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## IMPORTANCE OF SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND THE SCIENCE-POLICY INTERFACE IN ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN ALBANIA

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### ABSTRACT

Here it is discussed the importance of socio-ecological studies and close cooperation between the academic world, decision-making and investors in environmental sustainability. It is based on our experience in years of environmental studies in Albania, with the focus mainly the river Vjose/Aoos. The aim is to stir up the efforts to strengthen the quality of knowledge for all actors in this process as a need in balancing better the development with the conservation natural resources. Setting up a round table Science-Policy is recommended as interface between the academic world and decision-making in all major infrastructure projects. Such an experience can be of interest not only for Albania, but also for other countries on a Planet, suffering today from severe environmental concerns.

**Keywords:** the socio-ecology concept, infrastructure projects in Albania, Vjosa/Aoos River, Science-Policy interface.