

ESTABLISHING A COORDINATED MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION OF VJOSA RIVER, THROUGH ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF + INSTITUTIONS AND STAKEHOLDERS IN ALBANIA

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Vjosa river

Vjosa river is the second long river in Albania with its initial sources in Greece.

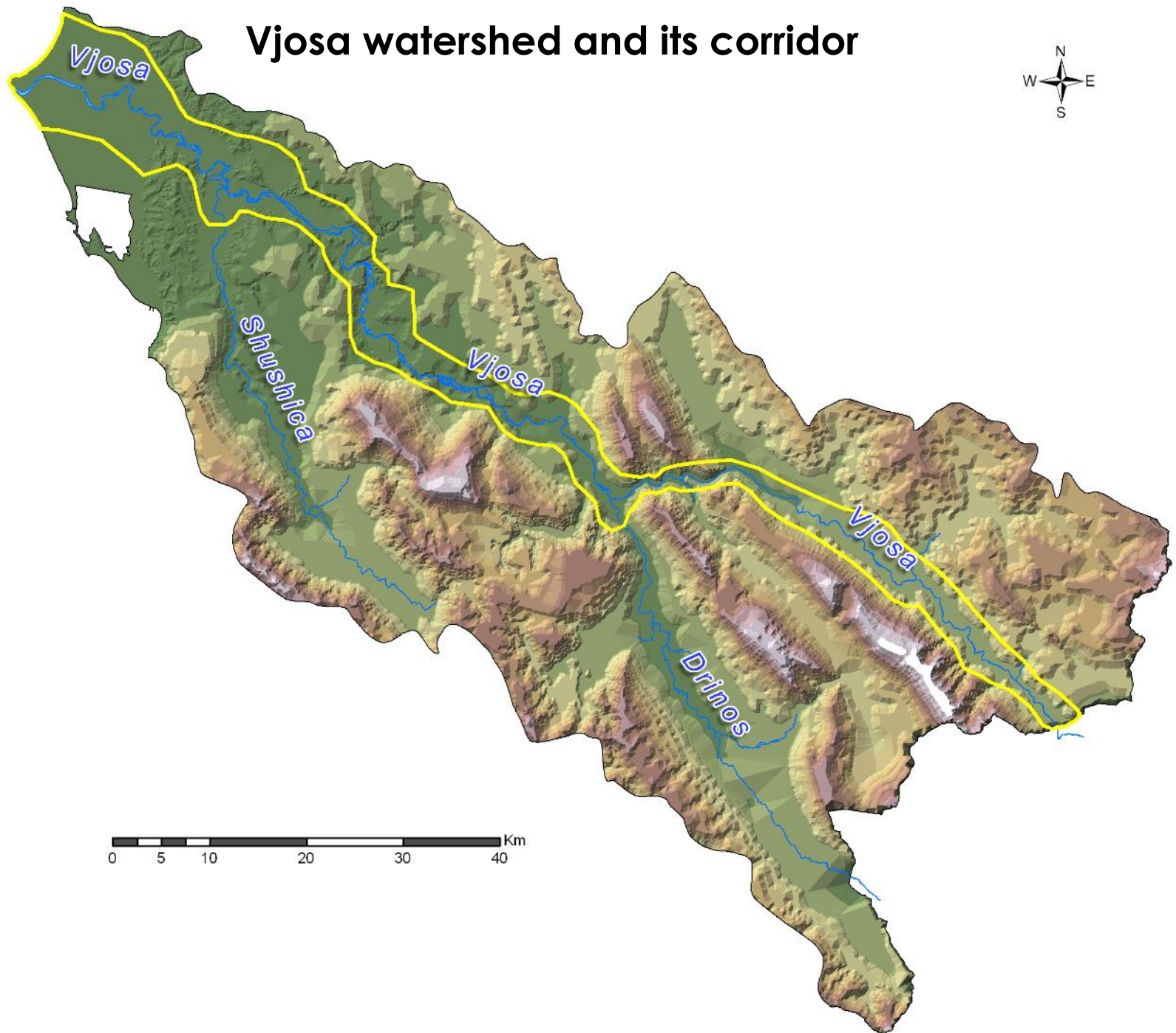
The biodiversity is very rich, especially in the upper part of the river.

