Proposal for establishing the Vjosa Wild River National Park

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The Vjosa valley

The Aoos-Vjosa River stretches 272 km from its sources in Greece through southern Albania to Adriatic Sea. The first 80 km are in Greece. The total catchment area is 6,704 km², of which 4,365 km² are in Albanian territory.

In the geological, hydromorphological, hydrological and ecological context, the Vjosa River valley could be divided into three geographical units:

- The **upper section** of the Vjosa River is characterised by a succession of steep gorges between Permet, Kelcyra and Dragot, crossed by areas of large alluvial fans and islands. Downstream of the Dragot area, the river valley widens with the exception of the Kalivaci and Pocemi gorges.

- The **middle section** - before and after the confluence with the Drino River, where the town of Tepelena is located - is known for the large gravel and sand banks formed by the branching river. Downstream from Selencica the valley becomes wide and the river begins to meander. Here the floodplains of Vjosa River are recognised as one of the most magnificent riparian ecosystems of the Balkan Peninsula, characterised by their natural hydromorphodynamic river processes. A wide main stream with anabranches, open gravel banks and islands, as well as pioneer vegetation and bushes of willows, poplars and tamarisk give the Vjosa floodplain an exceptional character.

- The **lower section** is characterised by the extension of the Vjosa River and the formation of wide meanders. Between the towns of Fieri and Vlora, the Vjosa River crosses the lowlands of Myzeqe and flows towards Adriatic Sea. The river delta is located north of the Narta Lagoon, where the river reaches the sea.

Figure 1: The Vjosa River catchment area

The Vjosa is not just one of many similar rivers in Albania. It has a rich biodiversity which is complemented by the outstanding value of the largely pristine water regime along the entire river, which underlines the importance of the Vjosa River as the last unaltered branched river ecosystem at the European level.
The Vjosa and its tributaries form a functioning natural ecosystem that is extensive enough to absorb external disturbances from the adjacent altered areas along the river corridor without significantly affecting the natural hydrological processes. At the same time, it is an extremely fragile and sensitive ecosystem that can be dramatically altered by any modifications to the water regime coming from above or downstream.

The international protected area standards transposed in Albanian Law recommend the establishment of the IUCN protected area category II - National Park for those areas where native biodiversity is maintained and the area is overwhelmingly characterised by unmodified ecological processes.
I. LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUND FOR ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL PARK

Legal and sectoral context for the establishment of the Vjosa Wild River National park

The Law "On Protected Areas 81/2017" (hereinafter: "the Law 81/2017") defines the designation, protection, administration, management and sustainable use of protected areas and their natural-biological sources. Article 16 of Law 81/2017 describes the National Park (category II); it states that the National Park can be declared on: «extensive areas, usually not less than 1,000 hectares, unique for their national and international values, protected and managed for the protection of ecosystems, species, education and recreation (leisure, entertainment) and where the sustainable use of resources by humans is regulated.»

The planning, coordination and management for the establishment of the national system of protected areas is defined in the "Strategic Policies for the Protection of Biodiversity 2016 - 2020" (hereinafter: »the Planning Document»).

Important steps in the process of establishing the protected area.

According to Law 81/2017, any central and local government institution, legal or natural person, NGO or municipality has the right to submit a proposal for the designation of a protected area to the Ministry responsible for protected areas (hereinafter: "the Ministry").

The procedure for declaring a protected area is set out in Art.12 of Law 81/2017 and includes the following steps:

- Inclusion of the area proposed for designation in the Planning Document.
- Draft declaration of a protected area, in which the status of the protected area, the boundaries, the zoning, the buffer zone, the administration that will manage the area, the possibilities of using the resources of the area, the income that can be generated and the way they will be used for the benefit of the area should be preliminarily defined.
- Publication of the plan for the declaration of protected areas at ministerial and municipal levels.
- Public consultation of the declaration plan by interested parties (the municipality in whose the proposed protected area is located, civil society and the owners whose lands are to be included in the protected area) and submission of comments on the plan to the Ministry.
- Approval of the declaration of the protected area by the Council of Ministers.
- Approval of the decree declaring the protected area by the Ministry.

