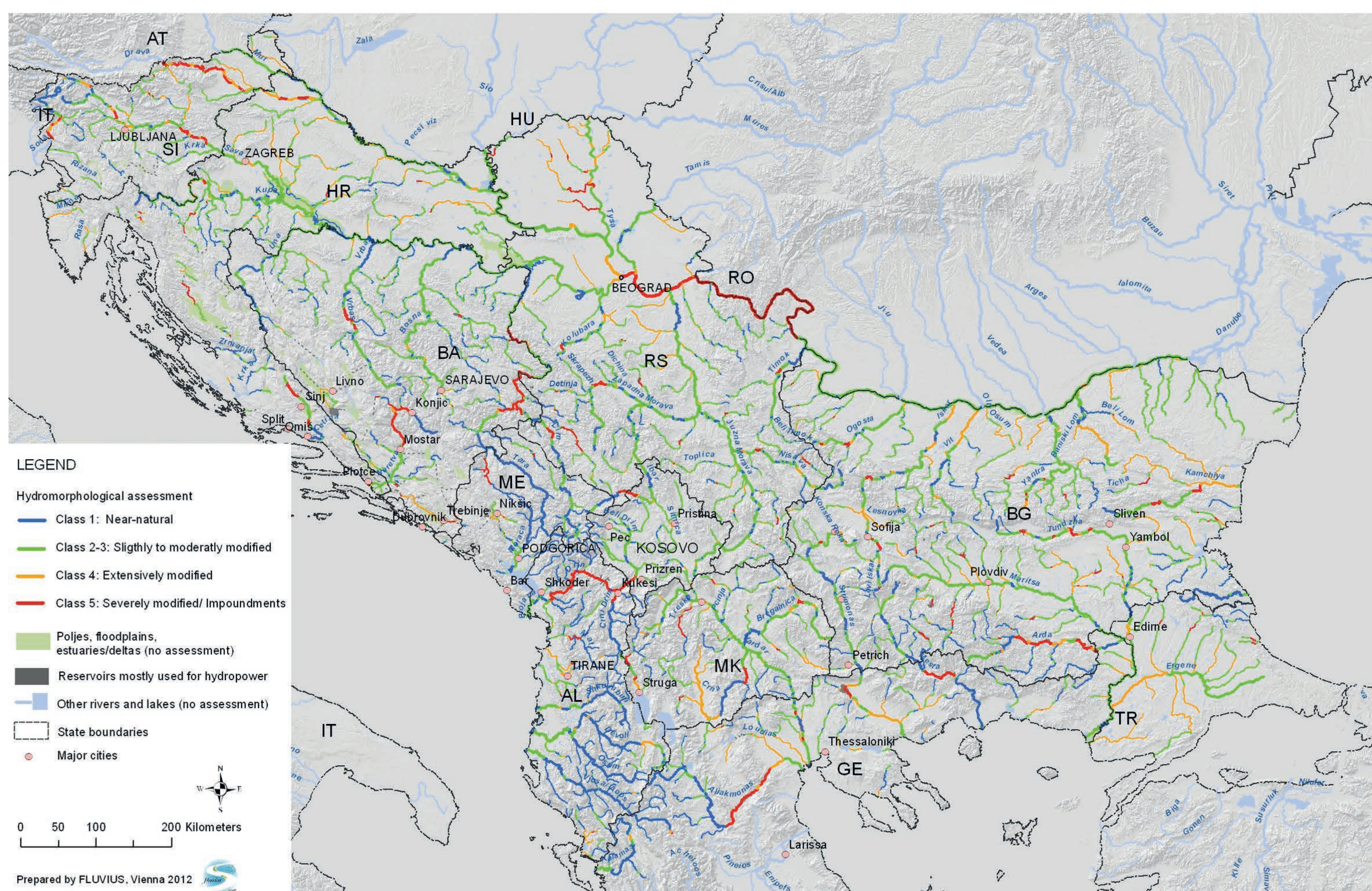


Save the Blue Heart of Europe



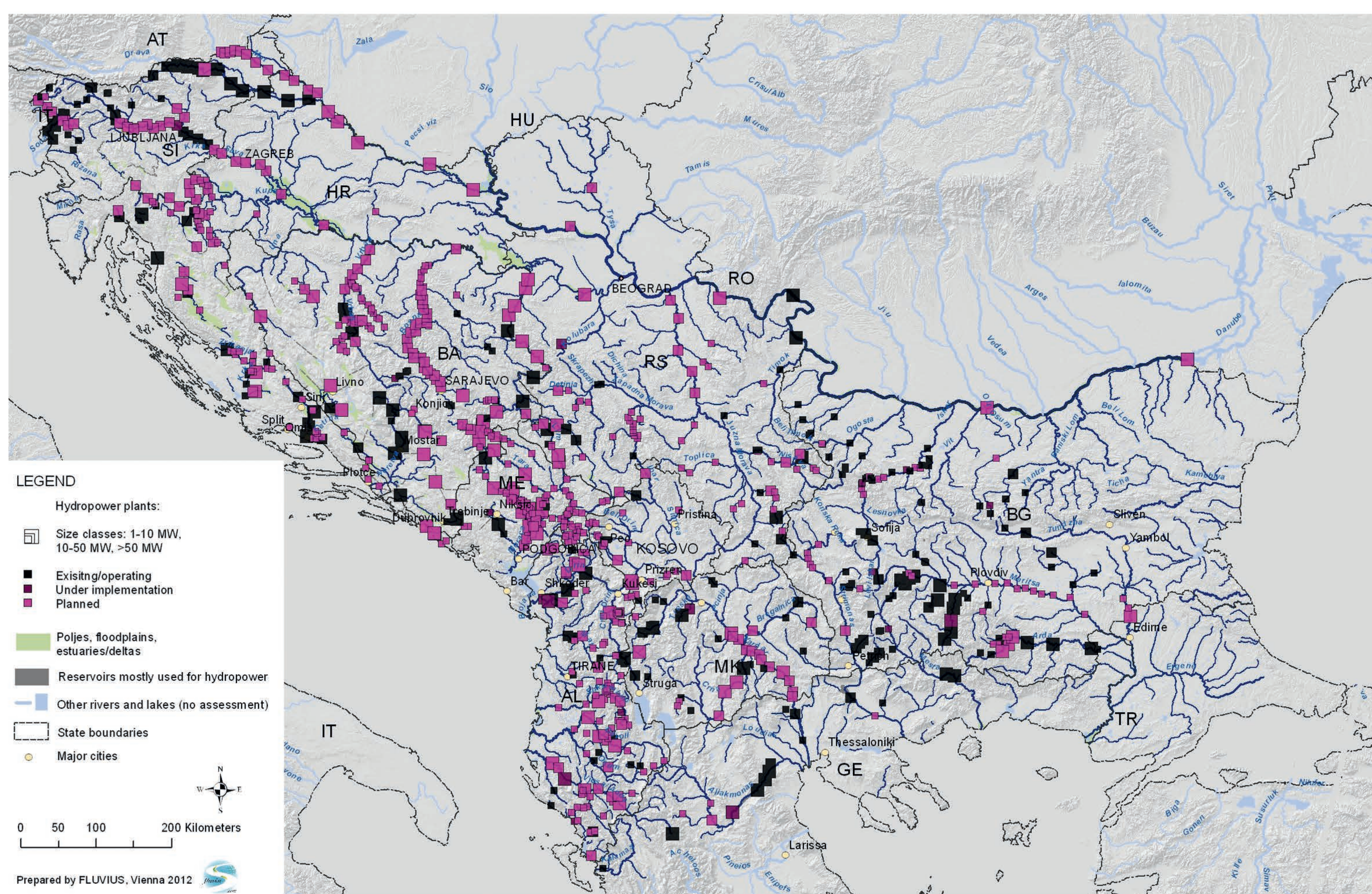
Overview map Hydromorphological Assessment of Balkan Rivers



The rivers of the Balkan Peninsula are among the most intact and biodiverse streams of Europe, but they are threatened – mainly by hydro dam projects.

In 2011, the hydromorphology of 35,000 river kilometers was assessed. Result: about 11,000 kilometres are in a very good (blue), another 17,000 in good or satisfying morphological condition (green).

Overview map Hydropower plants on Balkan Rivers



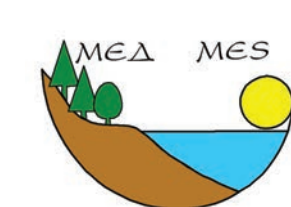
Impending dam tsunami: in 2011, more than 570 large hydropower plants were projected to be built in the region. Including small scale projects, the total number is much higher. Macedonia, for instance, has announced to construct 406 hydropower plants, including dams in Mavrovo National Park; Albania plans to build 418 hydro power plants in total.

