Tirana Outer Ring Road project and its negative impacts on the National Botanical Garden

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General information about the Tirana Outer Ring Road

Tirana outer Ring Road first project dates February of 2009, financed from EBRD which later withdrew from this project.

The second project dating August 2010, is financed from the General Road Directorate and damages 25% of the Botanical Garden territory.

Construction started on 1\textsuperscript{st} June of 2011 from the General Road Directorate without construction permit, environmental permit and EIA.

The constructions were temporarily stopped from the Ministry of Environment, noticing the lack of EIA on 10\textsuperscript{th} July 2011.

The problematic segment of the Tirana Outer Ring Road is passing nearby the National Botanical Garden of Tirana. (The Botanical Garden is the only one of its kind in Albania and it has irreplaceable national values.)

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Problematic Issues

- In the second project (from General Road Directorate) public consultations were not held at all in the beginning and constructions and damaging of the Botanical garden from the road project begun with neither Construction Permit nor Environmental Permit and Environmental Impact Assessment.

- The public consultation about the road project took place only 15 days after the constructions had started destroying 1 Hectare of the Botanical Garden.

- Only six days were left to the public to analyze EIA report.

- The quality of the EIA of the road project presented from the General Road Directorate was very low and it was heavily criticized from the attendees of the meeting who highlighted the lack of a profound study and a very outdated analysis for the EIA.

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EDEN concern for this project

• A letter sent to Ministry of Transport and Public Works requesting information on the change of the Tirana Outer Ring Road project (17.03.2011)

• A letter sent to Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration requesting information on the project Environmental permit of the Tirana Outer Ring Road project (23.03.2011)

• An open letter was sent on June 11th 2011 to the Prime Minister of Albania. This letter requested an interruption of the constructions which were destroying the integrity of the Botanical Garden. This letter was signed from 33 Civil Society Organizations.
EDEN concern for this project

• Letter sent to Tirana Municipality on 22/07/2011, highlighting the lack of construction permit and Environmental Permit of the project.

• An open letter was sent on 24 March 2011 to the diplomatic bodies and development agencies in Albania.

• Letters also sent to DG Environment, DG Enlargement, DG Energy and Transport

• Letter sent to the Program Manager of the Aarhus Convention

• 2 Protest organized against the construction works and as a result not 25% but 10% of the Botanical Garden was destroyed

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The reply from Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration pointing out that there is no environmental permit (07.04.2011)
Photos

Road project near the Botanical garden

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Photo and video from the protest

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bRDHMj37IEY

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