Spatial planning context

Spatial and territorial planning is governed by Law 107/2014 "On Territorial Planning and Development. The main plan in terms of spatial planning tools at the national level is the General National Territorial Plan (GNTP), which is supported by sectoral plans and Detailed Plans of areas of national importance. The GNTP supports and reinforces the importance of the areas of national interest by expanding the areas declared to protect some of them, but also proposes new areas that should be protected in accordance with the procedures established in the legislation. The GNTP has identified the establishment of a Vjosa Park as a new potential green corridor.

At the local level, the main document is the General Local Territorial Plan (GLTP). At Vjosa Valley, the municipalities of Përmet, Këlcya, Gjirokastra and Vlora have approved their GLTPs, while the GLTPs for
the municipalities of Tepelena, Memaliaj and Selenica are being finalized. The approved GLTPs have reinforced the idea of Vjosa Valley as a strong potential tourism center and protected area.

**Sectoral context**

The »Strategic Policy for the Protection of Biodiversity 2016 – 2020« provides for the expansion of the protected area system by increasing the area of protected areas. Based on a reassessment of protected areas conducted by NAPA in December 2019, Vjosa was not proposed as a new future protected area in its full integrity. However, several experts and documents show that not all of the exceptional values and conservation importance of the Vjosa Valley have been properly considered.


Some of the above strategic documents are consistent with the proposed protection and development of Vjosa Valley based on certain green forms of tourism; for example, the GLTPs also see Vjosa River as a main corridor and hub for tourism development and income for their communities. However, the National Energy Strategy considers Vjosa River as a key pillar in its energy diversification, which poses a threat to the biodiversity and landscape values of the basin.
II. DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURAL, SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL VALUES

Geology, Geomorphology and Hydromorphology

Geology

The Vjosa/ Aoos River is divided into three sections: the upstream section of the Vjosa Valley drains the ophiolites, flysch deposits, carbonate deposits and flysch and limestone deposits. The upstream section of the Vjosa River was glaciated during the Last Glacial Maximum. In the midstream section, between Dragot and Počem, the river flows mostly over the flysch deposits of the Ionian tectonic zone. The downstream section extends from Počem to Adriatic Sea, the river flows over the Ionian tectonic zone and the Quaternary deposits of the tectonic zone Pre- Adriatic Depression, which consist mainly of gravels, sands, silts and clays (Skrame, 2020).

Geomorphology

Although the ice cover in the Vjosa Valley was limited during the periods of glaciation, its influence on the hydro-morphological characteristics of the Vjosa River was very pronounced. It is reflected in two distinct processes: a clear incision of the river into fluvial deposits, suggesting that historical sediment supply was higher than today, and, as shown in other river sections, that sediment supply is currently equal or even higher compared to loads during the Pleistocene or an earlier period. The Pocem and Permet sections contained a linear longitudinal profile, indicative of equilibrium transport of sediment supply rather than downstream grafting. Such findings were previously known only from laboratory experiments. The Vjosa Valley and the river itself are an international benchmark for hydro-morphological characterization of Balkan rivers and landscape forming processes (Hauer, 2021).

Hydromorphology

The river-floodplain corridor of the Vjosa and its surrounding habitats are of high conservation value. The longitudinal continuity in water flow (the so-called "natural flood regime") is associated with undisturbed sediment transport. The intact river dynamics over the entire length generates a high spatio-temporal heterogeneity, continuous habitat change and a range of biotic successions. The undisturbed river dynamics in the Vjosa catchment and the preserved fluvial dynamics are the basis for the specific associations of well-adapted biota with high alpha, beta and gamma diversity and excellent conservation status. Within Central Europe, such natural characteristics of large rivers are no longer present (Scheimer, 2020).

Biodiversity of the Vjosa valley

The biodiversity value of the Vjosa River valley is reflected in the diversity of habitats and the richness and abundance of species assessed through different assessment criteria and tools (such as the national red lists of endangered species, the Bern Convention annexes, the annexes for EU Birds and Habitats Directives', the IUCN global red lists).

Habitats/Ecosystems

Preliminary research in the middle section of the Vjosa River revealed that there are eight river floodplain habitat types of EU conservation importance: 3220 Alpine rivers and the herbaceous vegetation along their
banks, 3250 Constantly flowing Mediterranean rivers with *Glaucom flavum*, 3230 Alpine rivers and their ligneous vegetation with *Myricaria germanica*, 3240 Alpine rivers and their ligneous vegetation with *Salix eleagans*, 92D0 Southern riparian galleries and thickets (Nerio-Tamaricetea and Securinegion tinctoriae), 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates, 91E0 Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (Alno-Padion. Alnion incanae. Salicion albae), 92C0 *Platanus orientalis* and *Liquidambar orientalis* woods (*Platanion orientalis*); Egger et al., 2019; Meulenbroek et al., 2021).

