSION ON EMBLEMATIC DIMENSION AND STRATEGIES

C1. SPATIAL COHESION	
Questions	Answers / comments
Does the territory's legal protection set certain boundaries?	Çika is the highest peak of Çike-Lungare coastal range known as the Ceraunian Mountains, rising grandiosely on the northeastern coast of the Ionian Sea with an elevation of 2045m (6,706 ft). Next highest peak of the range is Qorre at 2,018m. The classical name of the range derived from Ancient Greek Κεραυνία ὄρη, meaning "thunder-split peaks". The Ceraunian Mountains have been described by ancient writers such as Ptolemy, Strabo and Pausanias.
Do the virtual boundaries of the mountain correspond to a homogenic geographical area?	Geologically, the Karaburun Peninsula belongs to the mountain range, forming the western Ceraunian Mountains or Acroceraunians. The Llogara Pass (1,027 metres (3,369 ft)) makes this division of the range into the eastern Ceraunian Mountains and the Karaburun Peninsula. The range extends for approximately 100 km (62 mi) in a northwest-southeast direction along the southwest coast of Albania from Orikum to Sarande, else known as the Southern Albania Ionian Coast. The range width varies from 5-12 km.
Is the area considered a continuous or discontinuous area?	Çika peak starting point is at Llogara Pass, 40 km south-east of the port city of Vlorë, 80 km north-west of the port city of Saranda, 190 km south of the capital city of Tirana and country's only International Airport. Cika Range alone starts at Kudhes stream (S), up to Saint George Pass 1252 m (S), which serves as a natural boundary with Lungare range. On clear weather the range can be viewed from Otranto situated 70 km across the Otranto straits Northwest of Cika, relatively close to the summit starts the Llogara park which caters as a green ring that separates the mountain range into the Ceraunians to the east and the Akroceraunians or Reza e Kanalit -Karaburun Peninsula to the west.
<u>Key words to raise discussion</u>	This territory formed by a watershed of 1010 hectares (800 hectares of forests and the other pastures, meadows and rocky places) is situated on the spatial boundary between the Adriatic Sea and Ionian Sea.
<i>spatial cohesion</i>	The western extension of the range itself has been classified a Managed Nature Reserve.
<i>spatial and socio-geographic similarities along the mountain</i>	The proximity of the mountain to the sea gives this area a very distinctive dimension in terms of the spatial cohesion. The range is viewed as the spine of the territory, separating the coast from the inland territories, but at the same time it organically stretches to the sea via Karaburun peninsula.
<i>homogenic elements/parts in the natural relief</i>	As Cika represents only the summit it is about time to bring it in the focus.
<i>uniformity (e.g. land types, cultivars, desertification)</i>	Controlled economic activity occurs at Llogara Pass level, which serves as a recreational area for daily travelers and holiday makers. These services cater also to the needs of hikers since there is no other facilities at this very starting point of the trail.
<i>common features in the practice of anthropogenic activities</i>	Within the area the level of human settlements on both sides of the range varies. The population is spread along the range and scattered in small villages along the parallel roads running on both
<i>sub-sections shaping the boundaries of the mountain and the common cultural characteristics</i>	
<i>delimitation of the area</i>	
<i>settlements along the mountain</i>	
<i>particular territorial similarities in the physical and human geography</i>	

	<p>sides of the mountain. The side facing the Ionian has had a more intense physical development due to tourism. There is only one connection between the two zones, through a very basic road across the range. The rest of the connections are only trails.</p> <p>In the early past century the area was under communism. Beside the inexistence of road connections the perception of the boundaries of the area matched the real boundaries. By early 90's the connection faded creating a sharp division contributing towards a narrowing of virtual and perceptive limits of the area.</p> <p>Municipality is trying to integrate both sides under the new territorial coverage and regulation.</p> <p>Under this new territorial and administrative cover Himara Municipality counts 24 villages located on both sides of the range. This can be considered the area of direct influence of Cika Mountain, however this influence extends due to its western extension and its location in the very heart of Vlora Region.</p> <p>Details about the area of direct influence of Cika Mountain, that is, Himara Municipality and the 24 surrounding villages is provided bellow. Himara municipality itself is part of Vlora region</p> <p>Area: 571.94 km²</p> <p>Habitants: 27.168 (by the civil register in 2015).</p> <p>-The 3 units of the new municipality:</p> <p>a. Himare: Himara city, Villages: Pilur, Kudhës, Qeparo fshat, Qeparo Fushë, Vuno, Ilias, Dhërmi, Gjilekë, Palasë.</p> <p>b. Lukove: Lukovë, Borsh, Fterrë, Çorraj, Piqeras, Sasaj, Qazim Pali, Shënavasil, Nivicë.</p> <p>c. Hore-Vranisht: Vranisht, Kuç, Kuç Buronjë, Bolenë, Kallarat, Tërbaç.</p>									
	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
c1Scoring emblematic dimension						X				

