

Casefile 2016/05

Presumed negative impact of developments on the Vjosa river including hydro-power plant development and Vlora International Airport

44th Standing Committee Meeting of the Bern Convention

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With the contribution of PPNEA as regards the Vlora Airport Case

CONTENT

- Vjosa Wild River National Park
(WRNP)
- Vjosa Integrated River Basin Management Plan
(IRBMP)
- New Law on Protected Areas in Albania

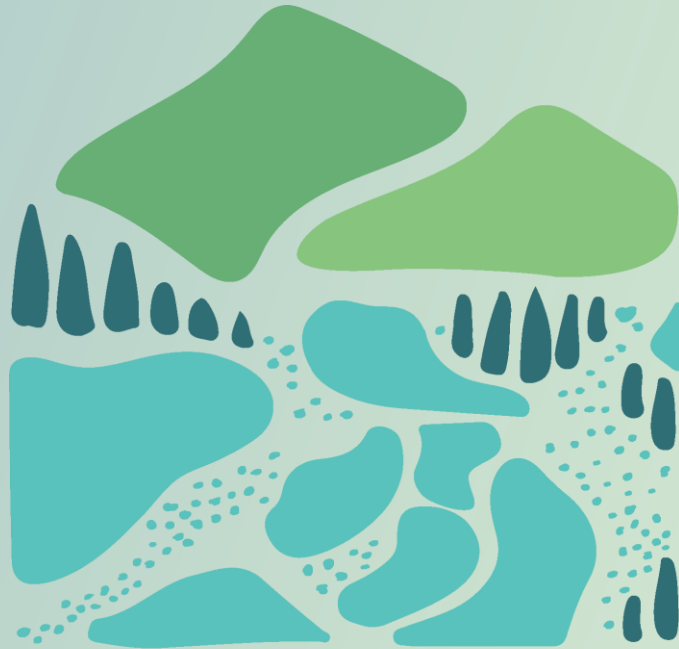
- Shushica Case

- Vlora International
Airport (VIA)
- Beyond the Airport - The Vjosa River Delta

- Conclusions & Claims



Vjosa Wild
River
National Park



VJOSA

PARKU KOMBËTAR I LUMIT TË EGËR



Management Plan adopted

Wide consultation process

Provides the essential guiding for the period 2025

Includes:


- 6 main working pillars - Fields
- 20 long-term strategic objectives
- 59 medium-term operational objectives and more than



Yet NO Management is taking place on the ground!!!

Information Tour



The background features a series of concentric circles in shades of light blue and green, centered on the left side. A white, wavy line resembling a river or a path curves across the bottom right portion of the image.

Vjosa
Integrated
River Basin
Management
Plan

Vjosa IRBMP

The drafting of the IRBMP is at the early stage

AMBU is in charge for drafting it with the Support of the EU 4 Rivers Programme

Currently is concluded the Methodology to be selected and the project is working on mapping of key issues and stakeholders

Vjosa IRBMP must be aligned with the MP of the Vjosa WRNP

Both driving agencies NAPA and AMBU are showing good will to align

The IRBMP is expected to be adopted no earlier than **2027**

The background features a series of concentric, semi-transparent circles in shades of light blue and green, creating a layered effect. The overall color palette transitions from a light green on the right to a light blue on the left.

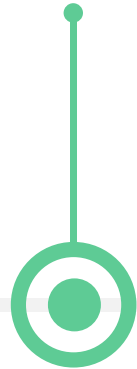
New Law on Protected Areas

Process of Amendment for the Law on PAs

- 20th November 2023: 12 MPs have initiated the Law Amendments
- NGOs have drafted the opposition on the amendments
- MoTE has not shared their draft

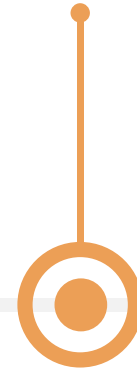
- 7th -10th January 2024: Online “Consultations” were organized with NGOs
- 15th -30th January NGOs have sent Objections to oppose the amendments

2310



2311

2312



2401

2402



- October 2023: Municipalities sent a request for law amendments to the Parliamentary Commission

- December 2023: The Draft Amendments were accessible to the public for consultation
- NGOs have reacted publicly to oppose the process and the draft

- 22nd February 2024: The new Law is approved
- 22nd February 2024: NGOs have organized Protest in front of the Parliament
- 18th March Law was confirmed by Presidential Decree
- Opposition Party have showed support to address the case to the Constitutional Court

Weaknesses of the Law on PAs


Weak public consultation process

The version of the law discussed with interested parties was completely different from the one approved.