Albania is already in the process of "transposing" (or integrating) EU legislation into national law. The rare and characteristic habitat types at the European level mentioned above are also designated as areas of particular conservation concern in their own right. The territory of Albania represents only 0.00064% of the EU territory, however some of the above habitat types along the Vjosa River cover no less than 1.8% (HT 3250) or 1.2% (HT 3230) of this special habitat type in the EU territory. Habitats in the Vjosa Valley are of very high European importance for nature conservation in the context of the criteria listed in the Habitats Directive.

**Species**

A total of 1175 species have been documented to date at Vjosa River (Meulenbroek et al. 2021, Schiemer et al. 2018, Egger et al. 2019, and Fontes et al. 2019), including 516 arthropods, 157 birds, 37 fish, 24 mammals, 109 molluscs, 19 reptiles, 9 amphibians, 299 vascular plants, and 5 non-vascular plants (Figure 2).

![Figure 1. Species distribution for all taxonomic groups documented along the Vjosa River.](image-url)
Of all 1175 documented species to date, 39 species are on the IUCN Red Lists and 119 are on the Albanian Red List. No less than 15 species of the IUCN Red Lists and 74 species of the Albanian Red List are classified as "threatened" (CR – critically endangered, EN - endangered, VU - vulnerable).

Globally threatened species according to the IUCN Red list include: 1 amphibian (Pelophylax shqiperus - EN), 2 birds (Neophron percnopterus - EN and Streptopelia turtur - VU), 7 fish (5 CR (Acipenser naccarii, Acipenser stellatus, Acipenser sturio, Aphanius iberus, Anguilla anguilla), 1 EN (Gobio scardensis) and 1 VU (Oxyuris mitsukurii)), 1 mammal (Ajyotis capaccinii - VU), 2 mollusc (Unio crassus - EN, Vertigo mouliini - VU) species and 2 vascular plants (Ascaulus hispoastanum, Galanthus reginae-olgae, both VU). The presence of the above endangered species listed by the IUCN Red List shows the international importance of Vjosa River for nature conservation.

A total of 148 of the species are listed in Appendix 1-3 of the Bern Convention, 41 in the Birds Directive and 78 in the Habitat Directive Annexes. There are 36 bird species listed in Annex I to the Birds Directive and 1 amphibian, 3 arthropod, 12 fish, 10 mammal, 3 mollusc and 5 reptile species listed in Annex II to the Habitats Directive. There are two fish and two mammal species in the Vjosa valley listed as priority species for conservation and of highest conservation concern of the EU, listed in Annex II of Habitats Directive. Together with the outstanding values and extent of the highly endangered and rare habitat types of the Vjosa Valley, the presence of so many threatened species indicates the European importance of the area for nature conservation. EU Member States are obliged to ensure a favourable conservation status for these species and to designate protected areas and/or Natura 2000 sites for their populations.

At the national level, 5 arthropods are threatened as vulnerable species (VU); other taxa listed at the national Red List include 30 bird (6 CR, 6 EN, 18 VU), 6 fish (5 EN, 1 VU), 6 mammal (2 EN, 4 VU), 3 reptile (CR) species, and 24 vascular plants (8 CR, 5 EN, 11 VU). The Vjosa Valley hosts the largest national populations of several species, or those found nowhere else in Albania, and research work to date has resulted in the discovery of several new species for science. All this confirms the national importance of the Vjosa Valley for nature conservation and underlines the high conservation value of the Vjosa River compared to some other rivers in Albania.

Socio-economic characteristics

The total population of Vjosa Valley is estimated at about 130,000 people, which is 4.6% of the total population of Albania. Agriculture, livestock and tourism are the main socio-economic activities in this area. The area of Vjosa River has experienced severe depopulation in the last 30 years. In the region of Gjirokastër (which includes the municipalities of Permet, Kelce, Tepelenë, Memalaj, Gjirokaster, Libohove, Dropull), the population has decreased by almost half (47%) in the last twenty years (2001-2020) (INSTAT). Drastic decrease in population in these areas has led to a significant decline in economic activities and industries in the Vjosa Valley.

