



## Successful campaigns against unsustainable dam projects: Tara River

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# Free flowing pearl

- One of the longest river in Montenegro with 144 km
- „the second deepest canyon in the world“ with drinkable water almost the entire length
- listed in 1977. as UNESCO World Heritage Site list
- Belongs to NP Durmitor in year 1978.

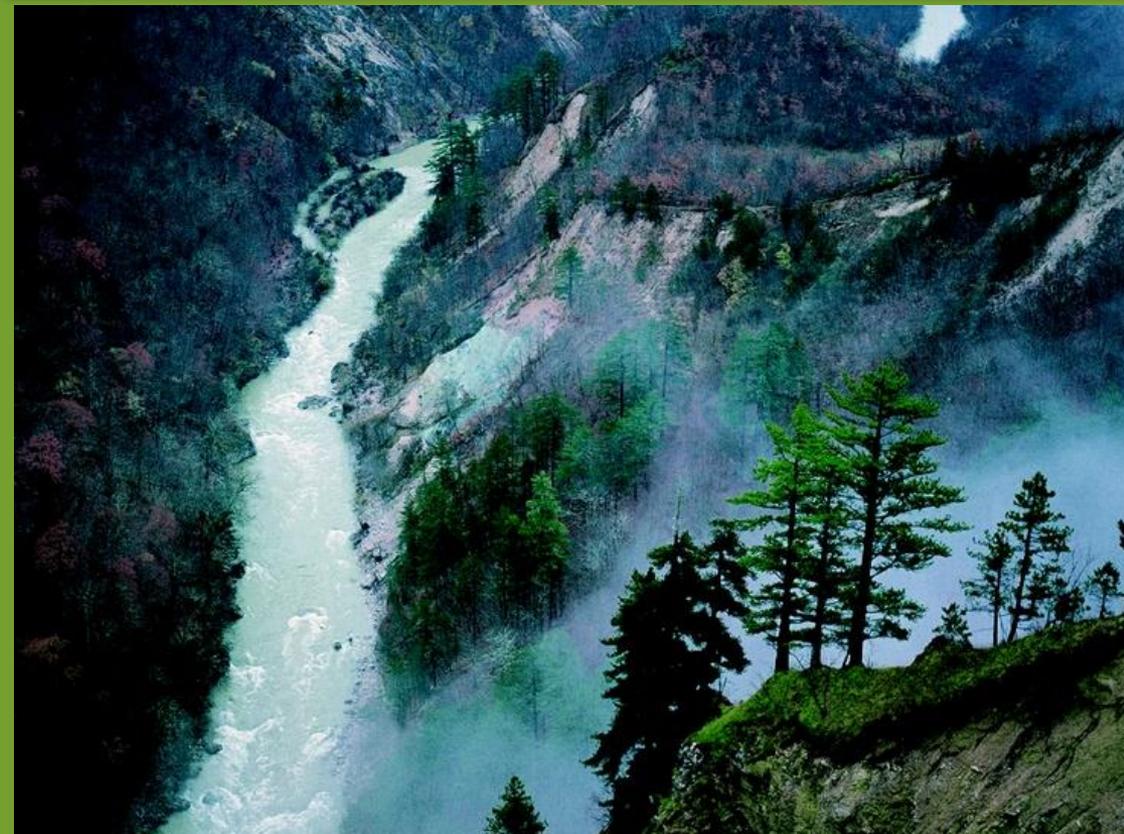


# Defending the Tara river from unsustainable hydropower

In February 2003, joint Governmental Council of the Republic of Serbia and Montenegro created the Agreement for building the hydro dam “Buk Bijela” with the capacity of 450MW along the Drina River

The planned water accumulation of 410 million m<sup>3</sup>, dam would jeopardise:

- 12-15km of the most attractive part of the canyon and rafting area
- 15 drinking water sources
- over 1400 kinds of plant and animal species 127 endangered bird species



# The story of the defence of Tara

- it began officially on 5 June 2004, with a symbolic protest of village people, local rafters and NGOs at the bridge on the Tara River, with the first slogan "Let it flow"
- warning letter to UNESCO sent by NGOs
- gained support of UNDP in country
- international level gathered 72 local environmental groups from BiH, Serbia, and Montenegro
- established a Crisis Group for Defending the Tara River
- launched the campaign with famous slogan "I don't want a swamp, I want Tara"
- The Crisis group reached 11000 stopping building supporting signatures in just one day.



- The Crisis group created Draft of the Declaration for Protection of the Tara River
- Both Declaration and Petition were submitted to Montenegrin parliament
- NGOs discussed with President of the Parliament and individual members the Declaration content and participated at the Parliamentary meeting



- Declaration has been adopted in Parliament of Montenegro at 14th of December 2004 as a document that guarantee stopping any devastations of the River including building the dam.
- Declaration for protection of the Tara river states the following principle:

*The construction of hydropower plants Buk Bijela and other possible interventions along the entire flow of the river Tara would represent a disturbing factor, not only in the canyon foreseen for sinking, but in the whole region, which is a development associated with the canyon.*



„Assembly of the Republic of Montenegro, respecting these principles, **rejected any interventions in the Tara River canyon**. As citizens, we are aware that Tara is our future and identity. Any attempt to change the Tara river requires the free expression of all citizens of Montenegro and **only right decision on the fate of the river would be a referendum**, both today and in the future.“



This encouraging result should serve worldwide to all NGOs as a testimony that with strong motivation and believe, with organized efforts of all actors success is possible to be reached.





**THANKS FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION!**