For more information visit:
info@balkanrivers.net
www.balkanrivers.net

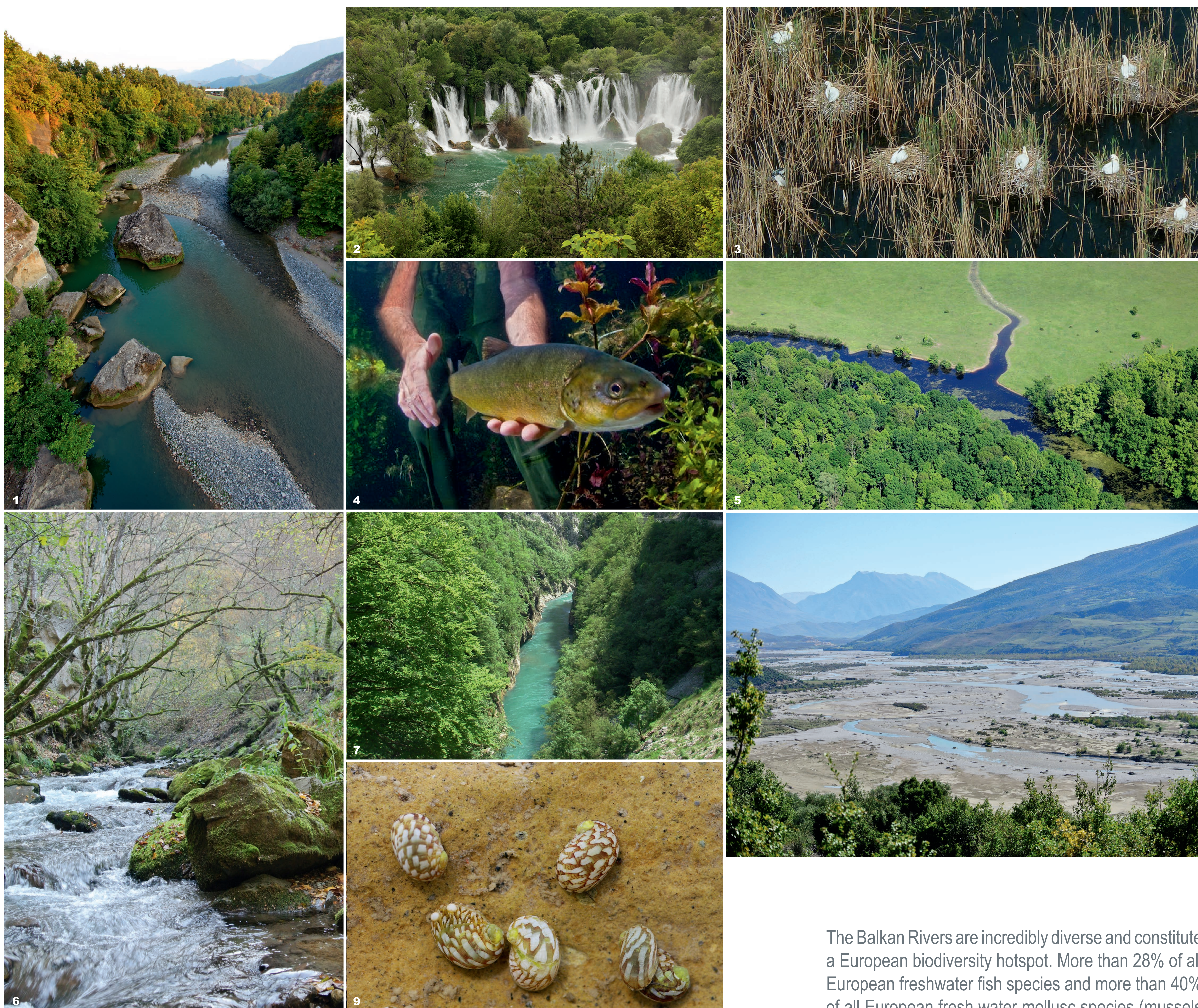
The Blue Heart Campaign is led by: **EURONATUR** **RiverWatch**

Partners of the Campaign are:

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- 1 Upper section of the Mati River, Albania © Goran Šafarek
- 2 Kravica waterfalls, Trebižat River, Bosnia and Herzegovina © Goran Šafarek
- 3 Last Eurasian spoonbill colony along the Sava River located in the oxbow Krapje Diol, Lonjsko Polje Nature Park, Croatia © Nenad Setina
- 4 The rare Softmouth trout in Vrijika River © Arne Hodalic
- 5 Odransko polje, a typical temporally flooded karst polje in the Sava River's floodplain, Croatia © Goran Šafarek
- 6 Mala reka, mountain stream in Mavrovo National Park, Macedonia – threatened by hydropower development © Romy Durst
- 7 Deep canyons along the upper Moraca River, Montenegro © Mathias Diekmann
- 8 Extensive gravel banks in the middle section of the Vjosa River (Albania) just upstream the dam construction site for hydropower plant Kalivac © Romy Durst
- 9 River nerite (*Theodoxus fluviatilis*) is a common freshwater snail in the Balkan rivers © Jörg Freyhof

The Balkan Rivers are incredibly diverse and constitute a European biodiversity hotspot. More than 28% of all European freshwater fish species and more than 40% of all European fresh water mollusc species (mussels and snails) live here. Endemism is high.

In order to preserve the most valuable rivers, EuroNatur and Riverwatch have started the campaign „Save the Blue Heart of Europe“. Together with local partners we aim to protect this European natural heritage.

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