Cultural heritage and values of the area

The Vjosa Valley is exceptionally rich in cultural monuments of all periods and types, including the UNESCO World Heritage cultural property of Gjirokastër. Cultural monuments of all periods and types include 7 monuments in the area of Fier, 26 monuments in the area of Vlora, 10 monuments in the area of Korçë and 536 monuments in the area of Gjirokastër. In total, of these monuments, there are 3 historical centers (Gjirokastër, Përmet and Bënia) and 3 archeological parks (Antigonea, Amantia and Byllis). Examples of outstanding cultural monuments include Muslim religious monuments, ancient towns including fortifications and their defense towers, Orthodox churches and monasteries, houses and ruined villages, bridges, aqueducts, water wells and water systems, Roman thermal baths and prehistoric caves.
The larger Vjosa basin in Southern Albania is home to one of the world famous traditional music genres, Albanian Folk Iso-polyphony, which was proclaimed in 2005 and officially registered on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of humanity.

**Threats and pressures to the area**

The water regime, the quantity and quality of water, is essential for maintaining the intact and unique aquatic ecosystem of the Vjosa River.

Urbanisation, industrial development, agriculture, energy production, the presence of hot spots and the discharge of urban and rural wastewater on both sides of the Vjosa River in the suburbs of Përmet, Këleýra, Tepelena, Gjirokastra, Selenica, Memaliaj, partly Fier and partly Vlora are considered the main sources of pollution. In addition, the catchment area is partly deforested and the buffer areas are often cultivated with arable land. The Vjosa River and its tributaries are used as a sewer for wastewater discharge from municipalities and industry. Other sources of pollution and pressures on the river include municipal waste disposal, sewage discharges and industrial waste disposal.

In addition to pollution, direct impacts on the water regime arise from unsustainable development, industrial activities including tourism industry, agriculture and livestock, gravel mining in the riverbed and water extraction for irrigation and drinking water (bottling). Forestry activities such as uncontrolled logging and collection of firewood pose a threat to the natural habitats. Severe erosion of the river banks, especially in the section from Tepelena to Vlora, and flooding in the lower part of the river course are considered natural disturbances; however, polluted floods also have a negative impact on agricultural land. Although there is ban on hunting in Albania, the level of poaching is still high in the area concerned.

River water is used for energy production in some tributaries such as in Langarica, Drino, Kardhiq and Shushica without considering the cumulative impact on water quality and quantity. However, the greatest potential threat to the hydrological, morphological and ecological conditions of the Vjosa River comes from the plans for the construction of several hydro-power plants.
III. NATIONAL PARK OBJECTIVES, STANDARDS, ZONATION

Definition of the purpose of protection and protection objectives

Status of the proposed protected area and justification of the protected area category according to the standards

The area of the Vjosa River and its tributaries, extending across the entire flow on the Albanian territory, is proposed to be declared as the National Park, the first European Wild River National Park.

There are four conditions in the Albanian nature protection legislation (the Law 81/2017), which the area should fulfill if it is proposed for designation of the National Park; the area should be of sufficient size (not less than 1,000 hectares), should experience unique natural and international values, management regimes in place should protect ecosystems and species and promote education and recreation and should introduce regulations in the sustainable use of the natural resources.

Size of the proposed National park

The area to be included in the National Park comprises the central (core) zone (ZONE 1) covering 263 km$^2$ and zone for recreation, traditional use and sustainable development (ZONE 2) covering 203 km$^2$.

The total area of the proposed Vjosa Wild River National Park is 466 km$^2$.

The buffer zone to the National Park in the ZONE 3 is extended over 874 km$^2$.

Unique natural and international values

Unique natural, geomorphological, geological, landscape and cultural values of the Vjosa Valley are briefly presented in the above chapters. They reflect the outstanding international, European and national values that distinguish the Vjosa River from similar rivers in Albania and even in the wider European context.

Primary management objective (protection of the ecosystems and species and promotion of education and recreation)

The international standards for protected areas implemented at Albanian Law recommend the establishment of the IUCN protected area category II - National Park for those areas where native biodiversity is conserved and the area is predominantly characterised by unaltered ecological processes.

