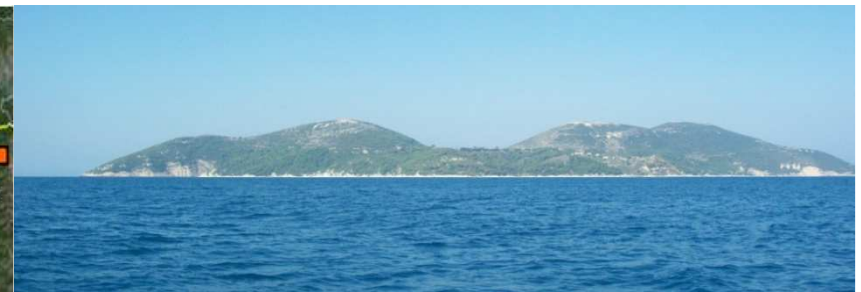
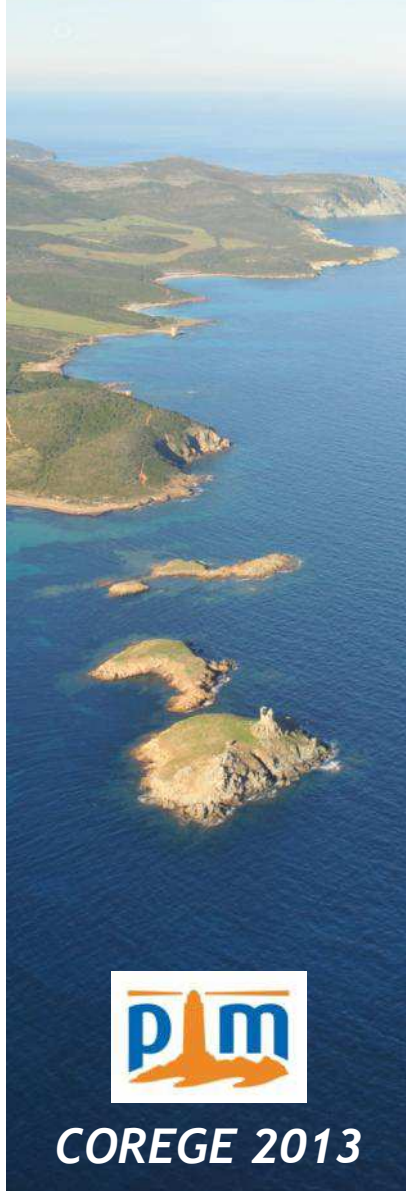


# Investigations on the Sazani Island, Albania



<sup>1,2</sup> Sajmir Beqiraj, <sup>3</sup> Céline Damery, <sup>3</sup> Fabrice Bernard

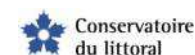
<sup>1</sup> Biology Department, University of Tirana, Albania

<sup>2</sup> Association for Protection of Aquatic Wildlife of Albania

<sup>3</sup> Conservatoire du Littoral



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## Sazani Island & Karaburuni Peninsula, the only MPA in Albania (12.570 ha, proclaimed on April 2010).

**Sazani Island:**  
surface 570 ha;  
max. length 4.8 km;  
max. width 2 km;  
max. altitude 337 m;  
5.5 miles from the mainland;  
2.2 miles from the Karaburuni Peninsula.

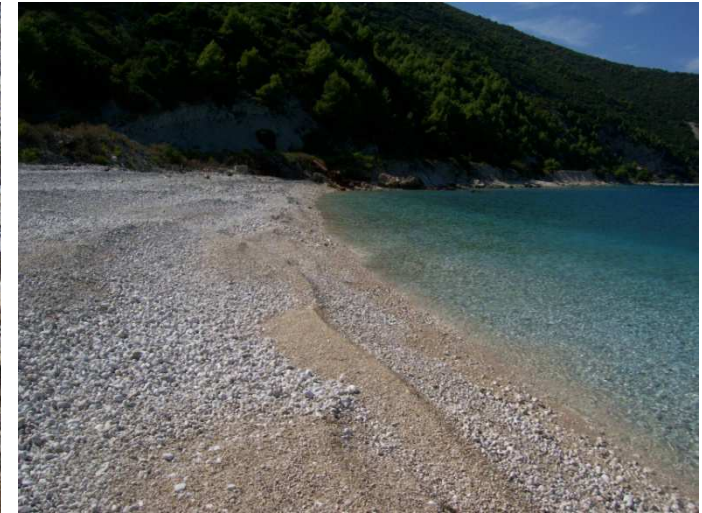


- A former “military” village, the island is un-inhabited since 1990.
- Very limited human access, with special permissions only.
- No regular transportation to the island.

