



**CASE FILE 2013/HYDRO POWER  
DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE TERRITORY  
OF THE MAVROVO NATIONAL PARK**

**37<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee of the Bern  
Convention, December 2017**

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## RECOMMENDATION 184 (2015)

- Suspend the implementation of all government projects, ... until a **Strategic Environmental Assessment** will be completed putting specific emphasis on **cumulative effects of all planned development activities**
- address the specific conservation needs of those species of fauna and flora for the conservation of which the Mavrovo National Park bears special responsibility
- Invites international financial institutions to consider the results of the strategic environmental assessment when deciding on the financing of the hydropower projects in the Park.



## UPDATE

- International financial institutions World Bank and EBRD withdrew from 2 of the large projects.
- There is no Governmental decision for suspension of all projects in Mavrovo.
- Government claims that two HPPs - Boskov Most HPP and HPP Crn Kamen / Accumulation Lukovo Pole are not considered as priority.



## UPDATE

- Construction of concessioned hydro projects continued in Mavrovo in 2017.
- The Government has stopped further promotion of low performing hydro development in Mavrovo, but has not suspended the calls.
- From 8 concessioned plants, 4 are operational (2 in the period 2015-2017); 4 in pipeline (permitting finalized).

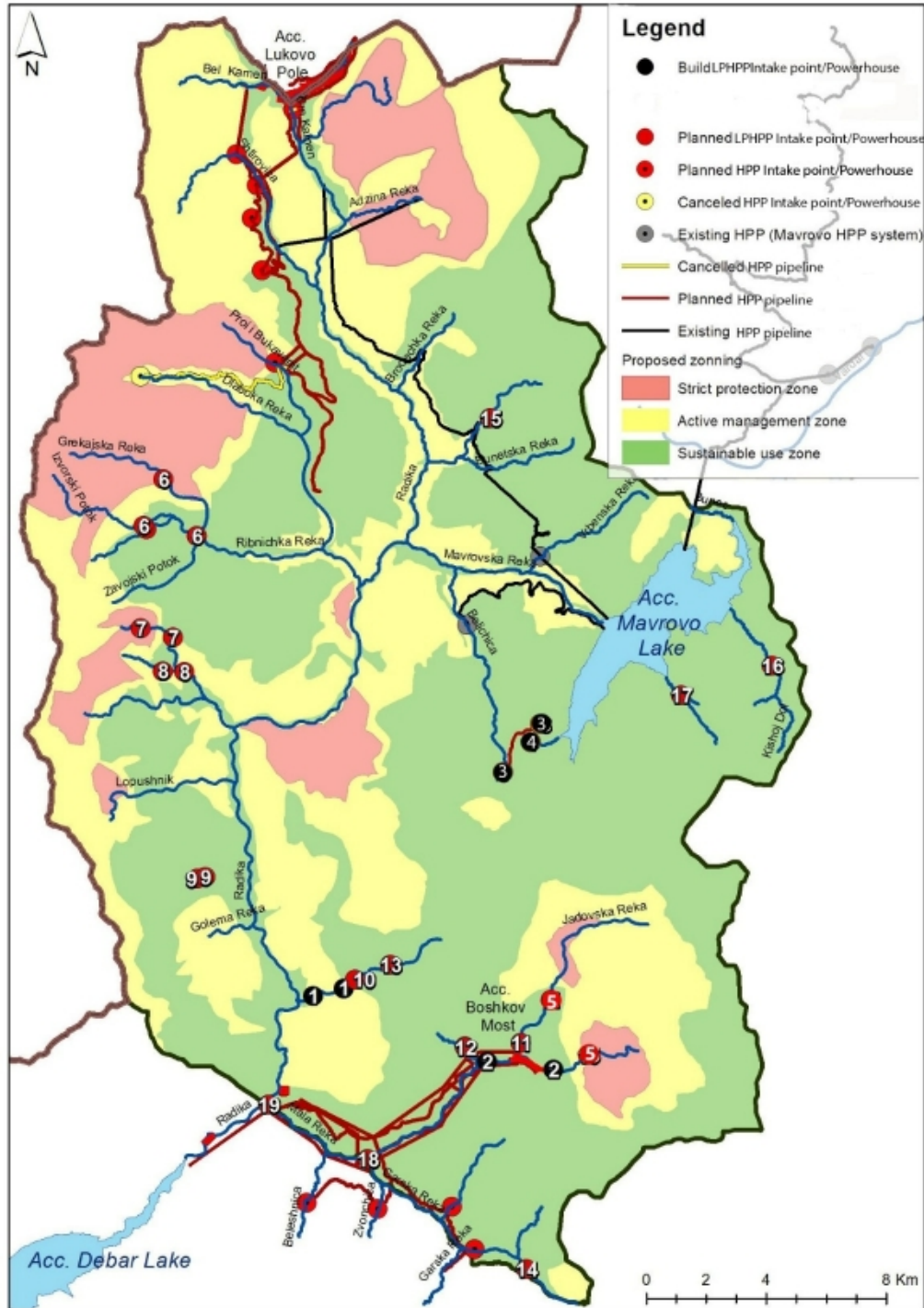


# ISSUES WITH LOW PERFORMING POWER PLANTS IN PIPELINE

Jadovska, Ribnicka, Zirovnicka 1 and 2

- No public participation in decision making process
- Water permits not suspended- Law on Water breached
- Poor Environmental Studies- incomplete and contradictory















# IMPACT OF OPERATIONAL LOW PERFORMING HPPs IN MAVROVO

## Case study- Tresonecka River PP

- Field visit conducted on September 13 2017
- Hydrobiologist conducted analysis and found:
  - Above the intake, high ecological status and healthy ecosystem with presence of endemic and rare species as well as undescribed species.
