

WATER RELATED CONFLICTS LINKED WITH DEVELOPMENT OF HYDRO POWER PLANTS IN ALBANIA

Elton Qendro

Academy of Armed Forces

ALBANIA

eltonqendro@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The main objective of this study is to assess the water-related conflict cases linked with hydro-power development in the country. The assessment is based on data gathered using the Environmental Justice Organization, Liabilities and Trade (EJOLT) framework assessment model. The findings presented here are intended to provide supporting information for the detailed planning of the project activities such as the interactive conflict map as well as to support the local environmental organizations, local communities, engaged citizens, scientists, farmers and energy companies to improve the management of conflict cases regarding hydro-power projects in the country. The assessment study mapped 18 certain cases of hydro-power conflicts reported in Albania during the period 2012-2016. Overall, out of these conflicts 34 people have been detained and/or arrested among which 6 were women and 1 minor and 6 casualties have been registered in connection with hydro-power projects (*4 work accidents and 1 conflict borne from HPP construction+ 1 murder attempt*). The study found that the small hydro-power plants are the most conflict-ridden projects. The respondents made several recommendations for a deep analysis of the environmental impact and also local benefit to develop hydro-power projects and also stressed the need to strengthen the enforcement of the monitoring of the water use by the energy companies.

Keywords: Conflicts, water, hydropower, public participation, environment.