

Balkan Rivers News



Dear Friends of the Balkan Rivers,

What's new with the Balkan Rivers? To keep you up to date, read the key news below!

VJOSA, ALBANIA



The residents of Kutë would lose their homes in the Poçem reservoir © Andreas Götz

Lawsuit against Poçem hydropower project on the Vjosa has been filed! In December, we filed the first environmental lawsuit of this kind in Albanian, on the grounds of lacking environmental impact assessment (EIA) and civic participation. 38 affected residents from Kutë are co-plaintiffs [MORE](#)



The European Parliament demands the Vjosa's protection © Gregor Subic

European Parliament demands National Park for Vjosa and stop to hydropower projects!

In the current Enlargement Report on Albania, the EU has once more criticized Albania's hydropower policy and also called for adjusting the quality of environmental assessments to EU standards ... [MORE](#).



Lunacek for Vjosa! Vice President of the European Parliament Ulrike Lunacek particularly lobbies against the projected dams: "Don't destroy Vjosa! Build your power plant somewhere else!" she warns, as you can read [in this article](#).



The Vjosa gets support from international scientists © Gregor Subic

Renowned scientists confirm: Environmental assessment for Vjosa hydropower project is a farce! In our fight to save the Vjosa we get support from the international science community who criticized the Poçëm EIA in a letter to the Albanian Prime Minister [MORE](#)

SCIENTISTS FOR VJOSA

Science Busters! In the last week of April, about 40 scientists will research the scientifically yet entirely unexplored Vjosa to demonstrate what a proper EIA looks like and what would get lost if the river is being dammed as projected. Discovery of new species very likely. We wonder what they will find...



Vjosa mayors united against dams! The local authorities also stand behind our cause. The mayors of the Vjosa valley raised their concerns about the projected dams in open letter to Prime Minister Edi Rama.... [MORE](#)

MAVROVO NATIONAL PARK, MACEDONIA



New hope for Mavrovo NP. The Radika will remain free-flowing © EuroNatur

Success: EBRD withdraws from funding a hydropower project in the Mavrovo National Park! This is the second decision against damming in the park, since the World Bank has refused to finance Lukovo Pole project last year ... [MORE](#)

SAVA RIVER



“White Book Sava – Threats and Restoration Potential”! In February we published a [comprehensive study](#) about the Sava, not only depicting the ecological importance and threats of this unique river system but also providing concrete restoration suggestions. The study also features an [atlas](#) of 57 maps [MORE](#)



The Sava received important attention in the European Parliament © EuroNatur

European Parliament discusses Sava River! The presentation of the Sava White Book in Brussels provided the opportunity to draw valuable attention to the river on EU level... [MORE](#)

GENERAL



Low performing hydropower - small is not beautiful! © Center for Environment

Small is not beautiful: small hydro development in the Western Balkans! This article in Balkan Green Energy News uncovers the myths about low performing dams: for a negligible amount of energy, these plants come at a high environmental cost and are often constructed in protected areas.... [READ](#)



Lake Skadar in Montenegro needs your help! © Green Home

Save Skadar Lake in Montenegro! Act now: please sign this petition by our Montenegrin colleagues at NGO Green Home to save an ecological treasure – Skadar Lake in Montenegro – from devastating construction.[THANK YOU](#) (scroll down for English)