**Opportunities to conserve habitats in natural conditions.**



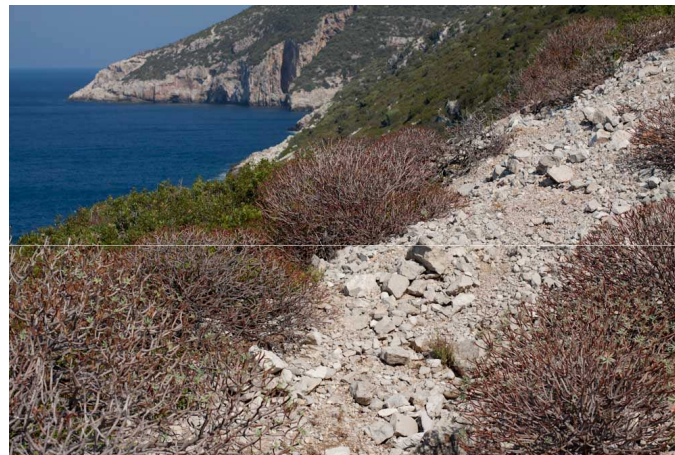
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## **A high geomorphologic diversity**

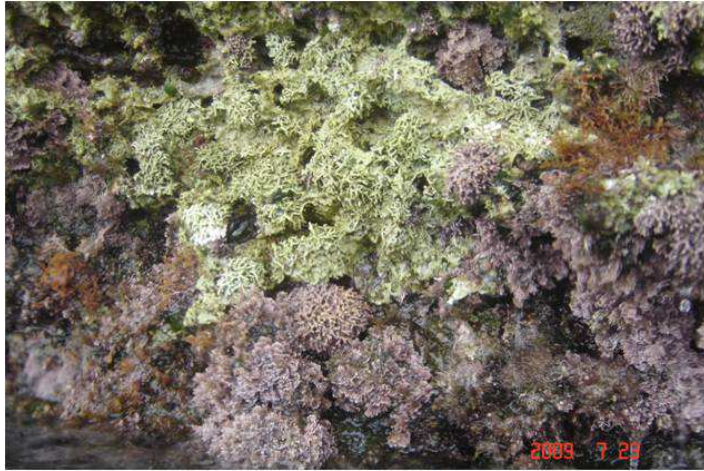
**Limestone rocks of Cretaceous with terrigenous and clastic deposits in the eastern part.**

**Steep and inaccessible cliffs, fissures, capes, caves, small beaches and bays.**

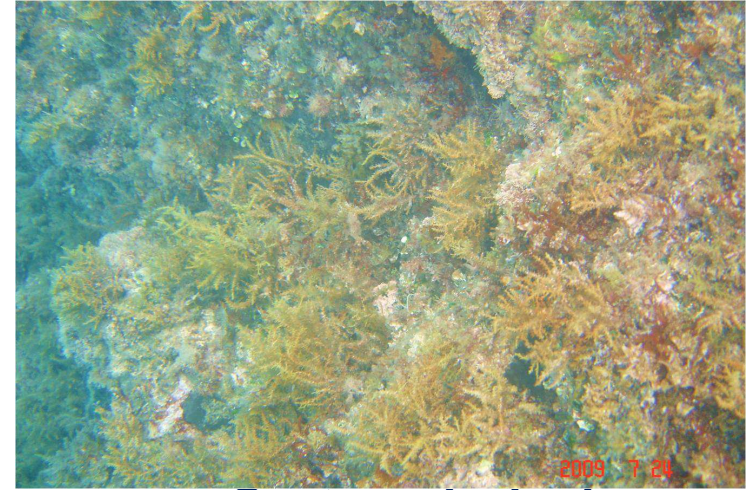


## The predominant plant communities

- Evergreen forests (Orno – *Quercetum ilitis* assoc.)
- *Quercus coccifera* (Orno – *Quercetum cocciferae* assoc.)
- *Euphorbia dendroides* and *Pistacia lentiscus* (Pistacio - *Euphorbietum dendroides* assoc.)
- *Quercus ithaburensis* subsp. *macrolepis* (Valona oak, a relict species).
- *Laurus nobilis*.



