

Vjosa Wild River National Park — Free-Flowing River Protection

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Albania

Quality score: 47/100

Evidence strength: Descriptive / self-reported

Summary

After a decade-long campaign, Albania designated 12,727ha along 270km of the Vjosa and its tributaries as Europe's first Wild River National Park in March 2023, blocking 8 mainstem hydropower dams and pairing protection with a wastewater programme.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	2/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	2/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-05

[Government of Albania / EcoAlbania / Patagonia \(Save the Blue Heart of Europe\)](#) — accessed 2026-08-05

[National Geographic — how the park was created](#) — accessed 2026-08-05

[Balkan Insight — national park declared](#) — accessed 2026-08-05

[EcoAlbania — Poçëm hydropower cancellation upheld](#) — accessed 2026-08-05

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