Case file PLANNED HYDROPOWER PLANTS ON THE TERRITORY OF THE MAVROVO NATIONAL PARK MACEDONIA

Strasbourg, 2 December 2015

Lukovo Pole valley

Introduction of the case file

Complaint submitted in March 2013
 Case file open in December 2014
 On the spot appraisal conducted in June 2015

Critically endangered Balkan Lynx

- Critically Endangered subspecies (Lynx lynx ssp. Balcanicus)
- Most endangered European cat
- Mavrovo is the ONLY known reproductive core area
- Mature individuals is max. 39

"The above data indicate that "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" bears a special responsibility for the survival of the Balkan lynx, as it hosts the last reproducing nucleus."

Quote from the report by Mr. András Demeter



Mavrovo's values

- Mavrovo is the largest protected area in Macedonia and one of the oldest national parks in Europe
- IBA of global importance
- ► IPA of global importance
- PBA in Europe
- Key biodiversity area triggering irreplaceability criteria
- Candidate Emerald site
- Hosts at least 82 species from the Annex II of the Bern Convention
- 13 Annex I habitat types of habitat Directive
- 19 species from Bird Directive Annex I and at least 20 species of Habitat Directive-Annex 2





Impacts on the national Park

Plans: 2 large hydro power projects 20 small hydro power plants*

* Numbers according to the Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia

Urgency of action

Mavrovo 1 small HPP under construction (October 2015)

Назия за објет: ИХЕ МАВРОВО / 1
 Инанститар: АКВА ЕЛЕКТРО МАВРОВО ДОО Скопје
 Изведнат на работите: АКВАВОНТ-ИНГ ДОО Скопје
 Надаре: ХИДРО ГРАДЕЖЕН ИНКИНЕРИНГ ДОО Скопје
 Одобрение за градије: УПТ бр.15-8215

Назив на објект: МХЕ МАВРОВО -1
Инвеститор: АКВА ЕЛЕКТРО МАВРОВО ДОО Скопје
Изведувач на работите: АКВАМОНТ-ИНГ ДОО Скопје
Надзор: ХИДРО ГРАДЕЖЕН ИНЖИНЕРИНГ ДОО Скопје
Одобрение за градба: УП1 бр.10-63/15

Expert report conclusions

- Regarding the IUCN criteria and principles, both larger HPPs and the cumulative impact from more than 20 small HPPs are contradictory to the designation of protected areas, regardless of the species endangered by the construction of these dams.
- The construction of the HPPs undermines all efforts to protect the area as strictly as possible or even as strictly as necessary, and does not achieve the proposed objectives of the National Park Mavrovo Law.

Expert report conclusions

- Construction projects would be in contradiction with:
 - the general objective as stated in art. 2 of Bern Convention.
 - International commitments of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", namely regarding the Bern convention and as a candidate country to the EU,
 - alignment with the Birds and the Habitats Directives and the Water Framework Directive.
- The general conclusion from the mission is that the proposed hydropower construction planned in the Park <u>is not compatible</u> with the status of protection of the Park, its high value ecosystems and species; <u>the projects, as currently planned,</u> <u>should be abandoned.</u>

Proposal for the Recommendations

Recommendations should be adopted immediately

Proposal for amendments by the Complainant

Proposal for the Recommendations (2)

- Recommends "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" to urgently:
- ▶ 6. Enforce the implementation, once it is adopted, of the draft national Law on proclaiming the Mavrovo protected area in the category National Park, in respect to the expert mission conclusion that proposed hydropower construction planned in the Park is not compatible with the status of protection of the Park - Category II protected area (National park) and the provisions regarding the financing that the Mavrovo National Park's Administration shall receive from the state budget for its basic functioning;

Proposal for the Recommendations (3)

- Urges the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the World Bank to:
- 1. Apply the precautionary principle and cancel the financing of the HPP projects in accordance with the recommendations to "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" above;
- 2. Apply the findings of the Bern Convention in their environmental policies in order to safeguard protected areas with IUCN category II status.

Thank you for your attention!