

Kelmend Albania : Beyond the destruction of the nature and culture A demand for help and solidarity

Septembre 2018 Sarajevo

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NGO “For a future of Kelmend”



Introduction: ecocide & ethnocide

- ▶ *La destruction par l'homme de l'eco-système est à la fois, celle de la planète terre et des animaux et hommes qui la peuplent.*
 - ▶ Anthropologie de la mort, Louis Vincent Thomas
- ▶ *Man's destruction of the eco-system is at the same time that of the planet earth and the animals and men who inhabit it.*

All the social cultural and economic life is organized around the river.

If the river disappears, only death remains

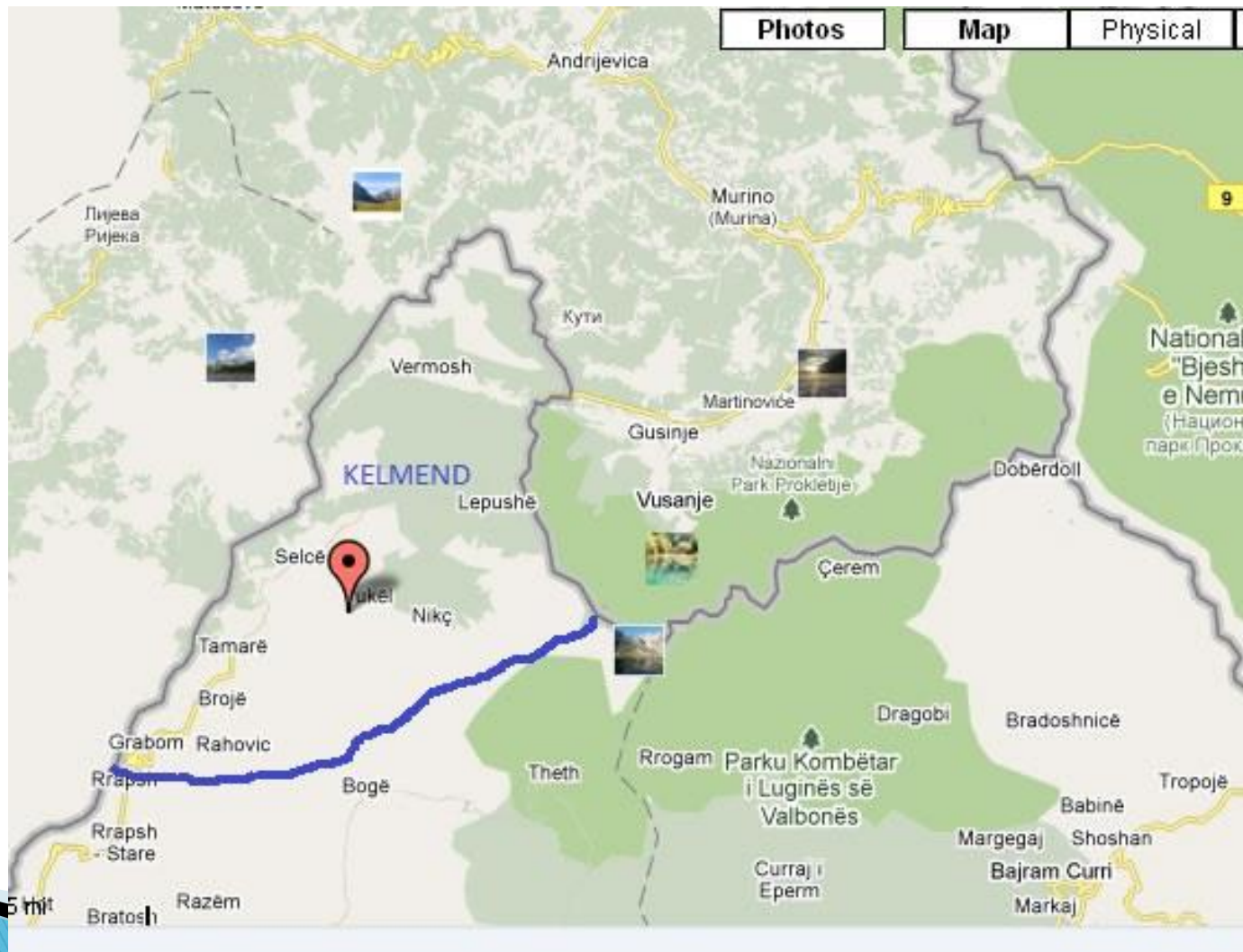
Geographic position of Kelmend in Albania



