

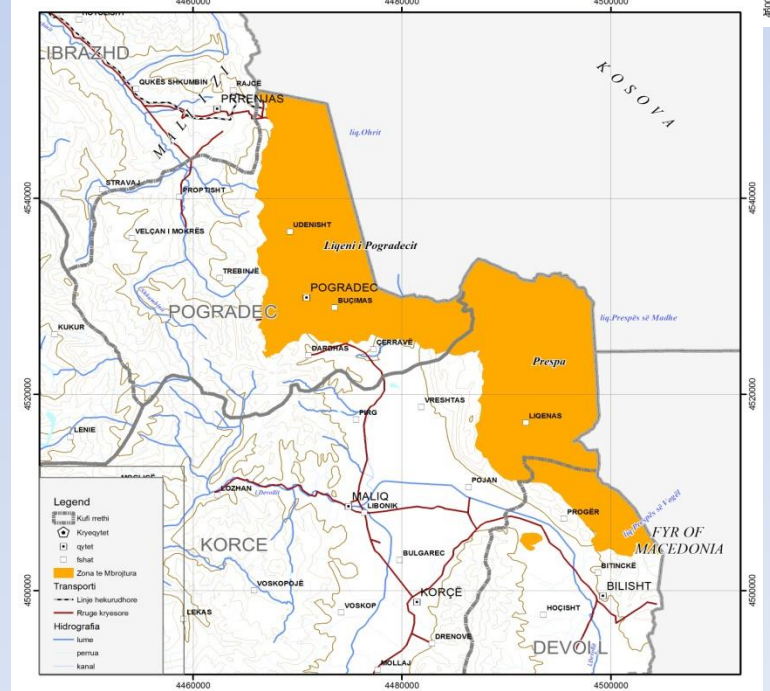
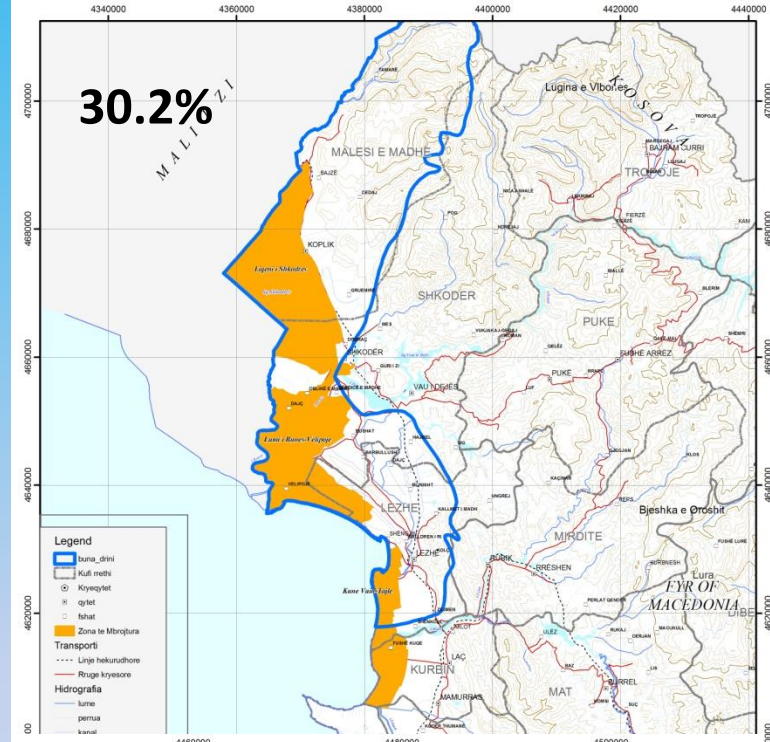
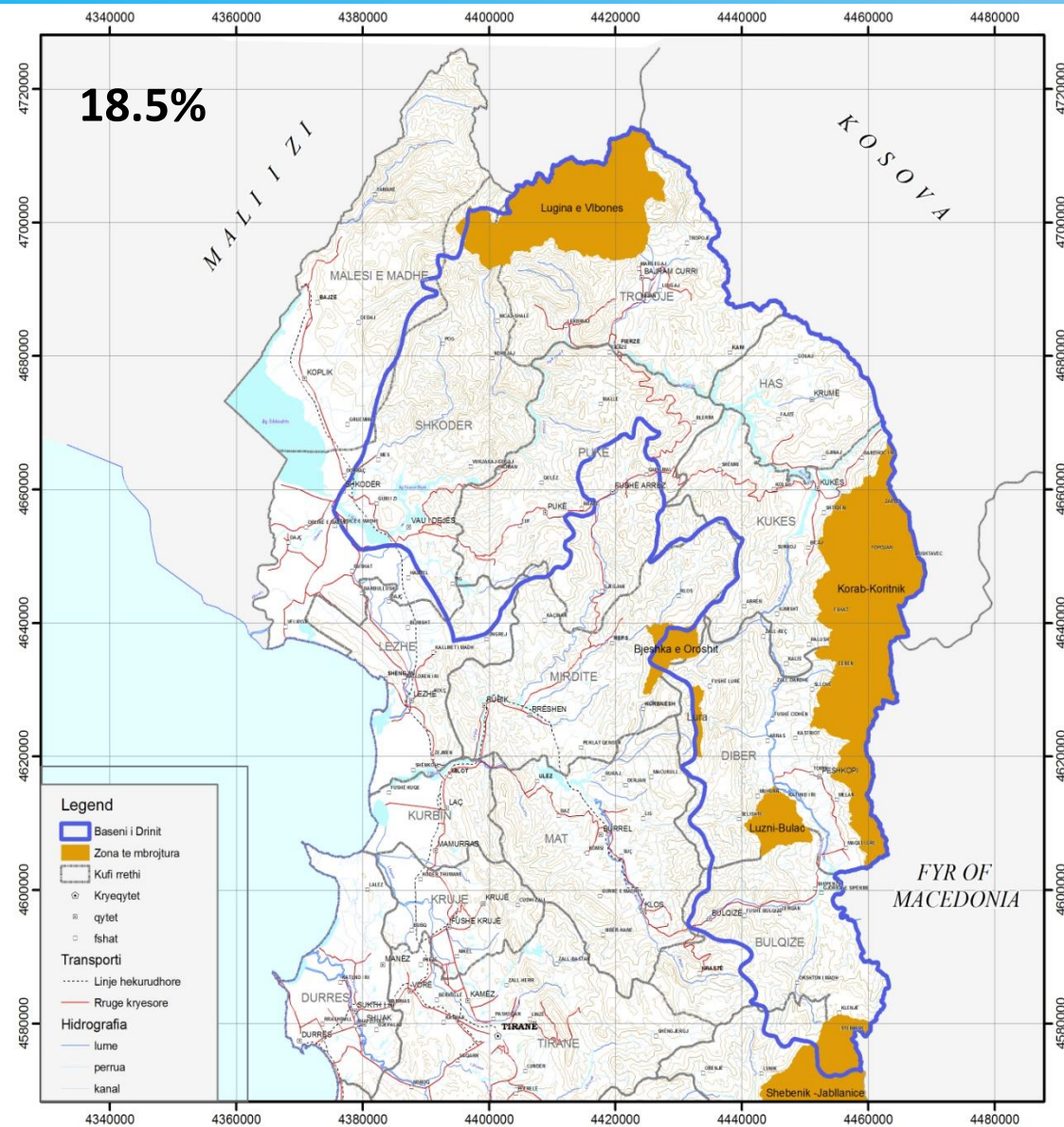
*Biodiversity and Ecosystems
Protection – Protected areas and
Wetland management*