The habitats along the Vjosa River and its tributaries form a functioning natural ecosystem large enough to absorb external disturbances from adjacent altered areas along the river corridor without significantly affecting natural hydrological processes. At the same time, it is an extremely fragile and sensitive ecosystem that can be dramatically altered by any changes in water regime coming from upstream or downstream.

The Vjosa represents a natural ecosystem and not a man-made cultural landscape. The aim of protecting the areas of Protected Landscape, following the international protected area standards and legislation in Albania, is not to preserve the intact ecological process with its associated biodiversity, but to protect the modified natural systems that have developed only in the higher floodplain belts along the Vjosa River.
The management objectives and standards for the Protected Landscape in Albania allow a "design" that would not provide long-term and effective protection against the modification of the hydrological regime of the Vjosa River and its tributaries.

**Proposed management objectives of the future Vjosa Wild River National park**

The **primary objective** of the future park Vjosa Wild River National Park is to protect the natural biodiversity together with the underlying ecological structure and supporting environmental processes, as well as to promote recreational and educational activities that are compatible with the concept of "green tourism" and promote the development of local communities in the catchment area of River Vjosa.

**Other objectives:**

- Manage the area to maintain representative examples of physiographic regions, biological communities, genetic resources, and undisturbed natural processes in as natural a state as possible;
- Maintain viable and ecologically functional populations and assemblages of native species at sufficient densities to preserve the long-term integrity and resilience of the ecosystem;
- Specifically contribute to the conservation of widespread species, ecological processes, and migration routes;
- Maintain visitor use for inspirational, educational, cultural, and recreational purposes at levels that do not cause significant biological or ecological degradation of natural resources;
- Addressing the needs of local communities, including the use of subsistence resources, where these do not conflict with the primary management objective;
- Contributing to the local economy through tourism.

**Boundaries, zoning, buffer zone and use of natural resources**

For the Vjosa Wild River National Park the following concept is proposed:

- the central zone (ZONE 1),
- the zone for recreation, traditional use and sustainable development (ZONE 2), and
- the buffer zone to the National Park (ZONE 3).
Map of the proposed boundaries and zones for the future Vjosa Wild River National Park

- NATIONAL PARK ZONE 1 – red: CENTRAL ZONE

The central zone includes only the narrow riverbed zone with seasonally regularly flooded areas in the lowest floodplain areas. This zone (identified as ZONE 1; red colour) aims to fully conserve biodiversity and ensure an undisturbed natural area. In its current state, the proposed ZONE 1 does not include any infrastructure, buildings or agricultural (cropland) or grazing land. Needless to say, there are no human settlements/individual houses within this core zone. Recreational activities, based on the waters of the Vjosa River and its tributaries, are allowed and should be encouraged.

Level A and Level B protection regimes (as stated in the Law 81/2017) inside this core zone of the National Park could be defined in the phase of detailed planning.

- NATIONAL PARK ZONE 2 – yellow: RECREATION, TRADITIONAL USE ZONE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Two sub-zones should be later defined in the phase of detailed planning of the National Park in the next stages: recreation and traditional use zone and sustainable development zone. At present, both sub-zones are not defined yet, but presented together as ZONE 2 (yellow colour).

In the sub-zone for recreation and traditional use, which primarily aims to preserve biodiversity while ensuring a low-disturbed natural area with traditional and ecotourism activities, the level of protection primarily aims to preserve biodiversity while ensuring a low-disturbed natural area with traditional and ecotourism activities. This area includes mainly flat areas on the first floodplain, which is not flooded every year. This zone is dominated by grasslands and some cropland in certain areas and includes some isolated residential and agricultural areas on the first floodplain.

In this (non-yearly flooded) zone, tourism, recreation and entertainment activities that do not alter the area can be carried out after approval by the relevant institutions. This zone also serves as a supporting infrastructural base for recreational activities for the ZONE 1 (e.g. access points for water sports such as rafting, canoeing, etc.) which include setting up temporary objects for tourism and recreation.
The **sustainable development sub-zone** aims to preserve nature and biodiversity in harmony with the development of socio-economic and tourism activities, including infrastructure for local residents and businesses. This zone often includes densely populated and intensively farmed areas.

International (IUCN) standards for protected areas require that the primary management objective of the protected area be implemented over 75% of the protected area territory. This standard will be achieved by identifying areas with specific management regimes in ZONE 2, which will be added to ZONE 1.