Local community is based on the traditional use of nature resources. Agriculture and livestock is the main activity on the area

Vjosa River, a naturally preserved river, flowing naturally without any dams build so far. With less negative impacts on its watershed.

Vjosa River remains in good ecological conditions

Vjosa watershed and its corridor



Vjosa River issues and constraints

- Soil erosion in agricultural and forest areas is evident in some parts of the watershed.
- Gravel exploitation for construction sector.
- Pollution from solid urban waste and wastewaters;
- Hydro Energy projects and plans;
- Frequent floods are also evident affecting agriculture and urban areas in lower part of Vjosa.

Vjosa River- SEE River project

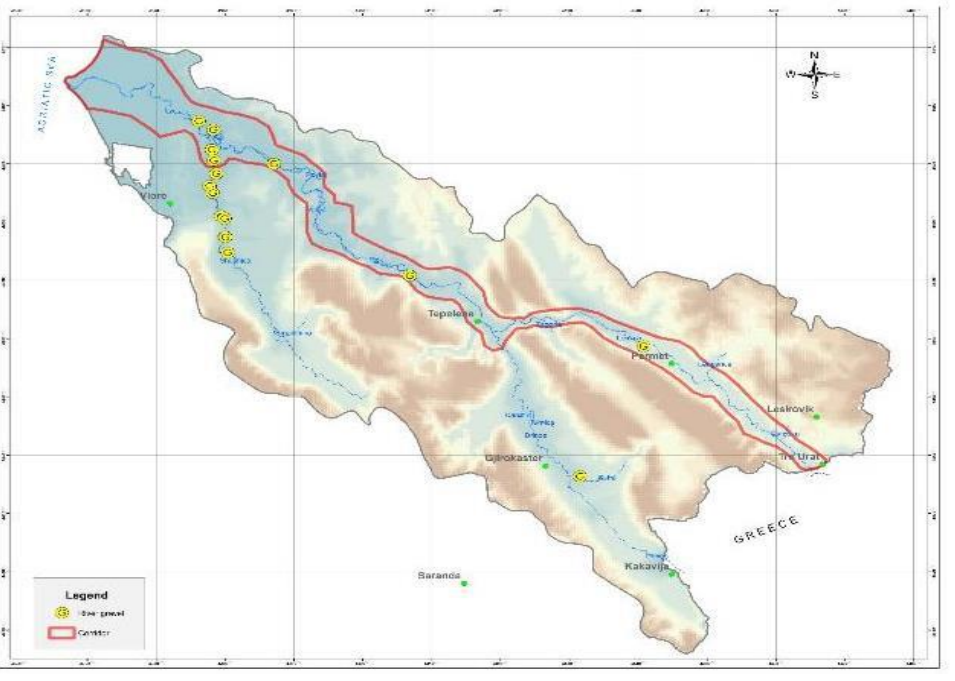
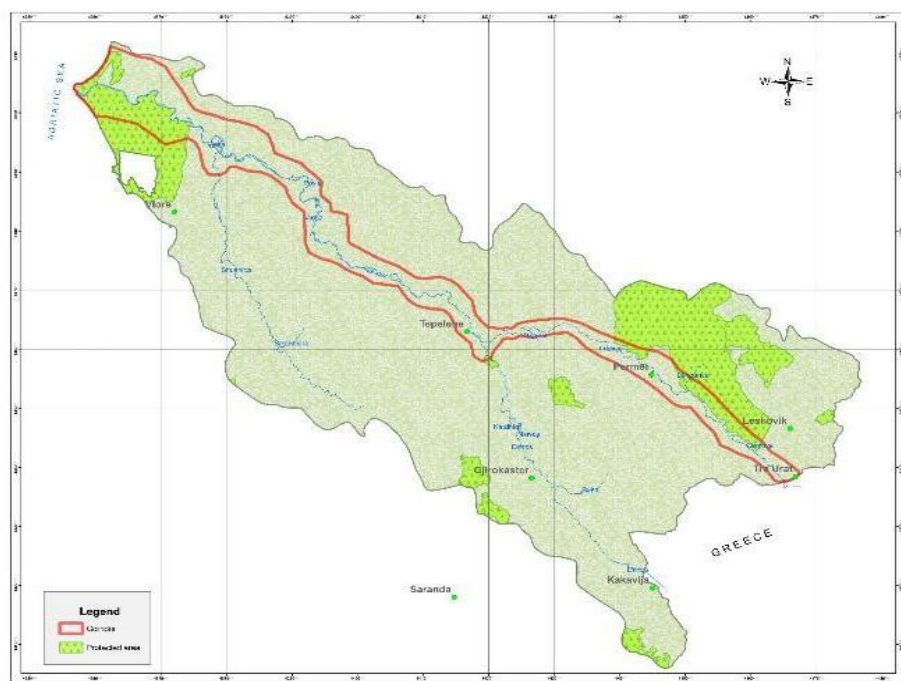
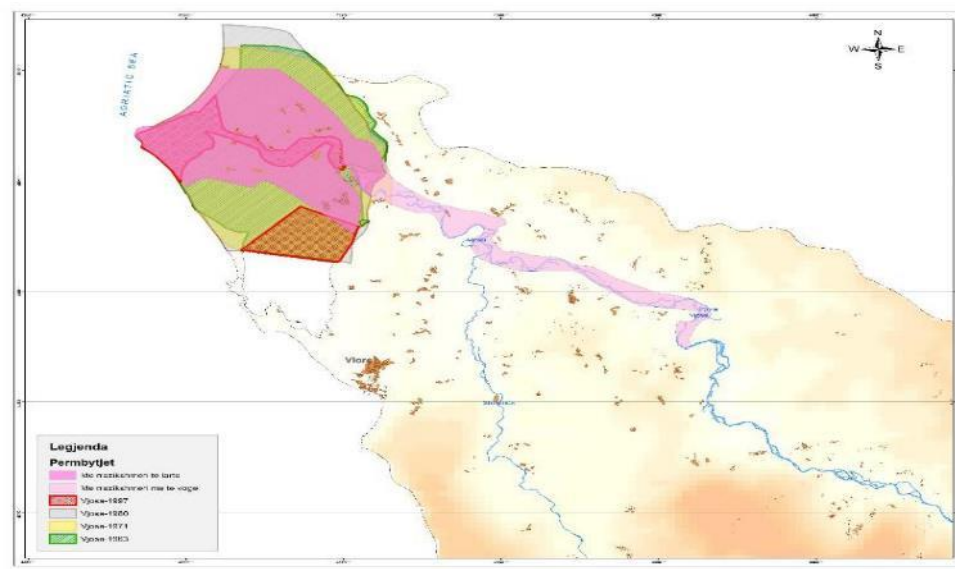
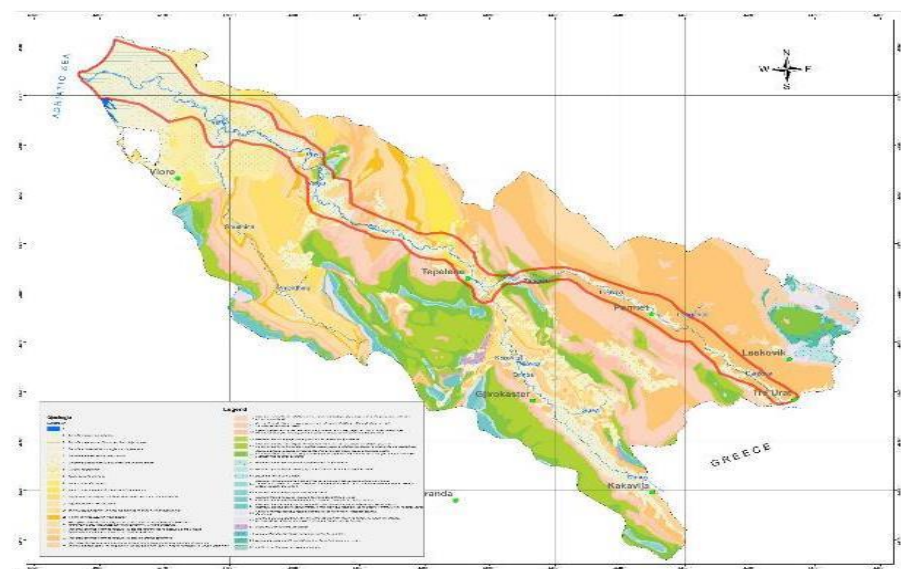
- Vjosa River a pilot river in the Framework of the SEE River project “Sustainable Integrated Management of International River Corridors in South Eastern European Countries”
- PARTICIPATORY METHODOLOGY : The key element for implementation of the SEE River project in Albania : Vjosa river .
- A working group composed of officials and independent expert has ben established to coordinate all activities related to the project implementation.
- The stakeholder network has been established consisting of different sectors in national, regional and local level, governmental and non-governmental organizations, scientific and private sectors.
- Expert and scientists involved in Vjosa River assessment;
- Consultations and communication have been held among stakeholders through national and local workshops aiming to set up the strategic approach for common management of the Vjosa river according to the Water Framework Directive and relevant international conventions.