*Main challenges including associated
capacity gaps*

Biodiversity

- Rich biodiversity (Prespa, Ohrid, Skadar lakes more studied)
- Place for endemism and migratory species (fishes)
- Artificial lakes (Komani and Fierza)
- The majority of the national fauna and flora species found in the area.
- Great variety of ecosystems: mountain, fresh water, wetlands, marine, etc.

Protected areas in the Drini Region



Identifying the gaps

- Lack of knowledge and a continues monitoring program, related to the public information and policy making process;
- Absence of the government and local institutional “presence” and capacities.
- Lack of adequate financial support from the government;
- Lack of harmonization of the legal acts and frame
- No enough attention for the education process
- Absence of a tourism strategy and related aquatic activities;
- Scarcity of cooperation on the technical level.

Finding of the challenges

- Stop Illegal activities (hunting, fishing, gravel extraction, business, etc.) and mitigate the negative impacts of the regular ones.
- Solid waste management.
- The effect in biodiversity of the pollution (industry, urban, farming, etc.).
- Enhance the effects from the hydropower.
- Fishery and forestry management.
- Water balance and tributaries management.
- Climate change effects.
- Protection of the wetlands ecosystem established in the area.
- Clear vision for the development, particularly for the tourism

What the group propose

- Increase the surface of PA (including the TBPA) and particularly managed them in a proper way;
- Elaborate a conservation/protection action plan for the transboundary areas of high and very high importance for biodiversity representation at habitat/ecosystem level;
- Simple effected project on wild fauna (fish) protection, including their distribution and stock, particularly the endemic and migratory species;
- Integration of measures and requirements for biodiversity protection and tourism strategies.

Action for policy advice

- Provide participation of local population in the management structures of protected natural assets, priority national parks.
- Provide integration measures for biodiversity / nature protection in the development sectors regulated by the physical planning documents.
- Prepare Plan for the Protection of Biodiversity from impacts of tourism development.
- Integrate measures and requirements for biodiversity / nature protection in the regulation for economic development.
- Adapt and develop mechanisms for the participation of interest groups in the decision making system regarding biodiversity protection.
- Working in establishing and strengthening the role of the civil society organizations and the base community organizations as the basis for the involvement and participation of the local community.
- Education program for biodiversity protection, its sustainable use and equitable share of the use of genetic resources.
- Promotion of regional cultural, social events