The new law establishes principles that contradict the essence of the previous law on protected areas, as well as the EU Directives.

The new law transfers the managing competences from NAPA to NCT, significantly centralizing the process and reducing transparency.

The law opens all PAs and their core areas to tourism infrastructures which counters its primary objective “to ensure special protection of environmentally protected areas and important components of biodiversity”

The background features a series of concentric circles in shades of light blue and green, centered on the left side. A white, wavy line resembling a river or a path curves across the bottom right portion of the image. The text is centered within the blue-green area.

Shushica River

The Project

The Intake at the headwaters of Shushica River
17.35 km pipeline with the 500 mm diameter
8.5 km new access roads
5 storage locations
2 small HPPs along the pipelines

This project is developed by CES Salzgitter GmbH Consultant
It is financed jointly by Albanian Government and KfW and WBIF
The ADF is responsible for the project Implementation.
The construction company is a joint venture between Austrian J.V STRABAG AG and TREMA Engineering 2.
Total Investment of the water supply is estimated around 9.5 Mio EUR while the entire programme that includes the construction of the sewage water treatment is about 45 Mio €





The History

The planning phase

In late 2019 → Preparation of the feasibility study
Between May 2020 - May 2021 → Preparation of EIA and Consultation process
On May 5th, 2021 → NEA issued the Environmental Permit based on the Preliminary EIA.
December 2021 → RBC Vjose, Water Use Permit and
Late March 2022 → Himara Municipality issued the Construction Permit

The Construction phase

In early 2023 → The construction has started on Himara side
Up to now → The construction has taken place only on setting up the pipeline
Up to now → The construction has taken place only on setting up the pipeline

REPUBLICA E SHQIPËRISË
KESHILLI BASENIT UJOR VJOSË

Nr. 27 / Prot
Vitet, më 21. 12. 2021.

VENDIM
Nr. A, datë 09.12.2021

PËR
MIRATIMIN E KËRKESËS PËR LEJE PËR PËRDORIMIN E BURIMIT UJOR
NËNTOKËSOR PËR UJË TË PLSHËM TË BASHKISË HIMARË, ME
VENDNDODHJE, BASHKIA HIMARË, QARKU VJOSË

Në mbështetje të pikës 2, të nenit 50, të ligjit nr.111/2012, "Për menaxhimin e integruar të burimeve ujore", i ndryshuar dhe të vendimit të Këshillit të Ministrave m.550, datë 15.07.2020, "Për miratimin e formimit të kërkesës për miratimin, në parim, për dhënie me koncesion të përdorimit të burimit ujor, e ligjzotimit për përdorim burimi ujor, veprimtari ndërtimore në brigje, veprimtari në shtratin e burimit ujor, shërkime të llogaritjes, përdorimit dhe ripërdorimit e ujërave të përdorura, të ndotura, të dokumenteve shoqëru shqyrtimi e të vendimmarrjes dhe të adheve të vlefshmërisë të tyre Agjencisë së Menaxhimit të Burimeve Ujore, Këshilli i Basenit Ujor Vjosë

VENDOSË:

- Miratimi e kërkesës për leje, për përdorimin e burimit ujor nëntokësor Bashkisë Himarë me vendodhje: Bashkia Himarë, Qarku Vlorë.
- Treguesit paraprakë janë si më poshtë:

Emri i burimit ujor: Burimi i Lepushës
Vendodhja e burimit ujor (KRGJSH)
X= 483427.26;
Y= 4451205.09;
Z=519 m.m.n.d.