Presentation of Kelmend



Kelmend within the Albanian Alps



Some photos from Kelmend



Local economy : Forests and pastures

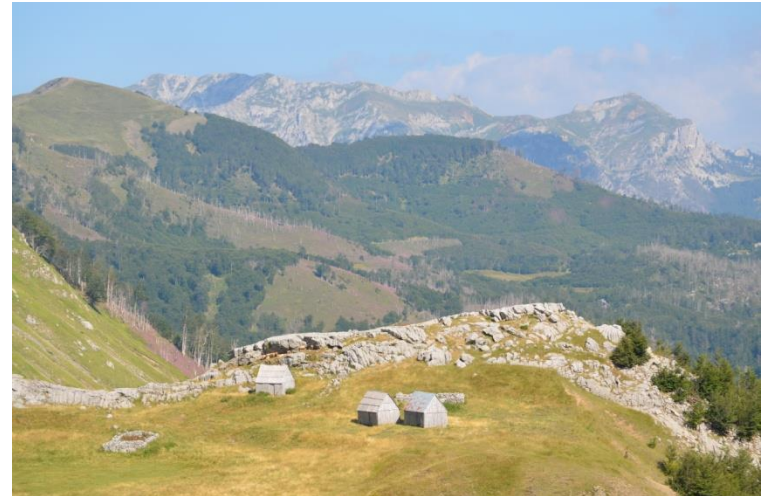
- ▶ Surface 17730 ha : 6800 ha forests.
- ▶ The high mountain pastures : 11 400 ha, 4500 ha privately owned by Kelmend residents.



Some photos from Kelmend – Valleys



Some photos from Kelmend – High mountains



Some photos from Kelmend

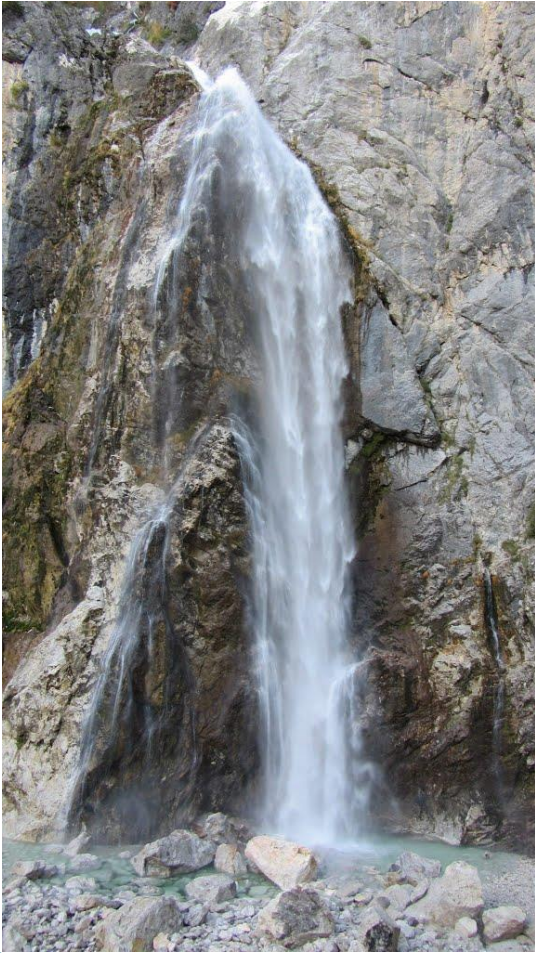


Virgin rivers and waterfalls

- ▶ 4 rivers : Vermosh and Lepushe flow towards Danube and Black Sea, Cemi is composed from two affluents Cemi of Selce and Cemi of Vukel. They are flowing towards lake of Shkoder and Adriatic Sea
- ▶ Many sources of water
- ▶ An important part of the water is underground.



Virgin rivers and waterfalls



Virgin rivers and waterfalls



Cem's waters are clean as crystal and as cool as ice

- ▶ The waters constitute one of the great natural resources of the Cem Valley. With them, the lives of the inhabitants of the area are closely related.



