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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Standing Committee**

41<sup>st</sup> meeting  
Strasbourg, 29 November – 3 December 2021

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**Open case-file: 2016/05**

**Presumed negative impact of hydro-power plant  
development on the Vjosa river  
(Albania)**

**- REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT -**

*Document prepared by the  
Ministry of Tourism and Environment of Albania*

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**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATION NO. 202 (2018) OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE, ON THE PLANNED HYDRO-POWER PLANT DEVELOPMENTS ON THE VJOSA RIVER (ALBANIA)**

Pursuant to the Recommendation No. 202 (2018) of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention and the Open File 2016/5: Albania: presumed negative impact of hydro-power plant development on the Vjosa river, the state-of-play for the reporting period since the last report of 20 August 2020 is as follows:

As presented at the On-line Standing Committee in the end of 2020, the study for the update and revision of the national network of Protected Areas has included Vjosa river area to be designated as Nature Park (Category IV) with an area of 7989,5 hectares. This proposal in accordance with the national legal framework was approved by the Decision of the National Territory Council no. 10, of 28 December 2020, following a series of extended consultations with stakeholders in four regions of Albania. A copy of this Decision is attached (bullet point 1.26 of the Decision refers to Vjosa river nature park).

After this step the Decision of the Council of Ministers' was drafted together with the accompanying report, which is consulted through the official government webpage: [konsultimipublik.gov.al](http://konsultimipublik.gov.al) for the period from 16.7.2021 to 10.8.2021 for the presentation of comments and suggestions, as well as a public consultation hybrid meeting (with physical presence and online through Webex platform) on 28th July 2021 in Rogner Hotel Tirana (Invitation and agenda enclosed).

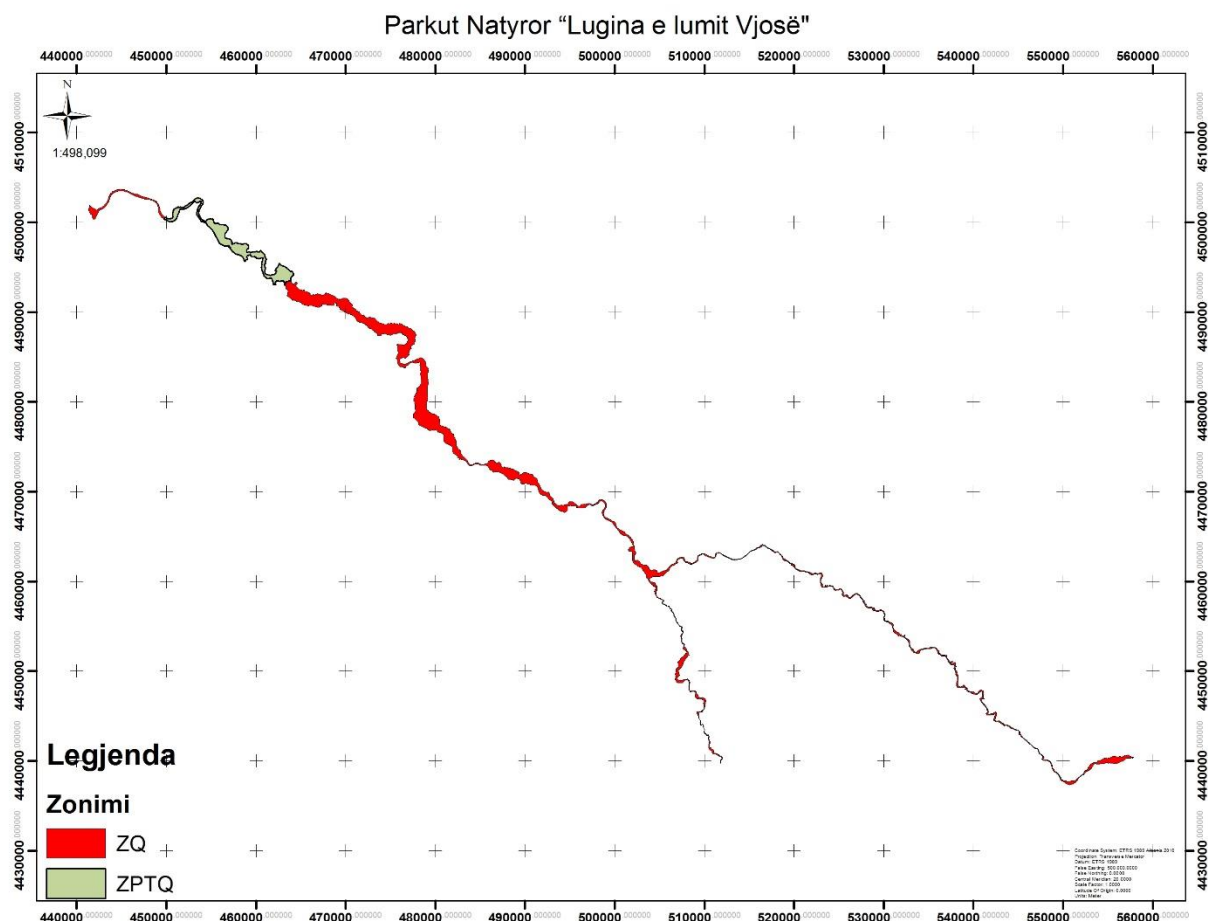
Link of publication for the public consultation: [PVKM PËR SHPALLJEN "PARK NATYROR" TË EKOSISTEMIT NATYROR "LUGINA E LUMIT VJOSË"](http://konsultimipublik.gov.al) ([konsultimipublik.gov.al](http://konsultimipublik.gov.al)).

Draft Decision of the Council of Ministers' and the map are attached.

The final draft Decision of the Council of Ministers is being circulated currently in line ministries for their comments, and is expected to go for the final approval by the Government in the last quarter of 2021. This will be a big step forward for the protection of Vjosa valley according to the provisions of the Law 81/2017 "On protected areas".

As for the Management Plan of Vjosa basin the preliminary assessment study is delayed again by the project funded by the Austrian Development Agency. However following the designation the new protected area of Vjose valley, in line with the protected areas law requirements, the management plan for this area will be elaborated, thus completing its management obligations.

The Albanian Government remains committed and has made real steps forward for the protection of Vjosa valley area.



Map of the proposed Vjosa river nature park (Cat. IV IUCN)

#### Annexes:

1. [Draft Decision of the Council of Ministers' \(Government Decree\) for its designation with coordinates in its Annexes \(Albanian\)](#)
2. [Invitation and agenda for the public consultation of 28.7.2021 \(Albanian\)](#)
3. [Decision of the National Territory Council no. 10 of 28.12.2020 "On the approval of boundaries of protected Areas" and the accompanying official map of the revised protected areas network \(Albanian\).](#)