

AURON TARE**Director General, Albanian National Coastline Agency**

Auron Tare is the General Director of the Albanian National Coastline Agency. He graduated from the Military Academy in Tirana. He was one of the founders of Butrint National Park and served as Director from 2000 to 2005. During that time the National Park became one of the most famous archaeological sites in the region. Because of his work in Culture Heritage Management and Underwater Archaeology (as founder of the Albanian Centre for Marine Research in 2010), he was elected Member of the UNESCO Scientific Committee on Underwater Cultural Heritage in 2015. Under his direction, the centre has investigated 37 shipwrecks have been discovered, in partnership with INA (Texas, USA), A&M and RPM Nautical Foundation from Key West Florida, along the Albanian coast. He founded the field programs of the centre and presented the research achieved over the years in numerous forums, such as the UNESCO Committee in Paris, the Explorers Club in New York City, the National Geographic Society, and the World Bank. Auron currently resides with his family in Albania, where he continues to manage many coastal initiatives. One of his most recent initiatives underway is creating the first underwater archaeological museum in the Western Balkans.

Sazani Island (Albania). A Management Project

Sazani is the largest island of Albania. A national management unit protects its unique and exceptional biodiversity and supports the study of its cultural heritage. Because, of its position between the Adriatic and the Ionian Seas, the island has always been a strategic military defence point until the 20th century (Greek, Italian, German, Soviet, Chinese, and Albanian), hosting in the 1970s probably over 300 families. The island is now not inhabited, apart a small military team, but still has numerous buildings (housing blocks, schools, cinema, hospital, power house, etc.). Generally speaking, the island is in a good state of conservation (cultural and natural) because of its inaccessibility due to the military base (authorization is needed to land). The vision for the future of this Protected Area is to develop a centre of excellence for conservation, research and training to serve the economic development of the local community of the Vlora region.