  - Caddisfly (*Thremma anomalum*)
  - Hydrobiid snail (*Bythinella drimica drimica*)
  - Leech (*Dina* sp.)





# Tresonecka river Above intake





a)



b)

a) *Thremma anomalum*; b) *Bythinella drimica drimica*



# Tresonecka River Intake



# IMPACT OF OPERATIONAL LOW PERFORMING HPPs IN MAVROVO

- Most impact on ecosystem recorded between the intake and the powerhouse.
  - Severe water fluctuations, dry riverbed
  - Algae and aquatic snails found support this claim
  - Mass reduction of aquatic invertebrates and disappearance of endemic and sensitive taxa
  - Poor/bad ecological status.



# Tresonecka River, below intake





# IMPACT OF OPERATIONAL LOW PERFORMING HPPs IN MAVROVO

- Below the powerhouse, water level improved, moderate ecological status:
  - Moderate increase of number of taxa found
  - Not fully recovered ecosystem



# Tresonecka River Below powerhouse



## CONCLUSION

- Low performing power plants cause serious damage to protected area ecological status
- Such projects should not be allowed in protected areas as they are not compatible with the protection purpose of the park.



# STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

- To this date no SEA has been conducted
- No cumulative impact of all planned projects done

**SEA on cumulative impacts on all planned  
development activities**

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**SEA for Management Plan NP Mavrovo**



## LAW ON MAVROVO

- The Draft Law from 2015 does not reflect the main goal of NP according the Law on nature protection- nature conservation and enables new HPP construction, noted by IUCN
- Law not yet adopted- Mavrovo NP is the only NP in Macedonia without a reconfirmed status and new Law.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Keep the case file open.
- Revise the Draft Law for the proclamation of Mavrovo NP in line with IUCN Recommendation 102
- Revise the draft Law on proclamation of Mavrovo as National park by the Bern Convention Secretariat
- Conduct SEA in line with the Recommendation
- Effectively suspend all infrastructure projects in Mavrovo



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