River Raul Alb in Romania saved! © Călin Dejeu

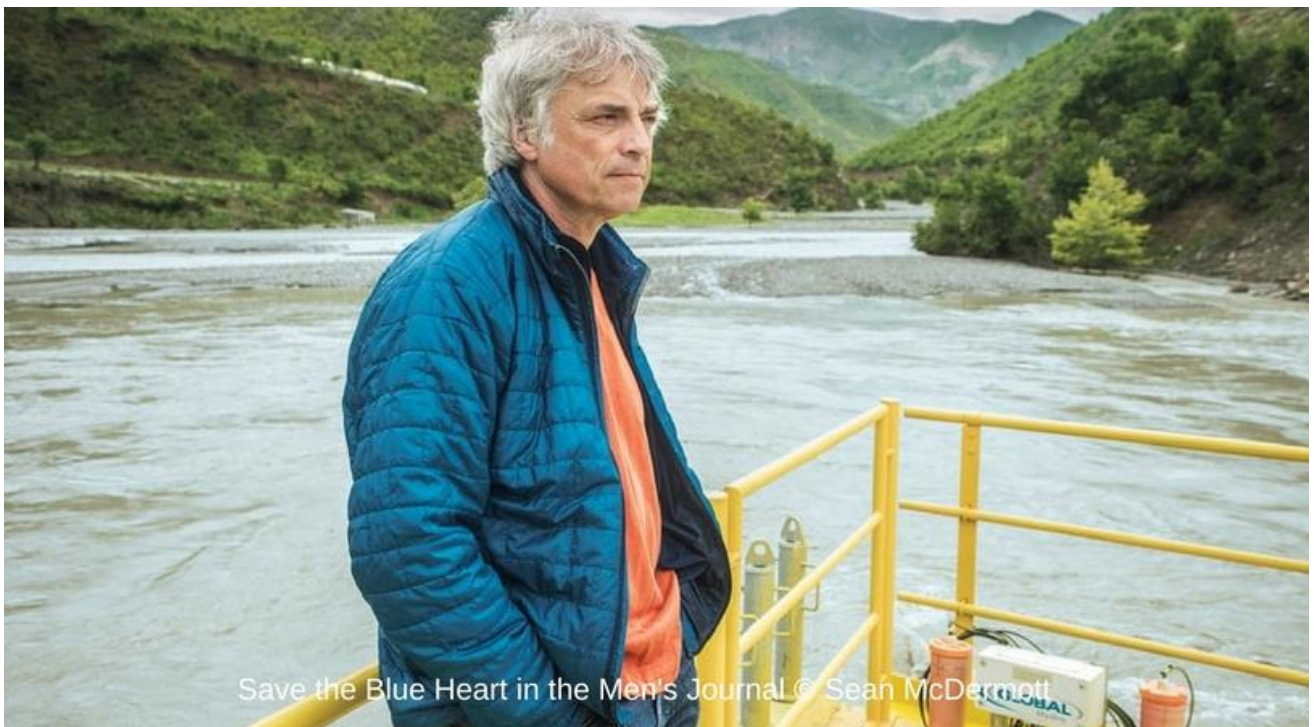
A river saved! Good news from Romania: after intense lobbying by Călin Dejeu and the Federation Nature 2000 Coalition Romania, the river Raul Alb was saved from hydropower development by an Alba Appellate Court ruling. BRAVO! A win for a river is a win for society and the next generation! [MORE](#)

BALKAN RIVERS IN MEDIA



Save the Blue Heart in the EU Foreign Affairs Journal © Ervis Loçe

In the **European Union Foreign Affairs Journal** N°1-2017, seventeen pages are dedicated to the Balkan Rivers (page 99-116). This gives us good exposure as the journal is widely followed by Members of European Parliament.... [CHECK IT OUT](#)



Save the Blue Heart in the Men's Journal © Sean McDermott

Save the Blue Heart in the Men's Journal! Nice read about the Balkan Rivers Tour 2016, the Save the Blue Heart campaign as well as about Ulrich Eichelmann, CEO of Riverwatch.... [ENJOY](#)

VIDEOS



Soča at risk! Watch this short video by Uwe Koenzen about the impacts of hydropower based on Soča River. The clip shows the high protection value of the upper Soča as well as the damage due to hydropower use on the lower course. Sorry, in German only! ... [WATCH](#)



River Keeper! Watch this video about the beautiful rivers in Bosnia & Herzegovina, their threats and their defenders. 300 HPPs are projected throughout the country and the Coalition for the Protection of the Rivers in BiH is trying to prevent it. English subs can be switched on at the bottom right... [WATCH](#)



Trailer: Una- The One! The Una in Bosnia&Herzegovina – like so many other rivers in the Balkans – is in permanent danger of being destroyed by a series of hydropower projects. The Una is one of the last habitats for the endangered Huchen. [WATCH](#)



The Great Rzav is the cleanest river in Serbia. This film shows the beauty of this unspoiled river along its entire course and discusses whether the construction of the dam is necessary as well as providing alternative solutions. English subtitles can be switched on at the bottom right of the video! ... [WATCH](#)

**All the best,
Your Blue Heart Team**