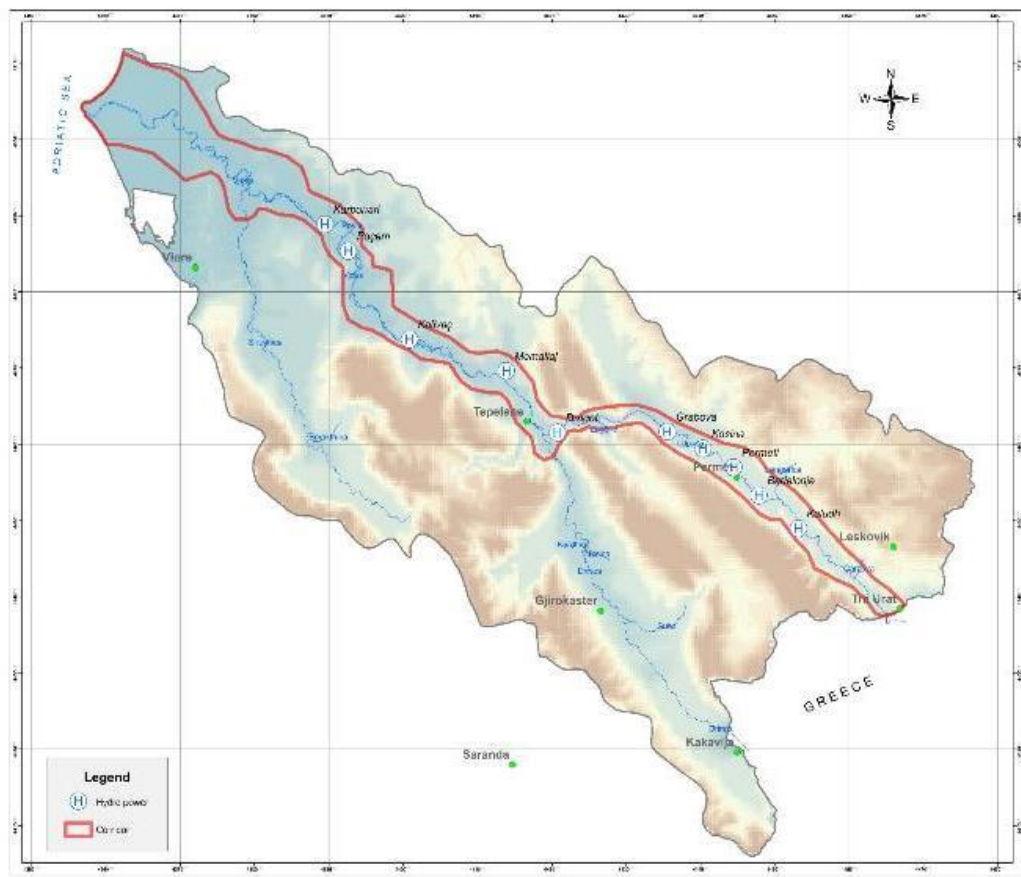
...Participatory methodology

- Collection of information and data, using official and non-official communication channels, assessment and complementary studies created the bases for discussion and other actions.
- Communication with NGOs that operate on the field of water management or protection of environments
- Individual consultations, organizing workshops and meetings were some of the actions for assuring participation of many institutions and stakeholders.
- Using electronic communication channels and TV media were very effective in enlarging the participation and disseminating the project outputs.

