

# APPEAL of NGOs

## Save Vjosa - Stop the dams

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On the occasion of World Rivers Day - September 22, 2019



Dear Prime Minister Edi Rama,

Hydropower developments at the Vjosa continue to be supported by the Albanian government despite all scientific findings confirming the conservation value of the unique eco-system of the Vjosa river. We are particularly concerned about the ongoing implementation process for the hydropower plant Kalivaç (HPP Kalivaç): the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the project is scheduled to be conducted within approximately three months – an unrealistic timespan to prepare a profound EIA for a project of such size.

The Albanian government supports the implementation of HPP Kalivaç, despite the fact that international institutions – amongst them the European Commission and the European Parliament – have been criticizing these developments repeatedly. The Recommendations of the Bern Convention to suspend HPP Kalivaç until the necessary strategic planning and additional assessments are carried out are not respected by the Albanian government either.

Including the above mentioned HPP Kalivaç, we have evidence of 45 hydropower plants projected in the Albanian Vjosa catchment alone: 8 at the Vjosa main course and 37 at her tributaries.

The Vjosa River is one of Europe's last big free-flowing rivers without any artificial obstacles along her entire Albanian course of about 200 km. The river's intactness makes her a hotspot for many endangered European species and habitats. As such, the Vjosa is a natural heritage of pan-European importance, holding huge potentials for alternative sustainable developments like ecotourism.

**We, the national and international environmental organizations, call on you, Prime Minister Edi Rama to immediately suspend all ongoing hydropower developments in the Vjosa catchment until a Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment and an integrated River Basin Management plan, which takes into account social aspects, particularly the potential of ecotourism, has been elaborated.**

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Ulrich Eichelmann  
CEO [Riverwatch](#)

Gabriel Schwaderer  
CEO [EuroNatur](#)

Olsi Nika  
CEO [EcoAlbania](#)



### List of signatory NGOs

	Name of Organization	Country
1	Agrinas-ER	Albania
2	Agronaut	Albania
3	AJMMI (Agjencia Joniane e Mjedisit, Medias dhe Iformacionit)	Albania
4	Albanian Ornithological Society (AOS)	Albania
5	Aleanca Alpeve Shqiptare	Albania
6	Amigos de la Tierra América Latina y el Caribe	Latin America
7	Amis de la Terre France - Friends of the Earth France	France
8	Aqua Viva	Switzerland
9	Arachthos River Protection Association	Greece
10	Association of Journalists-Environmentalists of the Russian Union of Journalists	Russia
11	Association of Parks in Bulgaria	Bulgaria
12	AVE - Associação Vimaranesa para a Ecologia	Portugal
13	Balkani Wildlife Society	Bulgaria
14	Balkanka Association	Bulgaria
15	Bavarian Canoe Federation	Germany
16	Bayerischer Kanu-Verband e.V." (Bavarian Canoe Federation)	Germany
17	Biodiversity Conservation Center	Russia
18	Bird Protection and Study Society of Serbia	Serbia
19	Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation	Bulgaria
20	BUND - Friends of the Earth Germany	Germany
21	BUND – Friends of the Earth Germany	Germany
22	Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz (BUND)	Germany/Saxony

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23	Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz (BUND)	Germany/Saxony Saxon-Anhalt,
24	Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland (BUND)	Germany
25	CEE Bankwatch Network	Czech Republic Bosnia and Herzegovina
26	Center for Environment	Montenegro
27	Center for Protection and Research of Birds	Albania
28	Cesvi	Italy
29	CIRF- Italian Centre for River Restoration	Greece
30	Citizens' Movement - Ilioupolis	UK
31	ClientEarth	Italy
32	Comitato Peraltrestrade Carnia-Cadore	Italy
33	Coordinamento Nazionale Tutela Fiumi Free Rivers Italia	Croatia
34	Croatian Society for the Birds and Nature Protection	Germany
35	Danube Environmental Forum	Germany
36	Deutsche Angelfischerverband e.V. (DAFV)	Germany
37	Deutsche Kanu-Verband e.V. (German Canoe Federation)	Slovenia
38	Dinaricum Society	Slovenia
39	DOPPS - BirdLife Slovenia	Hungary
40	Drava Federation	Slovenia
41	Društvo narava Pohorja	UK/Balkans
42	Earth Thrive	Albania
43	EcoAlbania	Russia
44	Ecocentr DRONT	Albania
45	EcoDibra	Italy
46	Ecoistituto Veneto "Alex Langer"	Albania
47	Edukimi per Shoqerine e Hapur	Macedonia
48	Environmental Citizens' Association "Front 21/42"	France
49	ERN - European Rivers Network	Germany
50	EuroNatur	Germany
51	Europe e.V.	Netherlands
52	European Anglers Alliance (EAA)	Albania
53	Forumi Shqiptar Social Ekonomik	Cyprus
54	Friends of the Earth Cyprus	Belgium
55	Friends of the Earth Europe	Kosovo
56	GAIA Kosovo	Montenegro
57	Green Home	