**Trottoirs of *Lithophyllum byssoides***



***Cystosseira* beds**

## **Important marine communities**



***Posidonia oceanica* meadows**



**Coralligenous biocenosis**



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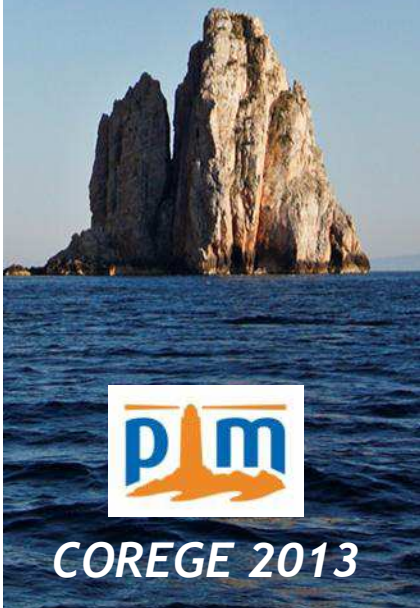
## Investigations on the Sazani Island under the PIM initiative



Two field trips (Sept. 2012 & May 2013) with the participation of an international team of experts; organized by the Conservatoire du Littoral, APAWA, University of Tirana.

# Main objective of the investigations

Increase the general knowledge on biodiversity and environmental state of Sazani island and realization of a management scheme for the island, in cooperation with the other existing initiatives and ongoing projects on this area.



# Investigated fields on Sazani island

terrestrial botany,  
entomofauna, herpetofauna,  
ornithofauna,  
terrestrial mammals,

terrestrial pollution  
and wastes management

marine and coastal flora and fauna,  
geology,  
habitat cartography.





# Activites carried out:



- collect new data;
  - review existing data and updating;
  - analysis of species presence, abundance and distribution;
  - assessment of species status;
  - identification of invasive species;
  - assessment of disturbances and threats;
- 
- prepare recommendations for regulation and management;
  - training of young researchers;
  - incite further research and monitoring.

# Other activities with stakeholders



**Meeting in the municipality of Orikum**

**Meeting in the University of Vlora**



# Other activities with stakeholders



## PIM photo exhibition in Vlora

## Follow-up actions, planned by CdL and Albanian partners for 2014 - 2015

- **Elaboration of management document in coordination with the UNDP project on developing MPAs and CPAs in Albania, also dealing with the drafting of the Karaburun-Sazani MPA Management Plan.**
- **Implementation of actions of ecological restoration (management of introduced species, monitoring protocols...).**
- **Fish visual census (Biomex method) to assess the state of the MPA fish populations at the beginning of the protection measures.**
- **Implementation of actions to manage public welcoming on the island (visitor center, signage infrastructure, educational activities ...)**



## **Interaction of PIM initiative with other developments on the Sazani Island**

- **A Priority Action Plan for the MPA (prepared in 2010; not implemented yet) (MEFWA, GEF, UNDP Albania)**
- **The ongoing project: Improving coverage and management effectiveness of MCPAs in Albania (2011 – 2014) (MEFWA, GEF, UNDP Albania).**
- **The ongoing project: Excellent management of marine coastal territories and islands in the Mediterranean (MedPAN, CdL, WWF Med.)**

- Prepare the management plan for Karaburun-Sazan MPA, including the Tourism Management Plan;
- Developing GIS database for all the habitats and species in the area;
- Exchange visits to promote sustainable tourism;
- Support local businesses to adopt best management practices (small grants);
- Develop and implement an education and awareness strategy;
- Capacity building for local stakeholders and managers;
- Assess the feasibility to apply for a Sustainable Tourism Chart in PAs.

