# Article information:

‘The hydropower goldrush’: how Europe’s first wild river national park saw off the dams | Rivers | The Guardian  
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/mar/22/hydropower-goldrush-europe-first-wild-river-national-park-vjosa-albania-aoe>

# Article summary:

1. The Vjosa River in Albania has become Europe's first wild river national park, protecting it from over 3,000 proposed dams and other damaging activities.

2. The campaign to protect the Vjosa involved years of protests, lawsuits, and investigations, drawing support from scientists, EU parliamentarians, and celebrities such as Leonardo DiCaprio.

3. While the park is a significant victory for nature conservation, concerns remain about the protection of the river's delta and potential future development on the Adriatic coast.

# Article rating:

Appears moderately imbalanced: The article provides some useful information, but is missing several important points or pieces of evidence that would be required to present the discussed topics in a balanced and reliable way. You are encouraged to seek a more balanced perspective on the presented issues by exploring the provided research topics and looking at different information sources.

# Article analysis:

The article titled ‘The hydropower goldrush’: how Europe’s first wild river national park saw off the dams by The Guardian provides an in-depth analysis of the Vjosa River in Albania and its recent designation as Europe’s first wild river park. The article highlights the efforts of NGOs, including Riverwatch, Save the Blue Heart of Europe (STBHE), EcoAlbania, EuroNatur, and Patagonia, to protect the Vjosa from more than 3,000 proposed dams. The article also discusses the biodiversity of the river and its importance to local communities.

While the article provides a comprehensive overview of the campaign to protect the Vjosa River, it has some potential biases and missing points of consideration. For example, while it highlights the importance of protecting rivers from hydropower projects, it does not provide a balanced view on renewable energy sources. Hydropower is one of the most widely used renewable energy sources globally and can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. However, poorly planned hydropower projects can have significant environmental impacts.

Additionally, while the article notes that not everyone is happy with the new national park designation due to concerns about future development on the Adriatic coast and plans for an international airport in the Vjosë-Nartë protected area, it does not explore these issues in detail or provide counterarguments. It also does not provide evidence for claims made about potential risks associated with these developments.

Furthermore, while highlighting Patagonia’s involvement in mediating between NGOs and government officials during negotiations for protecting the Vjosa River, there is some promotional content for Patagonia as an environmental organization. This could be seen as partiality towards Patagonia's role in protecting rivers.

Overall, while providing valuable insights into efforts to protect Europe’s last wild river from hydropower projects and preserve its biodiversity, this article could benefit from presenting a more balanced view on renewable energy sources and exploring counterarguments related to concerns about future development on the Adriatic coast.

# Topics for further research:

* Counterarguments for hydropower as a renewable energy source
* Environmental impacts of poorly planned hydropower projects
* Risks associated with development on the Adriatic coast
* Plans for an international airport in the Vjosë-Nartë protected area
* Perspectives of local communities on the national park designation
* Other NGOs and organizations involved in protecting the Vjosa River

# Report location:

<https://www.fullpicture.app/item/f621b0391fb69e9bedf944a96c67e748>