Sasia e ujit të kërkuar Q= 139.10 l/s
Prurja mesatare vjetore Qmes=104.6 l/s

- Ngarkohet Agjencia e Menaxhimit të Burimeve Ujore për zbatimin e këtij vendimi.
Ky vendim lhy në fuqi pas sjellimit të përmbajtjes së vendimit subjektit.

KRYETARI

FLAMUR MAMAJ



Sasia e ujit të kërkuar $Q = 139.10 \text{ l/s}$
Prurja mesatare vjetore $Q_{mes} = 104.6 \text{ l/s}$



REPUBLICA E SHQIPËRISË
KESHILLI BASENIT UJOR VJOSË

Nr. Serial 000028

LEJE
PËR PËRDORIM BURIMI UJOR NËNTOKËSOR
Nr. 27 / Prot, datë 21.12.2021

Miratuar me:

IE UJË TË

r në ITUN

auk ka

Kufizime në ushtrimin e veprimtarisë (nëse ka): Sipas kushteve të Lejes
Përiudha e vlefshmërisë: 5 vjet
Hyjra në fuqi: Pac publikimit në Regjistrin Kombëtar të Licencave dhe Lejeve







(c) Olsi Nika/EcoAlbania

Construction works for the Himara
water supply continue in the
Shushica river



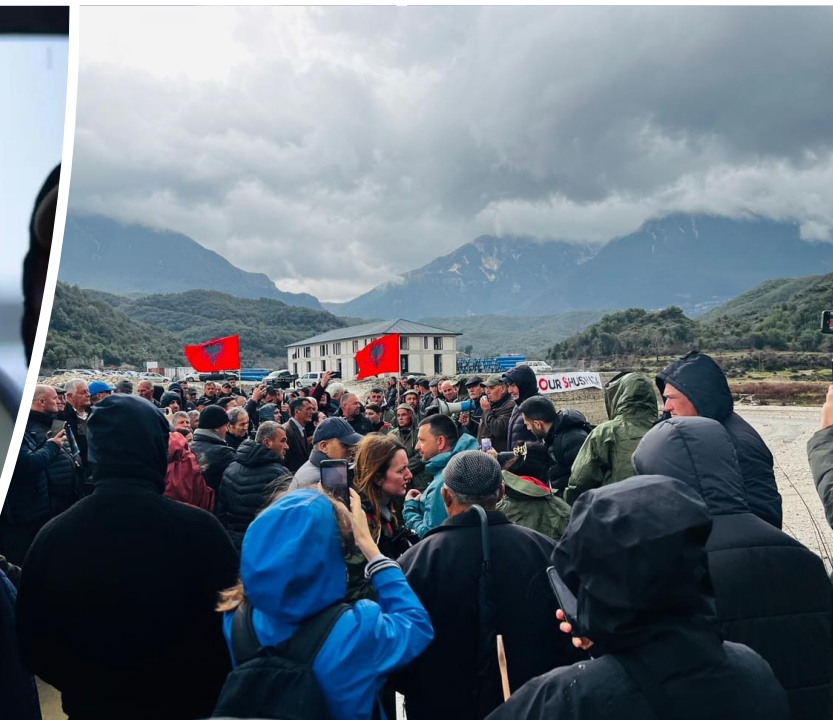


The Reaction



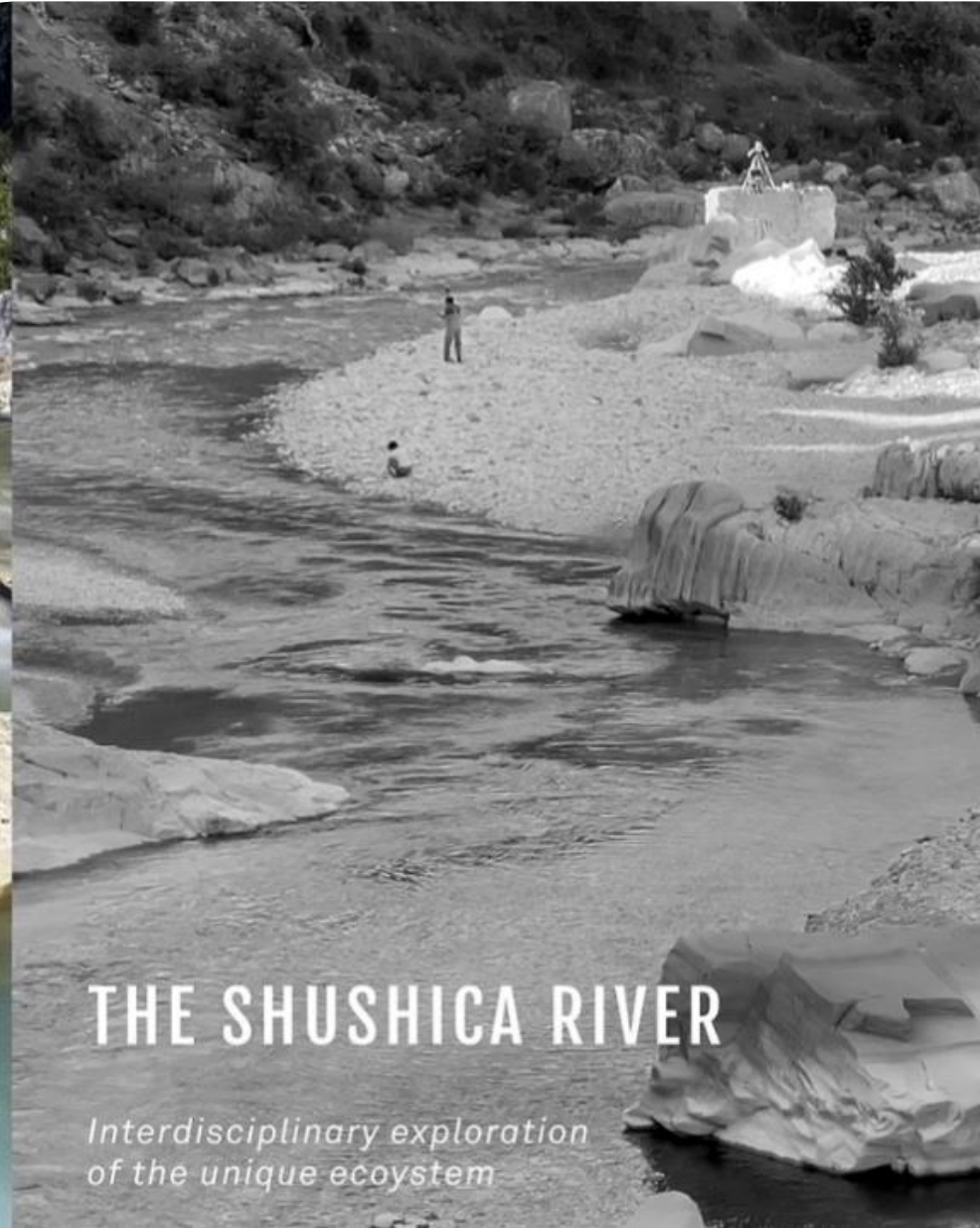


Protest Action





Science Reaction



THE SHUSHICA RIVER

*Interdisciplinary exploration
of the unique ecosystem*



Advocacy



The Litigation

The Resistance



The logo features a large, stylized circular shape composed of multiple overlapping, semi-transparent rings in shades of light blue and green. The text is centered within this circular graphic.