## **PIM initiative in a larger context and as a good experience for the new developments on MPAs and CPAs in Albania**

- **Potential investigations on the other Albanian islands: Ksamili, Togo, Franz Joseph;**
- **Proclamation of new MPAs in Albania (proposals for 3 areas are already in process);**
- **Revision of the existing status of the CPAs;**
- **Establishing a network and a cross-sectorial forum on the MCPAs in Albania.**



**Ksamili islands  
(Ionian Sea)**



**Togo Island  
(Ionian Sea)**

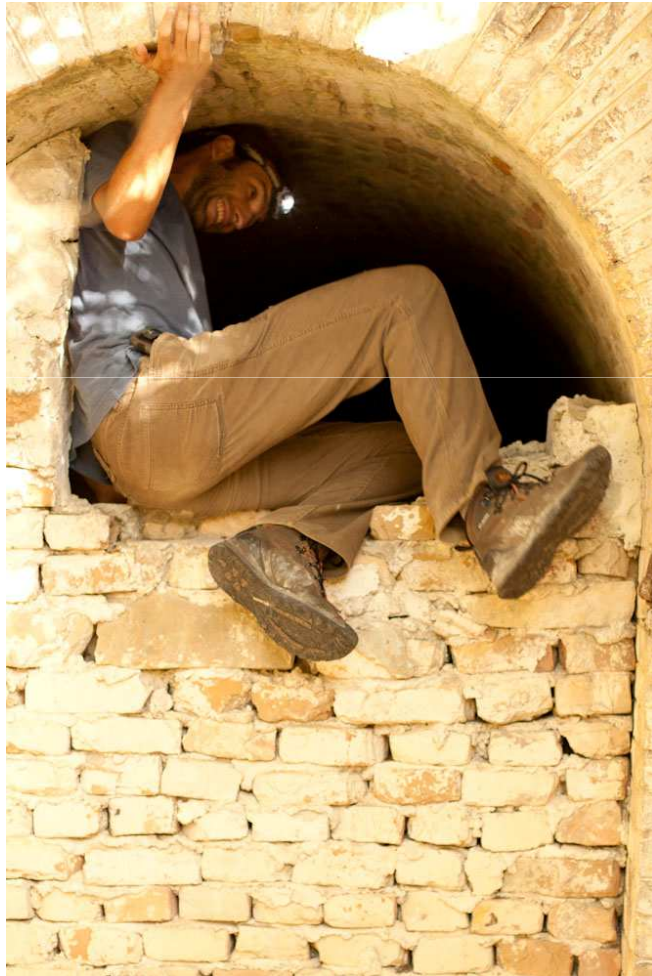


**Franz Joseph island  
(Adriatic Sea)**

# Some funny pictures during the field trips



... research in microhabitats



*Philippe Theou looking after bats*

# Tasting the island's biodiversity (not protected species, anyway!)







**Brainstorming .....**

**and ...**



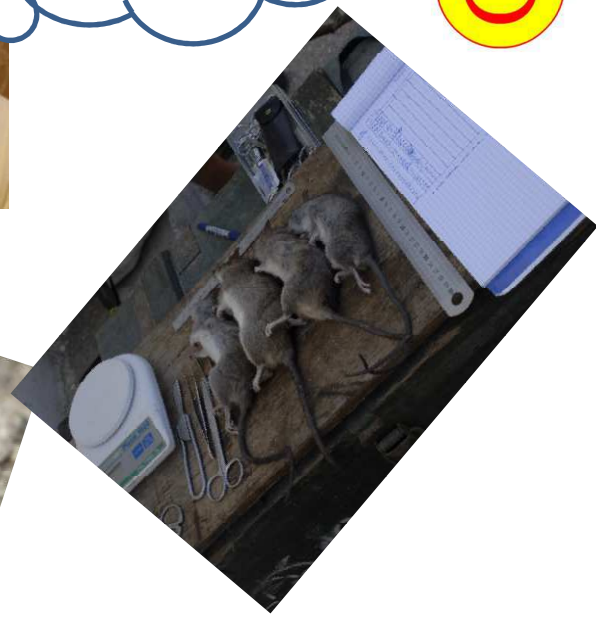
**.... Brainfreshing**



**« *La paillasse de dissection improvisée ne semble pas intéresser Ivan Budinski* » (an ornithologist)  
(original note from Michel Pasqual)**



**Uffffff!!!!  
What "ugly"  
animals!!!**



**It's better  
working at  
sea!!!**



... a curious spectator !!! 😊



# Are these alien species?!

(hopefully not invasive, anyway!)

The Sazani mission – May 27 – June 01 2013



*Photomaton by Thierry Thibaut*

**Merci! Thank you! Faleminderit!**



**The PIM team of the second field trip on Sazani  
(May 2013)**



**COREGE 2013**