1 very small, 2-3 small, 4-5 medium, 6-7 high, 8-9 very high, 10 paramount

C2. INSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION

Questions	Answers / comments									
<p>Is the mountain or part of it institutionally recognized?</p> <p><u>Key words to raise discussion</u></p> <p><i>IUCN designation as Strict Nature Reserve or Wilderness Area or National park</i></p> <p><i>UNESCO World Heritage List</i></p> <p><i>World Network of Biosphere Reserves and Global Geoparks</i></p> <p><i>European Destination of Excellence</i></p> <p><i>European Diploma of Protected Area,</i></p> <p><i>Natura 2000 award</i></p> <p><i>System of Measures for Excellence in Destinations (SMED)</i></p> <p><i>Cross-border cooperation and institutional recognition</i></p>	<p>The Cike –Lungare range is surrounded to the north by areas that are considered highly protected. The summit itself sits only a short distance from the southern borders of Llogara National Park which influences positively towards its status.</p> <p>The whole protected area Llogara – Karaburun is situated between the mountain range Cikë-Lungara on the east and the Adriatic and Ionian seas on the west. The peninsula serves as a natural border of Adriatic and Ionian, otherwise known as Cika's feet in the sea. This fact reiterates once more the distinguishing feature of the mountain that is the direct and integral connections with the sea. The tendency of extending the surface of protected areas have been obvious over the course of the years.</p> <p>Altogether three protected areas are proclaimed within the influence territory of the mountain range: National Park of Llogara (1.010 ha) by a decision of the Albanian Government Nr. 1, date 27.7.1977, Managed Nature Reserve of Rrëza e Kanalit-Karaburun (20.000 ha) by decision of the Albanian Government Nr. 1, date 27.7.1977, and Marine Protected Area of Karaburun–Sazan 12.570,82 ha, where 9.8 ha belong to the marine area close to Karaburun peninsula and 2.7 ha to the marine area close to the Sazan island by a decision of the Albanian Government Nr. 1, date 27.7.1977.</p> <p>Besides, this area has a great number of monuments of nature (third category of IUCN) such as geomonuments, hydromonuments, and biomonuments. Contribution has been given to the protected areas by the geographers, geologists, and biologists who have published papers or studies about geology, structural relief and biodiversity of certain areas of this zone, however little has been done about Cika massif itself and the range in the light of the natural heritage study and promotion.</p> <p>There are evident values of a geosite (Ionian tectonic plaques) with complex geological, geomorphological, biological, cultural, historic and human values and scenic beauty. The range and the mountain (outside the protected areas) is actually under the patronage and administration of the municipality of Himara, which for the first time undertakes the promotion of Cika proudly. It is the very first time that the mountain is considered an asset for the tourism product and the very first time a holistic approach is applied by a local administration in Albania over a mountain. Of course no funds have ever been allocated to the massif earlier, but the protected areas. Municipality is giving its financial contribution towards Cika's recognition in the frames of this project. For the moment the mountain has not undergone any assessment regarding quality of night sky or nocturnal natural environment.</p> <p>Himara municipality used the silhouette of the mountain in its logo.</p>									
	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
C2 Scoring emblematic dimension				X						