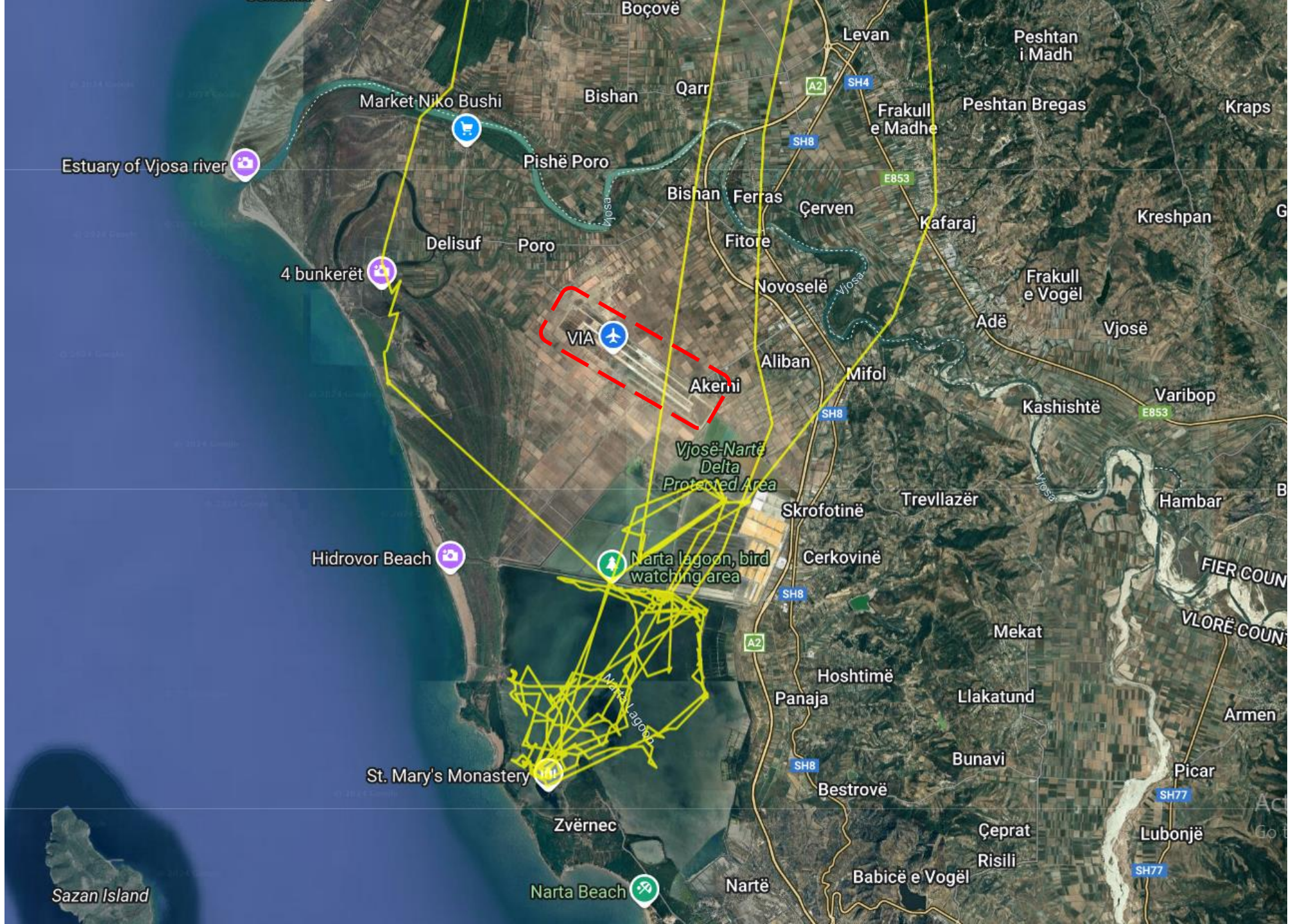
Vlora
International
Airport





- Not following SC Recommendation
- New DCM for the Protected Landscape








1 70 % of Calandra lark population lost



An aerial photograph showing a construction site on the left and a green field on the right. The construction site features a grid of rebar on a concrete slab. A semi-transparent teal box is overlaid on the image, containing a quote.