Halte à la construction abusive

**et démesurée de
centrales
hydroélectriques
dans le
Kelmend**



A very rich biodiversity

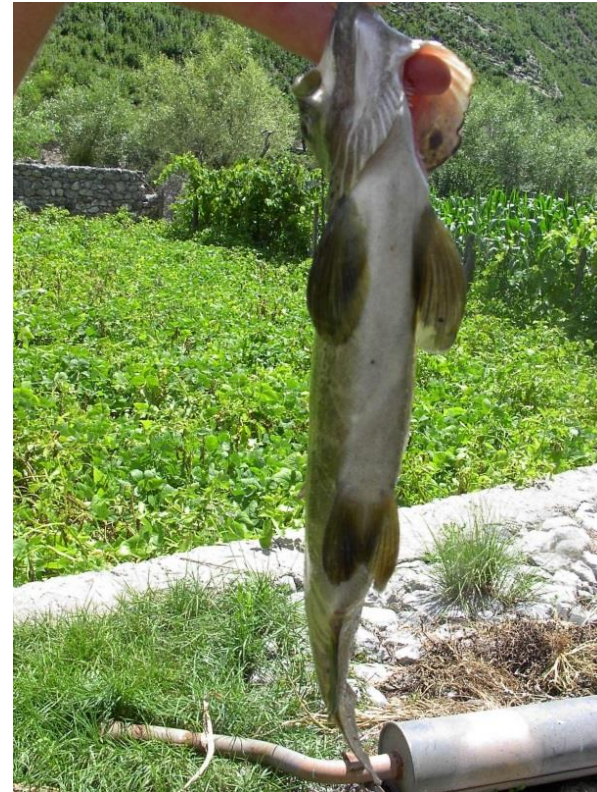
- ▶ Among the most magnificent natural and ecological habitats

The fish found in the Albanian part of Cem and Vermosh river are four species: *Salmo farioides* KARAMAN, 1938. Status: (VU), common species in the Cem River.



A very rich biodiversity

- ▶ *Salmo farioides* (River Cemi –Vukël)



A very rich biodiversity

Salmo mykiss

(WALBAURN, 1792) Rainbow trout,
California trout.

Two small farming economies are actually
existing with in the Cemi river



Salmo trutta fario

LINAEUS, 1758. Status : (VU)
living in Vermosh River, (Danube River
affluent).



A very rich biodiversity

Some Rare and Threatened plant species of the valley of Cem

- ▶ *Ranunculus hayekii* Döerfl. (Buttercup of Hajek).
- ▶ *Viola košaninii* (Deg.) Hayek (Violet of Koshanin).
- ▶ *Pedicularis ernesti-mayeri* Stevanović, Niketić & Lakušić (Lousewort of Majer).
- ▶ *Ramonda serbica* Panc. (Serbian phoenix flower).
- ▶ *Geranium dalmaticum* (G. Beck) Rech. (Dalmatian cranesbill).
- ▶ *Rhamnus intermedius* Steud. & Hochst. (Buckthorn).
- ▶ *Teucrium arduini* L. (Germander of Arduin).
- ▶ *Petteria ramentacea* (Sieber) C. Presl. (Dalmatian laburnum).
- ▶ *Ligusticum albanicum* Jav. (Albanian lovage).
- ▶ *Asperula scutellaris* Vis. (Woodruff).
- ▶ *Omalotheca pichleri* (Murb.) Holub. (Pihler cudweed).
- ▶ *Minuartia velenovski* (Rohlena) Hayek (Velenovski sandwort).
- ▶ *Micromeria parviflora* (Vis.) Reichenb. (Small flowers Micromeria).

They constitute important elements of genofond
and biological resources of high values for the human beings.