1 very small, 2-3 small, 4-5 medium, 6-7 high, 8-9 very high, 10 paramount

C3. REPUTATION

Questions	Answers / comments									
Is there a global or national or regional or local reputation of the mountain?	Mali i Çikës is an ultra-desirable mountain for many reasons. It has a very alpine feel to it, with sheer drops, cliffs, distant views and a 3.5 kilometer long exhilarating summit ridge. There is no shortcut. Unless you decide to transverse Mali i Çikës one has to go back the same way. Nowadays Cika has grown very popular both for the national and international public. With Albania being promoted as a country of mountainous terrain and ample opportunities for adventure seekers Cika has grown its popularity and its own share within this market.									
What are the highly esteemed characteristics?	Over the past 20 years its popularity has risen in the international market and the hiking activity is by no doubt growing along with sparks of domestic activity exercised by a narrow niche of Albanian mountain lovers. This information is obtained by the operators and local guides catering in the area as there is no official counting due to lack of infrastructure.									
<u>Key words to raise discussion</u>	Recently indicative signage was delivered within the frames of a project undertaken by the GIZ, however that is very basic compared to the need for attention.									
<i>outstanding universal value</i>	The classical hiking trail from Llogara pass to the summit makes for 14.5 kilometers out and back, a cumulative climb of more than 1400 Meter, and a very long day.									
<i>principal factors for the reputation</i>	International public would substantially grow had there been other opportunities of exploring the range as a destination for nature lovers and not just hikers.									
<i>high reputation capital / elements</i>	An ultra-prominent peak, or Ultra in short, is a mountain with a topographic prominence of 1,500 meters or more. In order to climb a higher peak, you first have to descend at least to a quota of 1500 meter. There are 119 Ultras in Europe. If you think of Switzerland as the motherland of European mountains, think again. Switzerland has only eight Ultras. Many of the highest peaks of the European Alps are connected by high passes, and they do not “stand out” as an Ultra would do. Albania has six Ultras and Mali i Çikës is one of them. It has an official height of 2044 Meter, and a prominence 1563 Meter. But this aside, when you stand on its top, you have an unobstructed view 2044 Meter right down to the sparkling blue Ionian Sea.									
<i>widespread knowledge</i>	There is a paragliding takeoff infrastructure already in place at a spot overlooking the Ionian on the western slope, 935 m above sea level. The takeoff spot was constructed with the initiative of Himara Municipality aiming to host National and International Championships of Aeronautics take place annually in this very spot and offer an additional opportunity for entertaining activity. Professionals use this spot to offer tandem flights for the visitors.									
<i>power of the word of mouth</i>	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
<i>number of visitors</i>						X				
C3 Scoring emblematic dimension										

1 very small, 2-3 small, 4-5 medium, 6-7 high, 8-9 very high, 10 paramount

C4. LEGENDS AND MYTHS

Question	Answers / comments									
<p>Regarding local myths and legends what are the strong points of the mountain?</p> <p><u>Key words to raise discussion</u></p> <p><i>mythology</i></p> <p><i>godly presence</i></p> <p><i>haunted places</i></p> <p><i>unknown powers</i></p> <p><i>supernatural phenomena</i></p> <p><i>spiritual, symbolic and other interactions</i></p> <p><i>heroic accomplishments</i></p> <p><i>folktales</i></p> <p><i>sacred plants and animals</i></p>	<p>Julius Caesar, Emperor of Rome, set foot on Llogara and rested his legion at Palasë on the Albanian Riviera during his pursuit of Pompey in 48 b.c.</p> <p>What today is known as Caesar's pass, (called Ca'car of Cesar) is situated 200-300 m away from the tourist center.</p> <p>This spot was considered the EYE as the view stretches from the mountain heights to a good part of what is known as the Albanian Riviera (the villages of Palasë , Dhermi, Vuno, etc.).</p>									
	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
C4 Scoring emblematic dimension						X				

1 very small, 2-3 small, 4-5 medium, 6-7 high, 8-9 very high, 10 paramount

C5. POWER OF INSPIRATION

Questions

How strong is the up to now power of inspiration and what is the potential not yet promoted or self-revealed?

Can you recall examples of people, personal or collective work of art inspired by the mountain?

Key words to raise discussion

literature

fine arts

films

theatre

music

contemporary art

design

photography

video games

smartphones applications

Answers / comments

There is a rich archive of paintings inspired by Cika. The majority of them belong to 19th century painters and are not actually found within Albania. Most of them are theme to many postcards and gravures.