Vjosa River : SEE River-Main Activities

- A detailed assessment of Vjosa river considering its corridor, protected areas, nature Monuments, industrial sites , Hydro power plants , flooding areas, urban and tourism areas accompanied by maps including on-going activities and future projects.
- Establishment and making functional the stakeholders network in Albania including the official commission for trans boundary waters.
- Preparation of strategic platform for Vjosa river management with clear vision and objectives with interactive participation of institutions and stakeholders
- Reactivation of NGO-s and other stakeholders campaigning for the preservation of Vjosa River
- Approval of the Declaration from the stakeholders “For the integrated management of Vjosa trans boundary river”





HPP projects/plans

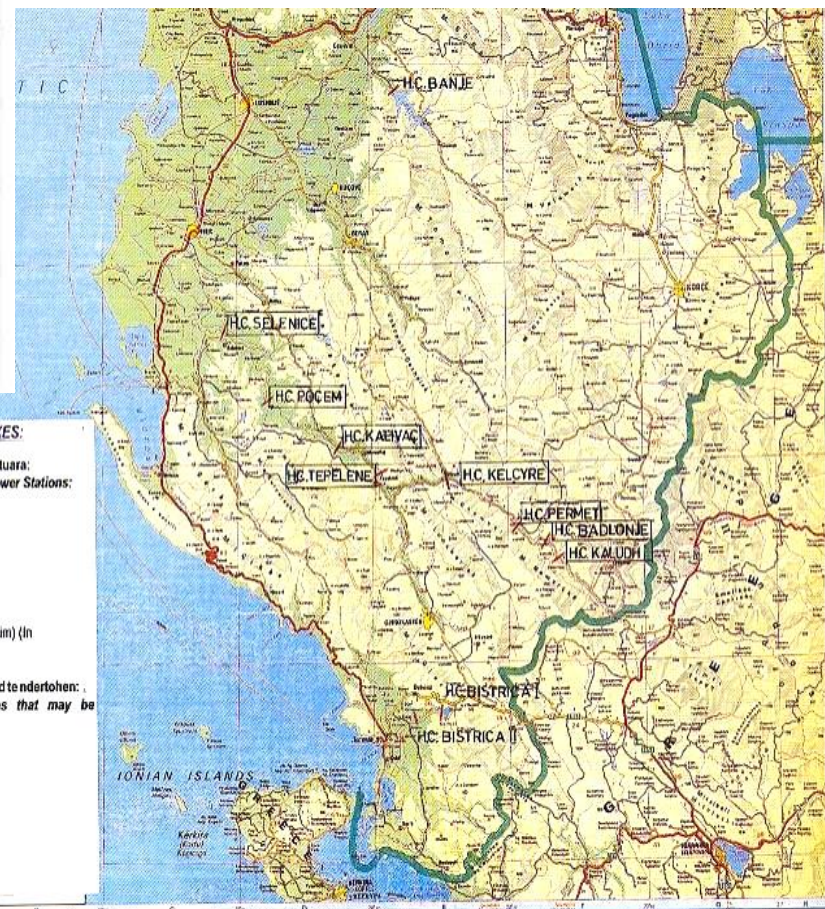
TREGUES: INDEXES:

Hidrocentrale te ndertuara: Constructed Hydropower Stations:

