Save the Rivers of Stara Planina

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Stara planina geography

- Rich in geomorphological diversity:
  - Caves
  - Canyons
  - Gorgies
  - Streams
  - Rivers
  - Waterfalls
The biggest park of nature in Serbia
Biodiversity

- The area with great diversity in flora and fauna with many protected species on European red list.
History of our fight

- 25 years ago Serbian guverment wanted to steal Toplodolska river, put it in tunnel and devert it into the lake Zavoj.
- Few years ago they decided to build 58 SHPP on Stara planina.
Vladikine ploče
canyon

- Sick plan to build SHPP by drilling 2 km long tunnel and bypass the 4 km of river Visočica.

- Gigantic brown trout: 10 kg river trout and 20 kg lake trout.
River Rakitska

- The first river put under the mortgage!
- Destroyed road.
- Police went to people’s houses and took away their weapons.
- Investor presscharges on lokal people and won them on court, so we raised money to help them pay penalties.
Protests in many villages

- To inform, educate and encourage local people.
- To ask them not to sell their land to the investor or not to give permission for pipes to pass through their land.
River Rudinjska
People strike back!

- The investor diverted the river flow.
- The river completely sunk into the ground.
- All life vanished.
- 50 of us went there and dig for hours to put river back into its original riverbed.
- Police wanted to stop us.
Big protest in Pirot

- We became the biggest ecological movement in Serbia with 70,000 members.
- On 2. September 2018 we organised protest in town of Pirot where experts from various fields spoke to public about negative consequences of SHPP.
- 4000 people come from all over Serbia to support our struggle.
- We sent our demands from protests to Serbian government and we are still waiting for respond.
Here is a description of the image:

The image shows a large crowd of people gathered in an outdoor setting, possibly for a demonstration or protest. The crowd is dense, with many individuals holding signs and banners. The background includes a variety of buildings, some with signs and storefronts. A photographer or videographer is seen capturing the event with a professional camera. The setting appears to be a commercial area with shops and restaurants nearby.