

Some curiosities about the hydropotential of the Vrbas river

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Position of the Vrbas River

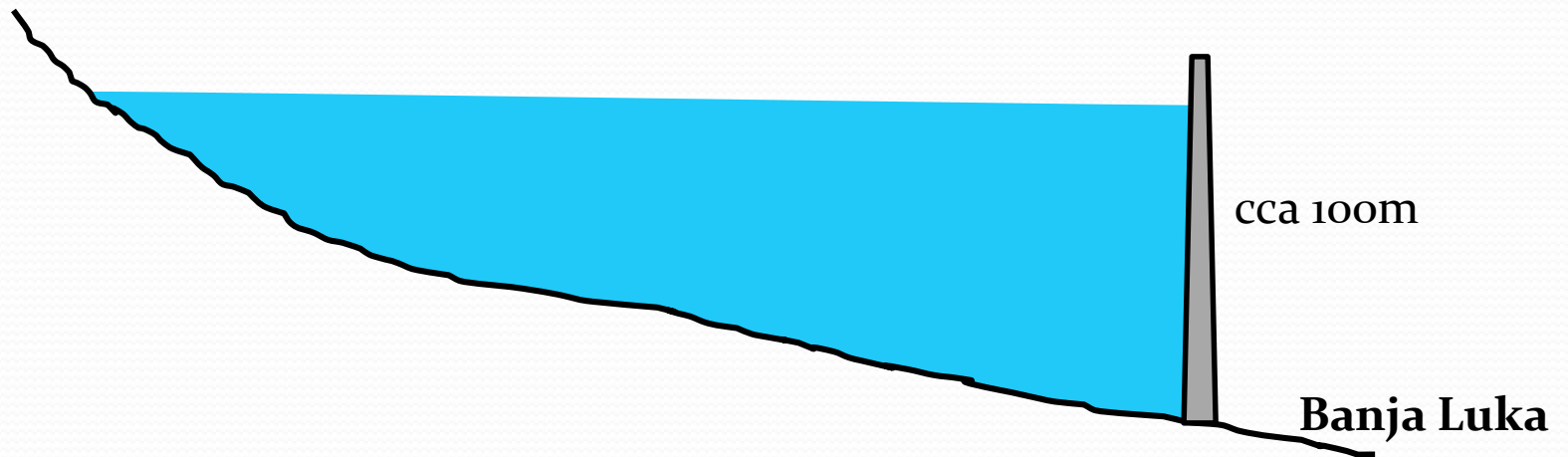


Energy Potential

- Theoretical potential including all tributaries is up to 3000 GWh/yr
- Only 720 GWh/yr is being used today, mainly by means of three HPPs:
 - HPP Jajce I (54MW, built in 1957)
 - HPP Jajce II (30MW, built in 1954)
 - HPP Bočac (110MW, built in 1981)

Mega Idea

- In the 1960's there existed an idea to construct a large HPP with a high volume reservoir



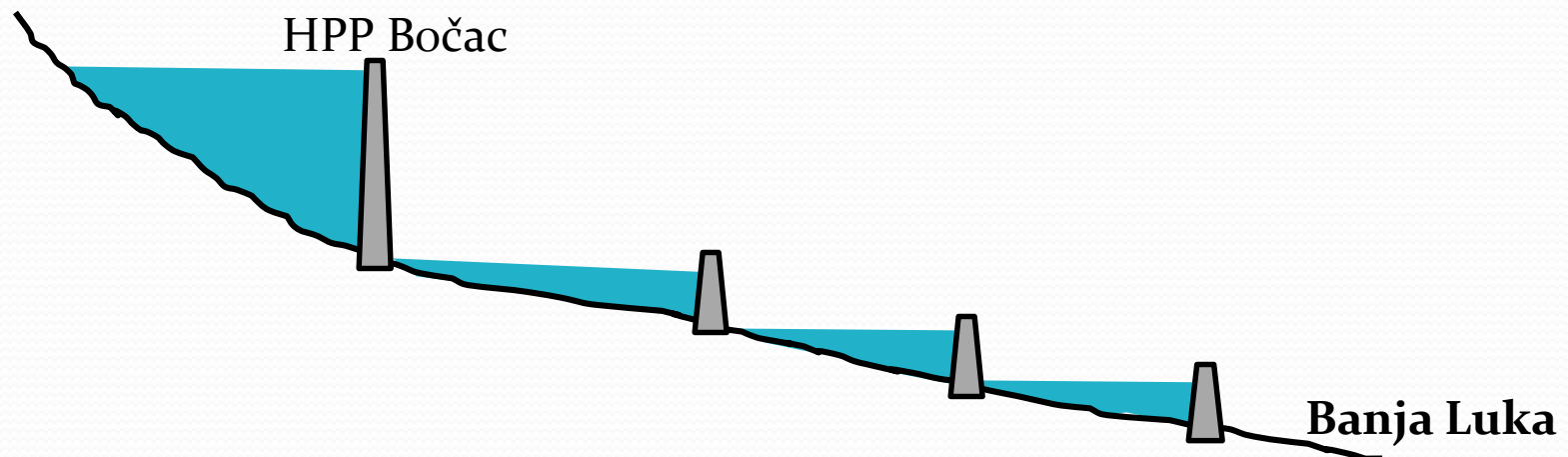
Disastrous Earthquake

- A strong earthquake which devastated Banja Luka in 1969 has increased the suspicion in the raising a large reservoir upstream of an important regional center.



Compromise Solution

- It was decided to build several HPPs with the smaller reservoirs in order to decrease risk.
- During the 1980's the first step was made. HPP Bočac (110MW) was successfully constructed.
- The unfortunate war in the 1990's has stopped all the activities



New Beginning

- The government of the Republic of Srpska entity has given a concession for two of three abovementioned HPPs (with total capacity of about 80MW and production of about 330 GWh/yr)
- The agreement with company HES Vrbas was signed in 2004.



Public Reaction

- The agreement has triggered an avalanche of protests along the Banja Luka streets – “Say no to hydropower plants on the Vrbas river”



Rafting Championship

- As an additional counter measure, the opponents obtained the organization of a world rafting championship which was scheduled for May 2009.



Reality is Between Two Worlds

- 2009 turned to be very dry and the Vrbas flow was not enough for successful organization of the competition.
- The upstream HPP Bočac was asked to release the optimal flow from its reservoir in order to save the competition from the collapse.



The Future

- The concession contract has been recently terminated.
- It is uncertain what will be the next steps.
- Definitely, the integral approach should be employed.