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58	Green Line	Albania
59	Gruaja ne Funkcion te Mjedisit	Albania
60	GRÜNE LIGA e.V.	Germany
61	Grupimi Ekolëvizja	Albania
62	Gruppo promotore Parco del Cadore	Italy
63	Herpetološko društvo - Societas Herpetologica Slovenica	Slovenia
64	Horizont EU	Albania
65	Instituti i Kërkimeve Urbane	Albania
66	Instituti i Sudimeve Mjedisore	Albania
67	Instituti per Ruajtjen e Natyres (INCA)	Albania
68	International Rivers	Global organisation
69	Ioannina Environment Protection Association	Greece
70	Italia Nostra Sezione di Belluno	Italy
71	Jordens Vänner /Friends of the Earth	Sweden
72	Kalamas Clean River Movement	Greece
73	Klubi Ekologjik Elbasan	Albania
74	Klubi Ekologjik Lezhë	Albania
	Leeway Collective, Institute for Promotion and Protection of	
75	Aquatic Ecosystems	Slovenia
76	LIBERA, Associazioni, Nomi e Numeri Contro le Mafie	Italia
77	Lutra, Institute for Conservation of Natural Heritage	Slovenia
78	Mediterranean Institute for Nature and Anthropos (MedINA)	Greece
79	Milieukontakt Shqipëri	Albania
80	Miqesia Ulez	Albania
81	Mireqeverisja Ekosistemeve Natyrore	Albania
82	Mountain Wilderness	Italy
83	Mouvement Ecologique asbl	Luxembourg
84	Museum of Madness Institute	Slovenia
85	National Rivers Protection Coordination Free Rivers Italy	Italy
	National Society of Conservationists - Friends of the Earth	
86	Hungary	Hungary
87	Ndihme Sociale Gruas Kryefamiljare (NSGK)	Albania
88	New Vision organization	Albania
89	Njerezit te Paret	Albania
	Observatory per te Drejtat e Femijeve dhe te Rinjve	
90	(Observatori)	Albania
91	Oyu Tolgoi Watch	Mongolia

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92	Partneret Shqiperi per Ndryshim dhe Zhvillim	Albania
93	Pindos Perivallontiki	Greece
94	Plotina.Net Pravno-informacijski Center Nevladnih Organizacij - PIC /	Russia
95	Legal-Informational Centre for NGOs	Slovenia
96	Pro Natura Glarus	Switzerland
97	Pro Natura Glarus	Switzerland
98	Pro Natura/Friends of the Earth Switzerland	Switzerland
99	Pro Përmet Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania	Albania Albania
100	(PPNEA)	
101	Protection of Prespa (SPP)	Greece
102	Pseda-Iliria	Albania
103	Pure Water for Generations e.V.	Germany
104	Qendra ACT for SOCIETY	Albania
105	Qendra Burimore e Mjedisit, Shqiperi (REC Albania)	Albania
106	Qendra e Informacionit Aarhus Shkoder	Albania
107	Qendra Kulturore Mediatike ANTIGONEA	Albania
108	Qendra Kulturore Mediatike ANTIGONEA Qendra Mjedisore për Mbrojtje, Edukim dhe Rehabilitim	Albania Albania
109	(Qendra EPER)	
110	Qendra Mjedisore Për Studime dhe Zbatime	Albania
111	Qendra Mjedisore per Zhvillim Edukim dhe Rrjetezim (EDEN)	Albania
112	Qendra për Kërkim Bashkëpunim dhe Zhvillim-CRCD	Albania
113	Qendra Shqiptare per Popullsine dhe Zhvillimin	Albania
114	Qendra Shqiptare per Qeverisje Mjedisore ( Qendra ACEG)	Albania
115	Right to Water	Serbia China-Mongolia-
116	Rivers without Boundaries International Coalition (RwB)	Russia
117	Rivers without Boundaries Mongolia	Mongolia
118	Riverwatch	Austria
119	Rrjeti Shqiptar per Zhvillimin Rural (ANRD)	Albania
120	Shoqata AlbNatyra Shoqata "Per Ruajtjen e Mbrojtjen e Mjefisit Natyror" Vlore	Albania Albania
121	(PPNE Vlore)	
122	Shoqata Ambientaliste Zharrëza	Albania
123	Shoqata e Bashkuar Agro - Mjedisore "Agri-en"	Albania
124	Shoqata e Bujqësisë Organike	Albania

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125	Shoqata Ekspertet e Rinj Mjediso ( SHERM Albania)	Albania
126	Shoqata Herpetofauna Shqiptare	Albania
127	Shoqata Kombetare e Parqeve te Shqiperise	Albania
128	Shoqata Mjedisore Çajupi	Albania
129	Slovenian Dragonfly Society	Slovenia
	Slovenian Native Fish Society (SNFS)/ Društvo za preučevanje	
130	rib Slovenije (DPRS)	Slovenia
131	Slow Food Permet	Albania
132	Social Education and Environment Protection (SEEP)	Albania
133	Society for the Protection of Prespa (SPP)	Greece
134	Socio-ecological Union International	Russia
135	SOS-Salvem o Surf	Portugal
136	South East Europe Network for Energy and Transport (SEENET)	South East Europe
137	Tatarstan Organization of the Russian Social-Ecological Union	Russia
	The Greens Movement of Georgia / Friends of The Earth -	
138	Georgia	Georgia
139	The Slovenian Association for Bat Research and Conservation	Slovenia
140	Vizioni i Gjelber/ Green Vision	Albania
141	Vjosa Explorer	Albania
142	Well Point Association	Albania
143	Wetlands International – European Association	Belgium
144	World Wide Fund for Nature	Netherlands
145	World Wide Fund for Nature Austria	Austria
146	World Wildlife Fund Adria	Croatia
147	World Wildlife Fund Hungary	Hungary
148	Youth Activities Center	Albania
149	Zelena akcija / Friends of the Earth Croatia	Croatia