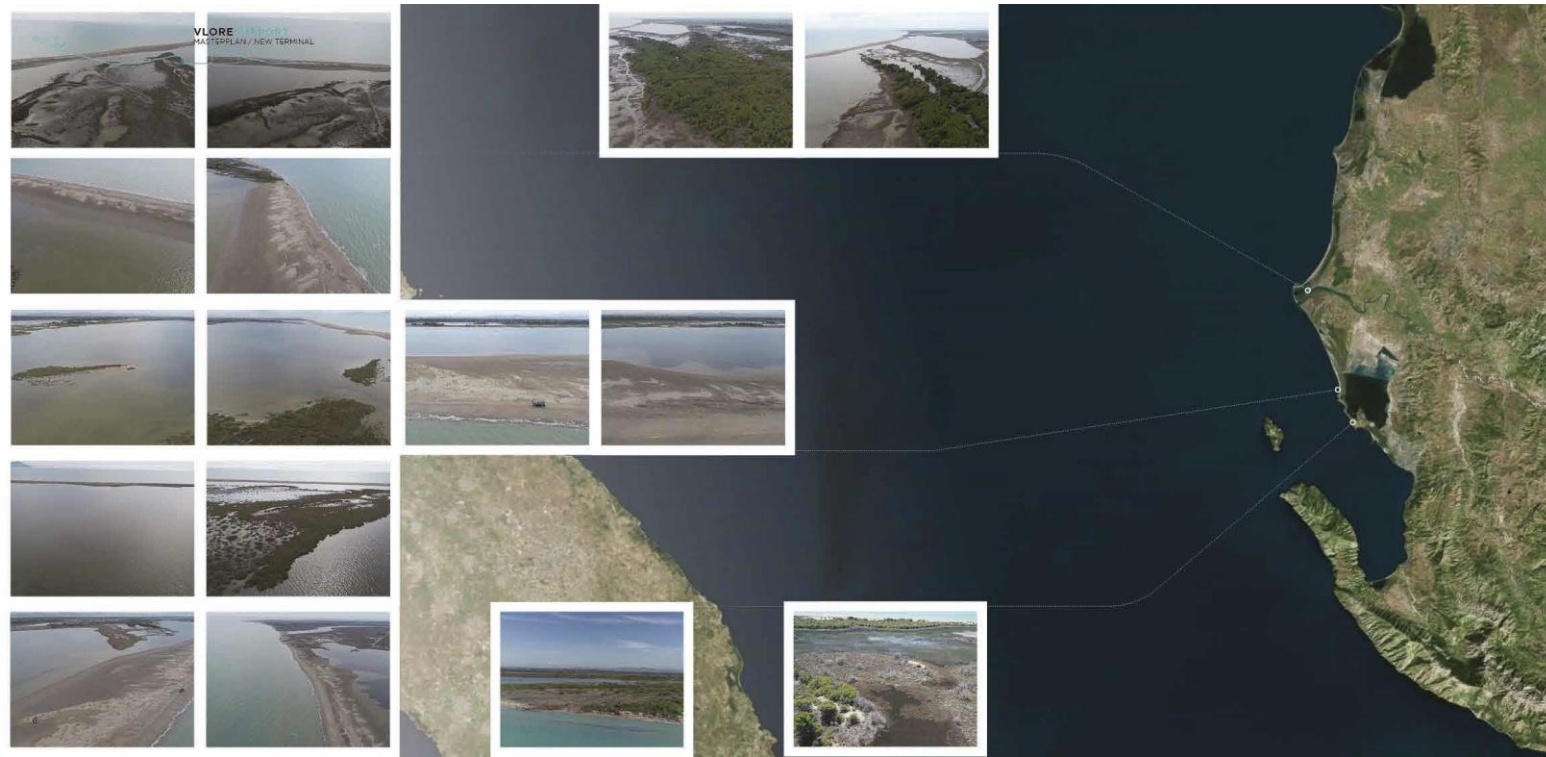
“The control of birds, which is most effective by reducing the habitats for birds, is incompatible with the conservation goals of the EU concerning the threatened birds in Vjosa-Narta Protected Area.”

