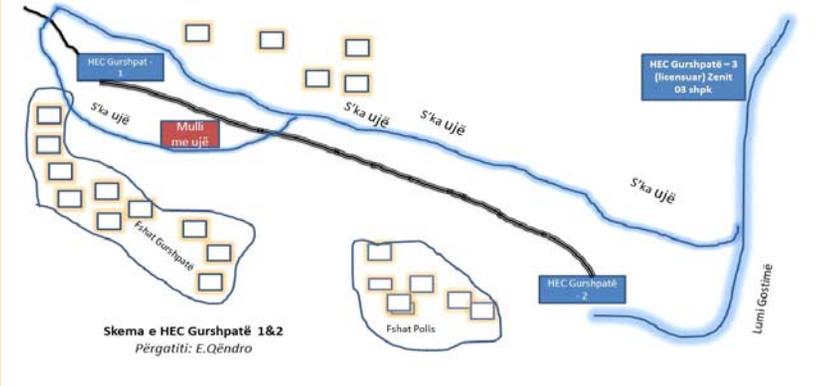


Factsheet 9:

Gurshpate HPP tops the list of protests due to sharing water rights

<p>Description</p>	<p>In 2009, Gurshpate Energy was established to manage a concessionary contract for the construction of HPP Gurshpate 1& 2 signed with Ministry of Economy and Industry in 2008. The environmental declaration was approved in 2010 and the works of the project started in 2012. The local habitants in Gurshpate and in Polis village, Librazhd have complained of the fact they didn't know, or attend any information regarding the HPP construction. The local habitants have constantly complaint of lack of irrigation water from the company but not never taken into consideration. As consequence, a series of protests have been organized since 2013. On November 17, 2014, 8 people were charged with the attack against police during the July protests of 2014, in the village of Polis (Librazhd) against the local police forces. The protesters called for halting the construction of Gurshpate 1 HPP that has taken away drinking water and water for irrigation. The village has no running water and uses wells. On August 10, 2013 around 600 citizens of Polis and other villages protested against the construction of the second Gurshpate 2 HPP complaining the project will take away the water supply for subsistence agriculture. They also complained they had not been informed of the concession and the planned developments.</p> <p>Overall, the local habitants have organized 180 protests from 2013 till 2015 related to Gurshpate 1&2 hydro-power plants. On 20 December 2013, the habitants filed a suit at the district prosecution office for breach of contract obligation from the company but not actions taken. The local farmers have been supported by local NGOs Egnatia and the network entitled "ECIM" (Ekolevizija, Egnatia, Milieukontakt, Together for life and AJMI" who have met with Prefect and other local authorities to raise their concern for destruction of national park of ShebenikJabllanca due to large number of HPPs issued in Librazhd (95). Gurshpate 1 was approved by the Municipality in 2006 under the condition that the project moves 15 meters from the irrigation channel. HPP Gurshpate 1 has affected fishermen as it leaves little water in the basin. Allegedly, the Gurshpate 2 was not approved by the Municipal council. The villagers accused of protest organization against HPP Gurshpate 2 were left in jail for months without standing a trial, they were beaten and emerged bloodied from prison.</p>
<p>Basic data</p>	<p>Gurshpate Energy SHPK - (NUIS No K914250170)</p> <p>The concessionary company was established to manage the concessionary contract "BOT" no. rep 349 col 50, dated 03.02.2009. The shareholders are MAR ENERGY (51%) and ARJANA C (49%).²⁴Both companies are owned by the same people. Gurshpate 1&2 have a capacity of 1.67 MW.</p> 
<p>Source of conflict</p>	<p>Water diversion - 1st level of conflict</p> <p>Water management - 2nd level of conflict</p> <p>Environmental impact - 3rd level of conflict</p>
<p>Project details and actors Project area Level of investment</p>	<p>The contract value was 176.738.773 All, (EUR 1.3 Million) signed on 26.03.2009. Local citizens; local and national NGOs; local media; professors;</p>

²⁴ Originally the shareholders were ITALPRO KHTS & Arjana-C, but later Italpro KHTS sold its shares to Mar Energy.

Factsheet 9:

Gurshpate HPP tops the list of protests due to sharing water rights

The conflict and mobilization	Street protest, lawsuit, petitions, police clashes, arrested people, Blockage of company assets.
Conflict impact	Observed/Documented Environmental impact: landscape loss, biodiversity loss, water diversion,
Conflict outcome	Observed/Documented Social –economic impact: agriculture impact, land possession; Constructed No institutional changes Not successful as the project was constructed.
Sources and materials/References	- http://www.forum-al.com/showthread.php?t=33009 - http://www.klsh.org.al/web/pub/ministrin_e_ekonomis_441_1.pdf - http://www.arkivalajmeve.com/Nje-HEC-i-dyte-ne-perroin-e-Gur-Shpatit-protestojne-banoret-Ska-uje.1047421181/ ; - http://investigim.al/en/hec-et-e-librazhdit-qe-futen-ne-lufte-banoret-me-shtetin/