

Factsheet 16:

Nivica Canyons and tourism potential threatened from unplanned development

Description

On 6 September 2013, the Ministry of Energy and Industry signed the concessionary agreement for the construction of hydropower plant Driza-1. The hydropower project is planned as a derivation project situated in the Nivica canyons, Tepelena district. The HPP Driza-1 is still in the process of receiving licenses based on a letter request sent to MEI, on 12.12.2016 by Lex Ferenda NGO. (prot. No.6807) The local authorities in Tepelena municipality are against the construction of the HPP based on the negative impacts it has on the tourism potential of the area. The mayor has submitted various requests to GoA to cancel the concession contract however, there has been no support. The HPP is still waiting to receive permission from the municipality of Tepelena for the change of pasture and forest territories where the project will start operations works, which has sparked contestation from both sides. The *National Coastal Agency* has initiated a sustainable programme for eco-tourism development in Nivica village based on the natural beauties, untouched eco-system and traditional way of life and focusing on the values of Nivica Canyon, Castle of Nivica, Illyrian archaeological sites (Pagan sacral place). The local intellectuals have raise many concerns with Members of Parliament which have declared they will cancel the HPP, however the MEI has not taken any procedure towards that solution.



Basic data

Kendrevic Energy shpk
 Installed capacity is 4,208 kW. The Project water flow is 4.5 m³/s. The project will take the water at the height quotes of +388 m.a.s.l (meters above sea level) after the waters are released from HPP Guva. It will collect the water of Nivica brook at +382.9 m.a.s.l, Salaria brook at 390.36 m.a.s.l. The project will have derivation channels 4.6 km long, a forbay, a penstock long 2605.5 ml, a power house at quotes +255 m.a.s.l. The penstock height H =119.55m. The transmission lines which will be constructed will be connected with Kuc substation system and the southern ring power line at 35 kW.

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Source of conflict	Environmental impact and natural beauty -1 st level of conflict Tourism and landscape- 2 nd level conflict Archaeological- 3 rd level of conflict
Project details and actors Project area Level of investment	Kendrevic Energy shpk Gerti-Metal shpk & Everest shpk are the original owner but later changed where Gert-Metal bought the full shares. 349,864,5021 All (2.5 Million EUR)
The conflict and mobilization Conflict impact	Complaint letters, NGO declarations, protests. Potential Environmental impact: landscape loss, biodiversity loss, water diversion, Potential Social –economic impact: tourism decrease
Conflict outcome	Not constructed No institutional changes The project is still in the licensing phase.
Sources and materials/References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o http://newsbomb.al/index.php/aktualitet/item/29563-nje-hec-ne-nivice-kundershton-termet-peci-por-ministria-e-kultures-jep-ok-pavaresisht-trashegimnise http://rtsh.al/lajme/hec-et-ne-kuvelesh/ Cancelation of HEC Driza 1 informed by MP Fatmir Toci at Media Parliamentary Committee, 9 February 2016; http://rtsh.al/lajme/anullohet-ndertimi-i-nje-hec-i-mbi-kanionet-e-nivices/ B.Tare, “A <i>hydropower in Nivica</i>”, Dita Newspaper, 6 March 2016; http://www.gazetadita.al/nivica-e-kuveleshit-mes-historise-bukurise-natyrore-dhemarrezise-shteterore/