Beyond paintings the area has inspired a lot of folk creators of the famous polyphonic music.

Most of their songs pay a tribute to the beauties of the land of Himara and its people.

One of these songs "Vajza e valeve- Lady of waves" is of a very old origin and it is sang even today on public events.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qkeb13Pkav0>

During 30's a version of this song was recorded in France by an Albanian band that for the first time used mandolin in a polyphonic song.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DEIExCAh9mg>

A famous Albanian jazz singer has already streamed this song into a jazz version.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DvGril8tn_k

	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
C5 Scoring emblematic dimension					X					

1 very small, 2-3 small, 4-5 medium, 6-7 high, 8-9 very high, 10 paramount

C6. PICTURESQUE LANDSCAPE

Questions	Answers / comments									
<p>What are the grandiose parts of the mountain?</p> <p>How far more is the aesthetic enjoyment of the mountain compared with other?</p> <p><u>Key words to raise discussion</u></p> <p><i>extraordinary / uncommon shape</i></p> <p><i>spectacular formations</i></p> <p><i>imposing peaks</i></p> <p><i>magnificent scenery</i></p> <p><i>geological exceptional characteristics</i></p> <p><i>rock formations</i></p> <p><i>steep slopes</i></p> <p><i>impressive landscape and panoramas</i></p> <p><i>topographic prominence</i></p> <p><i>graphic and astonishing parts of landscape</i></p> <p><i>aesthetic enjoyment</i></p>	<p>When you stand on top of Cika peak, you have an unobstructed view 2045 Meter right down to the sparkling blue Ionian Sea. On the peaks of Cika mountain there is a magnificent view of the northern Ionian Islands as well as the Italian coast of Apulia (including Otranto). On the foot of the western side of the mountain there are small beaches which attract tourists during the summer months.</p> <p>Near Llogara pass, woods meet with interesting curves, influenced by wind turbines, among which is the "Pine Flag", a rare monument of nature of scientific value. The park offers beautiful, stunning scenery both inland and in characteristic locations and prevailing points.</p> <p>Driving from Llogara pass to the feet of the mountain via the winding road one meets a stunning optical illusion as driving towards the rocky side of the mountain. It obviously gives the impression that the rocky slope moves towards. This illusion is explained by the view contrasts with the open horizon.</p>									
	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
C5 Scoring emblematic dimension	X									

