



## 1 BACKGROUND

In March 2023, the Vjosa Wild River National Park (VWRNP) was formally established, becoming the largest national park in Albania. The VWRNP covers the entire Vjosa River in Albania, from the Greek border to its mouth in the Adriatic Sea, as well as three main tributaries: Drinos, including Kardhiq, Bënçë and Shushicë. In the next phase, all free-flowing tributaries, together with the adjacent most valuable areas with highest biological and geomorphological values, shall be included in the extended area of the National Park. In addition, a procedure has been initiated for the establishment of a transboundary protected area between Greece and Albania, which will ensure adequate protection of the entire Aaos-Vjosa river basin.

The full operation of the VWRNP is expected to start in early 2024. However, the preliminary operation of the VWRNP is planned to start as early as 2023 (transition period). The initial capacity building plan assumes that the limited number of staff currently employed in four RAPA facilities (Vlore, Gjirokastra, Divjaka and Korca) will be temporarily relocated to the area of the newly created VWRNP before a dedicated management authority and staff are appointed in 2024.

Priority activities in 2023 include:

consultant, funding proposals should be developed for submission to various funding mechanisms and programmes.

## **2 OBJECTIVE**

The consultant(s) will lead the fundraising work for the Vjosa Wild River National Park to support the on-going multi-year financing of park operations and development, as well as to support specific projects in 2023 and 2024 to build local support for the new national park. The projects would range from philanthropic proposals to in-depth Overseas Development Proposals (ODA).

## **3 DELIVERABLES AND TIME FRAME**

Overview:

The fundraising expert(s) will work closely with the conservation experts, transition park director and financial expert to develop plans and proposals. The key stakeholders will be senior staff from the Albanian