Beyond the VIA –
Main concerns on
the Vjosa River
Delta

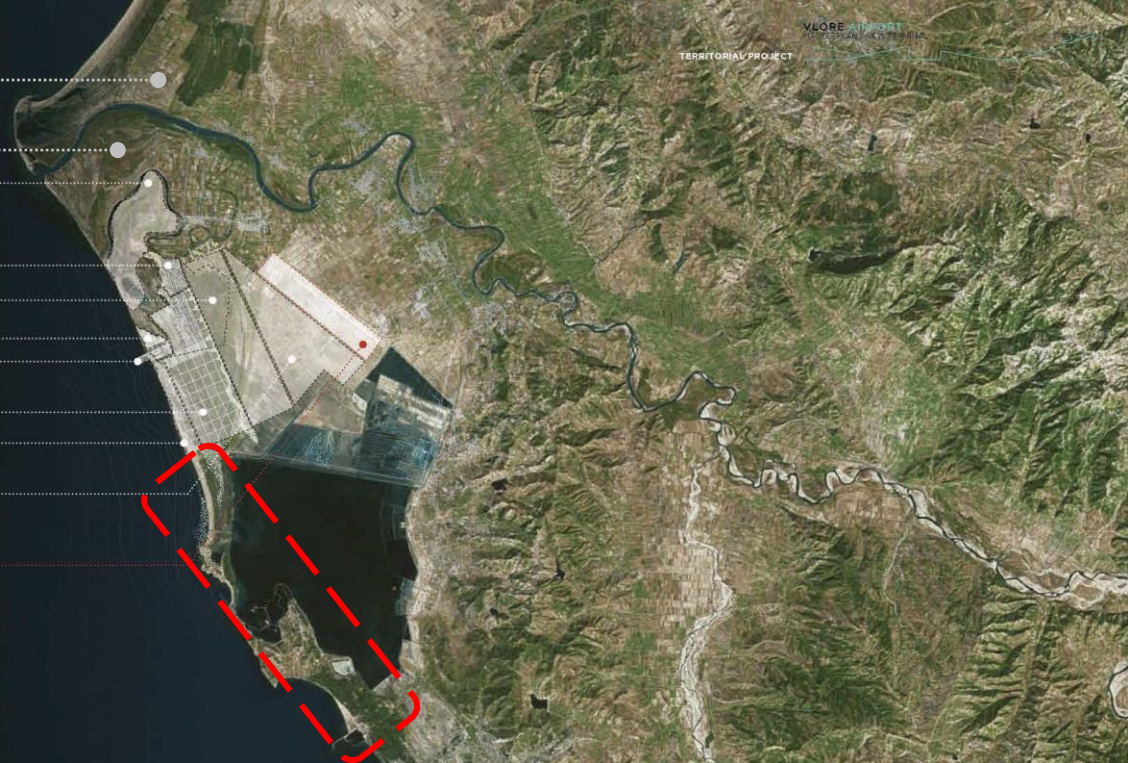


One of the most intact and natural river deltas in the Med Area

Integral part of the Vjosa & to be included to Vjosa WRNP



- PVs ●
- PVs ●
- NATURALISTIC AREA ○
- SPORT AREA ○
- WINERY AREA ○
- HOTEL AND RESORT AREA ○
- NEW MARINA ○
- RESIDENCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL AREA ○
- BEACH ○
- WOODED AREA ○
- AIRPORT AREA ○














Conclusions & Claims

- Quick Set up of Managing Authority for the Vjosa WRNP
- The draft and adoption of the Vjosa IRBMP must be aligned with the WRNP MP
- As the new law on PAs is not aligned with the principles of Nature Conservation additional attention and monitoring of its implementation should be ensured
- Re: An on-the-spot-appraisal from Bern Convention or a strong recommendation based on IUCN study outcomes
- Suspension of the Shushica Diversion project and consider other alternatives
- RE: Cancellation of the VIA project at current stage and restoration of the habitat
- All future development plans must get consulted with stakeholders within Albania as well as with the Convention as they may result in an irreversible damage of the biodiversity of the area



THANK YOU