



PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET

MAPPING BARRIERS IN THE ERZEN RIVER BASIN

Identifying Viable Dam Removals in the Erzen River Basin, Albania

Funded by the Open Rivers Programme (ORP) · July 2026 – August 2027

PROJECT LEAD

LUMI

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

LUMI & AWP

BUDGET

≈ €70,000



— Map of the Erzen River basin

PROJECT AREA

The project covers the Erzen River and its tributaries, from the mountainous area of Mali me Gropa to its outflow into the Bay of Lalëz. The study spans roughly 278 km of river network, including the main stem and tributaries such as Zeza, Tërkuza and the Petrelë stream. The basin extends across the municipalities of Tirana, Vorë, Shijak, Durrës, Kavajë and Rogozhinë.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

- 01 Identifying and mapping artificial barriers on the Erzen River and its tributaries.
- 02 Assessing the impact of barriers on fish movement, sediment transport and river connectivity.
- 03 Assessing the ecological and hydromorphological condition of priority barriers.
- 04 Analyzing the legal status, ownership and practical feasibility of barrier removal.
- 05 Prioritizing barriers based on ecological benefit, technical and legal feasibility, and hydromorphological impact.

KEY ACTIVITIES

- 01 **Preliminary inventory** – analysis of the Erzen Basin Management Plan, satellite imagery, literature and existing data.
- 02 **Field surveys** – inspection of barriers along the main course and tributaries, recording their typology, dimensions, function, passability and impact.
- 03 **Ecological and hydromorphological assessment** – monitoring of fish and macroinvertebrate communities, hydromorphological characterization, and analysis of sediment and riverbed changes.
- 04 **Legal and ownership analysis** – verification of ownership, water use permits and procedures required to remove barriers.
- 05 **Consultation with local and institutional stakeholders** – engaging municipalities, water management authorities, operators, owners and local communities.
- 06 **Prioritization and reporting** – Multi-criteria assessment of barriers and selection of the most viable candidates for future removal.

This project is implemented by LUMI, in cooperation with the Albanian Water Partnership, with financial support from the Open Rivers Programme.