Floristic panorama of Kelmend



Rhamnus intermedius



Petteria ramentacea

Some more flowers



Ranunculus hayekii



Ramonda serbica

And more and more



Pinguicula hirtiflora



Moltkia petrea

Highest biodiversity from Albania in Kelmend



Geranium dalmatica



Teucrium arduinii

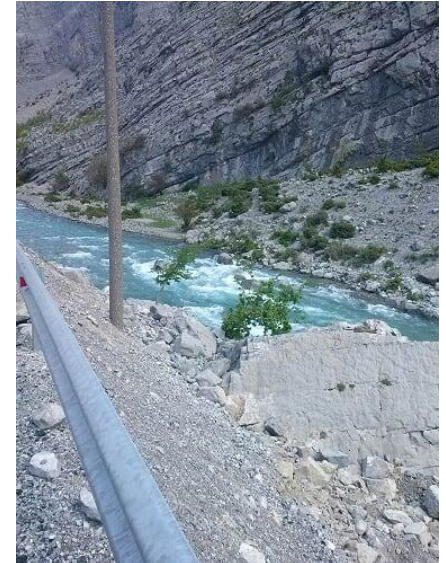
The dams are coming

Nightmare began in beginning April 2018.
What will remain with all this wonderful biodiversity ?

ECOCIDE LEADS TO ETHNOCIDE,
DEATH OF ALL THE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL LIFE
OF THE POPULATIONS LIVING THERE









The dammages are getting bigger day by day



Local economy : tourism and biological products

- ▶ Family ecotourism and ethnotourism in progression with traditional albanian hospitality as well in summer as in winter
- ▶ Agro-pastoral high quality all-organic food products of great rarity in this world :



**DESTRUCTION OF ECOSYSTEM WILL HAVE AS CONSEQUENCE
THE DESTRUCTION OF CULTURE AND HUMANITY**

Development potencialities – Cultural tourism



Agropastoralism a sustainable development



Kelmend within the expense of its traditions which development

ECOCULTURE

Kelmend alpine region North of Albania with agropastoral multimillenaire culture

Refuge for shepherds populations enabling preservation of autochthonous culture
Region of circulation exchange and communication enhancing a very rich ecosystem

PASTORAL SOCIOCULTURAL LANDSCAPES

Cultural landscapes being shaped by the shepherd with his herd maintaining transhumance traditions. Accumulation of traditional knowledge thus leaving their own imprint and identity. Offering to the world exceptional natural and cultural surroundings with a unique interaction between people and nature giving sense to the environment and the integrated beauty of the culture. A sociocultural dynamic of life (geographic, agronomic cultural and sociological organization) encompassing the pastoral identity of the region, which should not be erased.

WORLD HERITABLE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Highest valued intangible ecocultural heritage, a driving force for a sustainable development.. Need of protection for the very rich biodiversity traditions and customs threatened by many issues. Resistance and resilience abilities in defending their ecocultural territories and beliefs willing to go on transmitting to the world this heritage

THE SHEPHERD, ARTIST CREATOR OF PEACE AND STABILITY

He remains an emblematic figure as actor of sustainable development, creator of peace, harmony and stabilization. Beginning of welcoming tourism, but not at any price. It must be conjugated in harmony with agropastoral activities
Human being, animal and territory major component of the Collective Inconscient, representations and beliefs are underholding the culture build up the amazing beauty of the nature/culture unity.

STRATEGIES HAS TO BE SET UP AND OUR PLACE AS RESEARCHERS

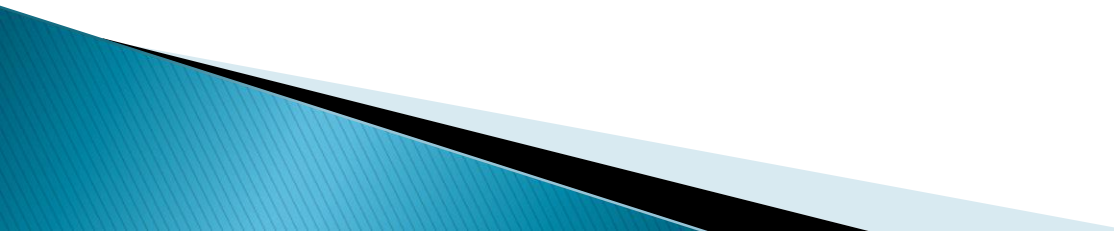
To set up strategies to give a sustainable living.
The researchers are aside the shepherds ensuring them right to their choice of life.
Supporting creating the 'House of the Shepherd', interpretation centre of the pastoral culture helping the region to become MAB protection area by UNESCO and a gift for all humanity.



Call, towards a future

ASKING FOR HELP: As a counterbalance.

Thank you for all those who can help us to prevent the
final deterioration of this region.



Road towards the future
Undertaking steps together



Heartfull welcome to Kelmend