ZONE 1, where the primary management objective is already planned, covers 56% of the future Vjosa Wild River National Park.

**● BUFFER ZONE TO THE NATIONAL PARK / ZONE 3 – purple:**

ZONE 3 should form a buffer zone to the National Park. This zone is located above the first floodplain (ZONE 3 - purple).

The outer edge of the yellow ZONE 2 also represents the outer **boundaries** of the proposed Vjosa Wild River National Park (466 km²). The purple ZONE 3 is the buffer zone to the National Park (874 km²).

### Regulated use of the natural resources

Economic, social, tourist, scientific research and all other activities provided for in the Management Plan not expressly prohibited by Law 81/2017 may be **carried out in the proposed Vjosa Wild River National Park**.

The activities **allowed in the proposed national park after the issuance of the permit** by the competent authorities include:

- Any activity in accordance with the management plan or with the decision of the National Territorial Council;
- Monitoring of environmental conditions, ecosystem, habitats and species of flora and fauna;
- Scientific research studies, including those in the field of cultural heritage;
- Temporary tourist constructions, light, seasonal and environmentally friendly.

### Proposal for prohibitions/regulations of activities in the National Park

Draft prohibitions to be applied within the **entire National Park**:

- Hunting (the Law 81/2017);
- Introduction of non-native species;
- Intensive propagation or introduction of hunting animals, with the exception of conservation propagation;
- Afforestation in monocultures;
- Neutralization of waste;
- Making fires outside certain places and areas;
- Building highways, sailing canals and urban areas;
- Driving vehicles outside designated roads and areas.
Draft and preliminary list of prohibitions - **ZONE 1**

- Cutting of trees and shrubs;
- Construction work of any kind;
- Use of land by any technology, means or method that causes fundamental changes in biodiversity, ecosystem structure and functions, or irreversibly damages the land surface;
- Construction of roads, power lines and long-distance oil and gas systems;
- Extraction of minerals;
- Grazing, passage of domestic animals and construction of shelters for them.
- Use of chemicals and fertilizers;
- Movement of vehicles of any kind, except vehicles of the Reserve Protection Authority and the Fire and Rescue Service;
- Construction of permanent recreational, entertainment and sports facilities;
- Sailing by boats, canoes and other means of locomotion; except in designated areas identified in the management plan;
- Massive sports and tourism activities outside the prescribed places;
- Organizing motor vehicle/boat races;
- Washing and sprinkling of chemicals on roads.

Draft and tentative list of prohibitions - **ZONE 2**

- Alteration of natural condition of water bodies and wetlands;
- Dumping of chemicals;
- Collecting of plants, minerals, paleontological finds and stones;
- Construction and operation of facilities for military and conservation purposes.
- Erecting stands, signs, advertisements, placards and posters, without prejudice to those providing data on the conservation objectives of the reserve;
- Mountaineering, camping and lighting fires outside the designated areas.

**IV. THE NATIONAL PARK – ROADMAP**

Activities to establish a governance and management model for the National park (VWRNp) and roadmap

Key **administrative steps** (phase 1: establishment of the Vjosa Wild River National Park - VWRNp)

Activities:
1 Finalisation of the Planning Document
2 Establishment of the Planning Team
3 Decision on declaring the National Park
4 Stakeholder’s Consultation I
5a Draft Technical proposal on establishing the National Park
5b Identification of the gaps in the databases available
5c Additional focused studies
6 Approval of the technical proposal for the National Park
7 Draft declaration of the National Park
8 Stakeholder’s consultation II
9 Draft plan for declaring the National Park
10 Stakeholder’s consultation III
11 Decree on declaration of the National Park
Key supportive steps

Activities:

A...Establishment of the VWRNp Trust Fund
B...Operation of the VWRNp Trust Fund
C...Preparation of the VWRNp Management Plan
D...Identification of the future VWRNp staff and provision of training
E...Supportive activities on awareness, development of infrastructure and training on the green/sustainable development activities for the local communities and stakeholders
F...Visitor management and interpretation strategy
G...Identification of the needs for the infrastructure development and equipment for running the VRNp
H...Preparation of the funding proposals/projects for the operation of the VWRNp (outsourcing), including the VWRNp field office, equipment

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