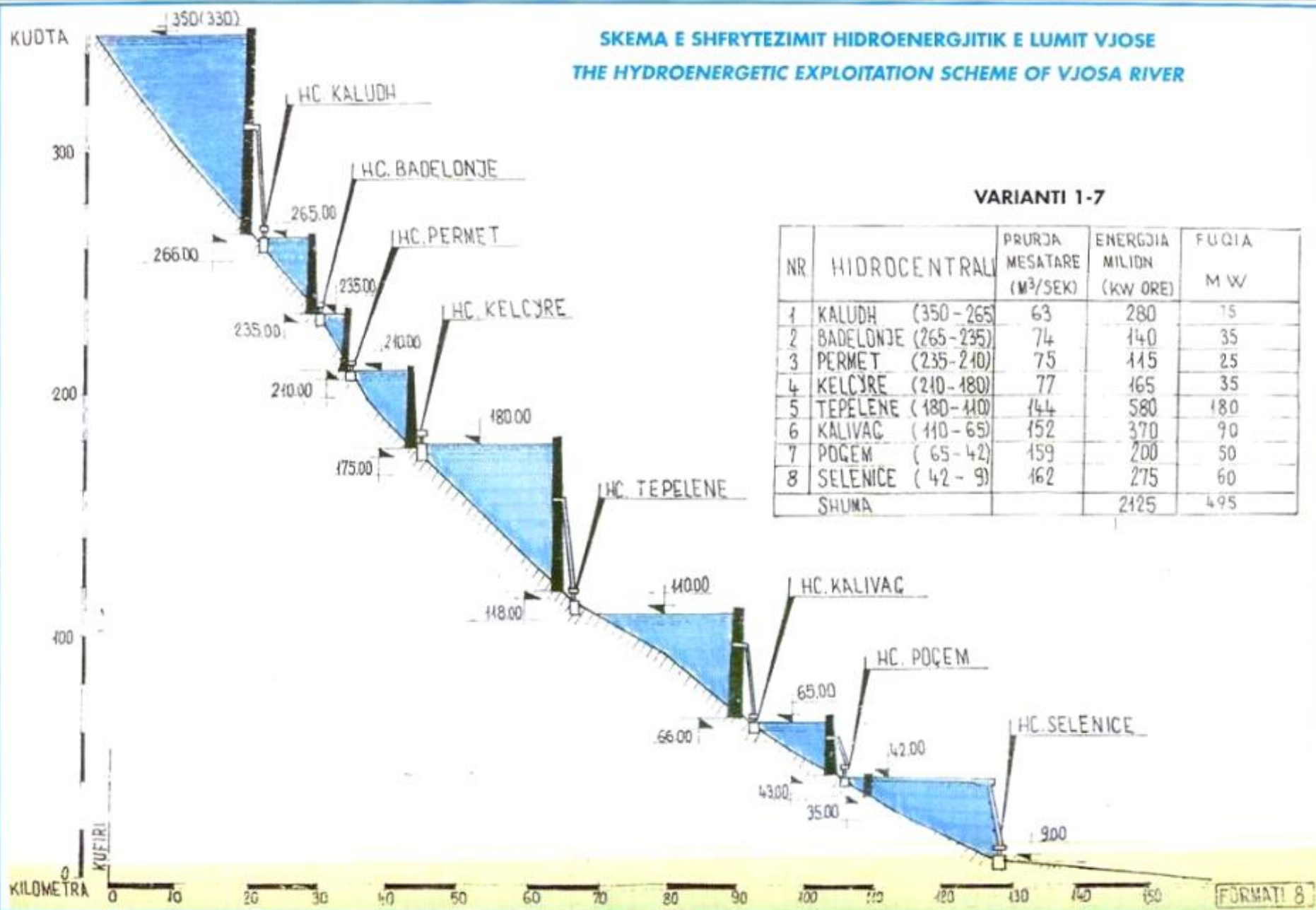
- H/C I Selites
- H/C I Ulzes
- H/C I Shkopelit
- H/C Bistrica I dhe II
- H/C Vau I Dejes
- H/C Fierze
- H/C Koman
- H/C Banje (No ndertim) (In construction)

Hidrocentrale qe mund te ndertohen: Hydropower Stations that may be constructed:

- H/C Selenice
- H/C Pocom
- H/C Kalivac
- H/C Tepelene
- H/C Kelcyre
- H/C Permet
- H/C Badonje
- H/C Kaludh



SKEMA E SHFRYTEZIMIT HIDROENERGJITIK E LUMIT VJOSE
THE HYDROENERGETIC EXPLOITATION SCHEME OF VJOSA RIVER



HPP projects/plan scheme in Albania

Workshops photos



Meeting with high officials







Vjosa River : SEE River-outputs

As the result:

- New legislation is in place in line with the European Union Directives.
- Gravel exploitation is banned,
- New administrative structures are established responsible for river basin management .
- Efforts are being paid for river banks restoration.
- Previews decision regarding energetic developments in Vjosa River are under revision.
- Some biodiversity important areas are proclaimed as protected areas and management plans are under preparation, and aiming to be part of Natura 2000.
- The commission on trans boundary water is re-established composed by 13 ministries and academy of sciences.

Outputs: Vjosa River

- Reports and documents produced for Vjosa River , Vision with Objectives and the Declaration contain the bases for the elaboration of the management plan with the active participation of the network of stakeholders and institutions already established and functional.
- Based on the communication with relevant authorities in Albania the legal and administrative conditions have been created for official and technical communication with Greek counterpart for reaching the agreement for common management of Vjosa Trans Boundary River.
- SEE-River model can be used for other rivers in Albania, national and trans boundary rivers.

CONCLUSION!

Vjosa River management becomes now an important part of the national agenda in Albania. Preservation of its natural values and sustainable use in cooperation with Greece, based on a common and integrated platform is the top priority.

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