1 very small, 2-3 small, 4-5 medium, 6-7 high, 8-9 very high, 10 paramount

C7. UNIQUE ECOSYSTEMS										
Questions	Answers / comments									
How unique do you consider the ecosystems of the mountain?	The relief is varied, with many mountain passes, canyons, gorges, hills and other landforms. The mountains house Black pines, Bulgarian firs, Bosnian pines and Ash trees.									
What is their vulnerability and state of conservation?	The range is home to many large mammals, including brown bears, grey wolves, lynx, golden eagles etc.									
<u>Key words to raise discussion</u>	The feet of the range are marked with long pebble beaches, with a number of bays and headlands.									
<i>naturalness</i>	The climate is Mediterranean, having hot summers and generally warm to cool, dry winters. Furthermore, the mount falls within the Illyrian deciduous forests terrestrial ecoregion of the Palearctic Temperate broadleaf and mixed forest.									
<i>intactness of natural systems</i>	Llogara National Park, is distinguished for its rich biodiversity and vegetation. The western flank of the mount is vegetated by species such as the Bulgarian fir, Austrian pine, Bosnian pine and Macedonian pine. The mountains are characterized by housing Black pines, Bulgarian firs, Bosnian pines and Ash trees.									
<i>special biotopes and geotopes</i>	The area has high and significant biodiversity in the Mediterranean hosting: alpine and subalpine meadows, pine forests (<i>Pinus nigra</i>) and spruce (<i>Pinus peuce</i> , <i>Pinus leucodermis</i>), Macedonian fir trees (<i>Abies borisii-regis</i>) as well as (<i>Quercus coccifera</i>), (<i>Q. macrolepis</i>), typical Mediterranean maquia, typical vegetation of marine cliffs, wetlands and remains of alluvial forests, with well-expressed littoral floor, with highly developed benthos, broad meadows of posidonium (<i>Posidonia oceanica</i>).									
<i>caves</i>	The area overall has a very rich marine and land flora and fauna. In seawater, dolphins (<i>Delphinus delphi</i> and <i>Tursiops truncatus</i>), and many other threatened species that are protected by several conventions are met. Karaburun marine waters are visited by the Mediterranean (Monachus monachus), one of the most threatened species in the world. The northern boundary of the OleoCeratiniion alliance is the northern seabed border. Area where endemic and subendemic species come and many rare and endangered species (<i>Taxus bacata</i> , <i>Ceratonia siliqua</i> . Çika is the highest peak of Çike-Lungare coastal range known as the Ceraunian Mountains, rising grandiosely on the northeastern coast of the Ionian Sea with an elevation of 2045m (6,706 ft). Next highest peak of the range is Qorre at 2,018m. The classical name of the range derived from Ancient Greek Κεραύνια ὄρη, meaning "thunder-split peaks". The Ceraunian Mountains have been described by ancient writers such as Ptolemy, Strabo and Pausanias.									
<i>alpine lakes</i>										
<i>unique biodiversity</i>										
<i>botanical richness</i>										
<i>endemism</i>										
<i>species richness</i>										
<i>unique terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems</i>										
<i>forest diversity</i>										
<i>tree cover/density</i>										
<i>remarkable trees</i>										
<i>threatened species</i>										
<i>natural quietness</i>										
<i>high nature value farmland</i>										
<i>high conservation status of habitats and species</i>										
<i>conservation of vulnerable areas</i>										
<i>aesthetic enjoyment</i>										
<i>natural phenomena</i>										
<i>climate particular conditions</i>										
<i>scenic pastures</i>										
<i>gorges, valleys</i>										
<i>emblematic plants and animals as national or regional symbols</i>										
	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
C7 Scoring emblematic dimension			X							

1 very small, 2-3 small, 4-5 medium, 6-7 high, 8-9 very high, 10 paramount

C8. PARTICULAR CULTURAL IDENTITY

Questions	Answers / comments									
What is the particular cultural profile of the area?	Himara is mentioned in ancient manuscripts by Herodotus and Thucydides and by historical sources: roman empire, byzantine authors, Othomans empire ect.									
Which are the elements attributing a unique character to the area?	Himara Municipality, or “the Riviera” as Albanians prefer to call it, lies along the coastline of Ionian Sea, starting from Llogara in the north up to Nivice village, near Saranda.									
<u>Key words to raise discussion</u>	Himara city and its 2400 year old castle is a symbol of resistance across the region.									
<i>values and works of the local society</i>	With a very favorable geographical position in the south-western part of Albania it features unique cultural dimensions.									
<i>customs</i>	Greek minority members live in a dominant number of the coastal villages and Himara and this coexistence has been an exemplary one with populations exchanging rites and traditions.									
<i>music</i>	Himara has a rich historical and cultural heritage which has given the place a very distinguishing identity.									
<i>dance</i>	Above all the human heritage is what himariots (local people) boast for.									
<i>festivals</i>	Himariots are known for their vivid free spirits. Over the course of the history they have demonstrated the profile of a proud population. The sea has been both a source of life and danger at the same time, however the sea and the wilderness of the mountains has carved their characters evidently.									
<i>market places</i>	Today Himariots boast a rich cultural heritage and tradition. The highlight of this legacy is:									
<i>dietary habits</i>	a. the POLYPHONY (group singing) which is a protected human heritage under the patronage of UNESCO and									
<i>local dialect</i>	b. the traditional coastal villages bearing unique architectural character and values.									
<i>social characteristics and peoples special attitude</i>	(a rich list of cultural monuments and 4 historical centers)									
<i>folklore</i>	Himara counts over 40 cultural heritage objects proclaimed as such by the Ministry of Culture. Various castles situated along the coast are evidence of life since 3500 b.C.									
<i>artisanal production</i>	http://himara.gov.al/lista-e-monumente-te-kultures/									
<i>ethnicity</i>										
<i>religion</i>										
<i>intangible cultural heritage</i>										
<i>holy places</i>										
<i>thematic routes</i>										
<i>quality products (PDOs, PGIs, TSGs, bio)</i>										
<i>local peoples’ pride for the mountain</i>										
<i>particular mentality and temperament of the locals</i>										
<i>architectural works</i>										
<i>works of monumental sculpture and painting</i>										
<i>locations, elements or structures of an archaeological nature</i>										
	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
C8 Scoring emblematic dimension		X								

1 very small, 2-3 small, 4-5 medium, 6-7 high, 8-9 very high, 10 paramount

C9. SUSTAINABILITY AND ANTHROPOGENIC ENVIRONMENT

Questions	Answers / comments									
<p>What does the anthropogenic environment offer to a traveler?</p> <p>What damage has been made to the natural environment?</p> <p><u>Key words to raise discussion</u></p> <p><i>vulnerability</i></p> <p><i>current state of conservation</i></p> <p><i>management of the area</i></p> <p><i>manmade environment profile</i></p> <p><i>pleasing urban scenes</i></p> <p><i>architectural features</i></p> <p><i>aesthetics of settlements</i></p> <p><i>authenticity</i></p> <p><i>antiquities</i></p> <p><i>industrial heritage</i></p> <p><i>notable public works of the past</i></p> <p><i>sustainable, non-intensive, small scale interventions</i></p> <p><i>large scale interventions</i></p> <p><i>sustainable or exceeding carrying capacity</i></p> <p><i>environmental impact of the human activity (businesses, public works, locals and tourists)</i></p> <p><i>uncontrolled urbanism</i></p> <p><i>negative impacts of tourism at present or foreseen</i></p> <p><i>man-caused and natural catastrophes wounds</i></p>	<p>The challenges of today Himara Municipality:</p> <p>-Promoting an adequate development along the coast and mountainous areas that supports the regeneration of the local, regional and national economy without saturating the environment and cultural heritage.</p> <p>Architecturally, Himara has survived the real estate boom and, despite the pressure of recent years, the region has remained attractive. However the tourism activity has exerted a lot of pressure on the environment, but on the other hand there is obviously increase in the consciousness of the community and the stakeholders.</p> <p>Some of the damages that have been done in the natural environment are concentrated in the feet of the mountain, hence inhabited area and they include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scarcity of water, - Lack of Treatment of wastewater, - Lack of a landfill and presence of waste, - Erosion for the mountain and the roads. <p>It has been pointed out that the main problem of the erosion occurs in lower heights of Cika and the people is not the main cause, it is the rainfall. The area does not develop any industry and remains deeply mountainous and dominantly rural.</p>									
	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
C9 Scoring emblematic dimension				X						

1 very small, 2-3 small, 4-5 medium, 6-7 high, 8-9 very high, 10 paramount

C10. HISTORIC PLACES

Questions

Are there historic elements that can be promoted?

Key words to raise discussion

prehistoric and historic places and resources

historic monuments

traditional trails

sanctuaries

landmarks

battle fields

emblematic personalities origin

historic towns

The ancient and religious monuments: *(just a very few examples)*.

There is presence of ancient life in the area of Himara and the villages of Cika in particular. In the feet of the mountain surveys carried out have provided information on the development and evolution of the pre-urban fortified settlements. This territory has furnished stratigraphic data about the dating and of the surrounding walls and for the first time, Late Bronze Age dwellings were discovered.

Such settlements constructed during the Bronze and Iron period in the territories of Badher, Karos (Qeparo) and Kalivo reflect the changes occurring to the society. The settlements, rectangular or oval represent the only data for the identification of the dwelling's architecture we have in the territory today.

Excavations undertaken in Himara Cave (Spile) in 2002-2003 reinvestigated the data of the excavations undertaken by Kardini (Italian archaeologist in 1939. Mesolithic flint tools proved that Himara was inhabited earlier than it was previously known. There is plenty of monuments that prove a dynamic life in the middle ages as well as a very strong religious heritage.

	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
C10 Scoring emblematic dimension		X								

1 very small, 2-3 small, 4-5 medium, 6-7 high, 8-9 very high, 10 paramount

