

## Municipality of Tirana: Basic Information

### Before the Territorial & Administrative Reform (2014):

Surface area: **41.8 km<sup>2</sup>\***  
 Administrative Units: **11**

### After the Territorial & Administrative Reform:

Surface area: **1121 km<sup>2</sup>\* (27x bigger)**  
 Administrative Units: **24**

**Current Population:** 863 694 inhabitants\*\*

**Projected Population:** 1 759 711 inhabitants (until 2030)\*\*\*

### Green areas\*:

**57%** of the whole MoT boundary - 639 km<sup>2</sup> *including National Parks*

**21%** of these green areas are located in the urban fabric - 134 km<sup>2</sup>



\*Source: The Municipality of Tirana General Local Plan (2017)



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\*\*Source: General Directorate of the Civil Status, Ministry of Internal Affairs

\*\*\*Source: The Municipality of Tirana General Local Plan (revised, 2022)

# Summary of Urban Biodiversity Context

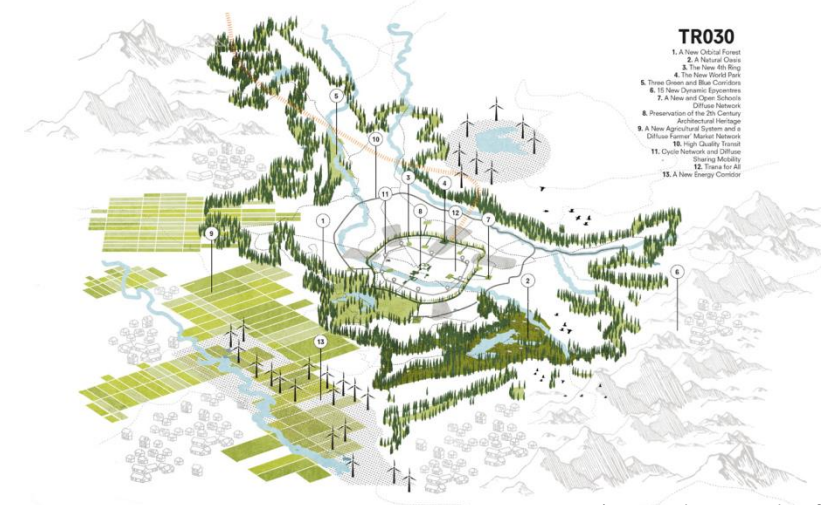
## Tirana's General Local Plan TR030 - 2017

### Strategic Objectives related to Urban Biodiversity:

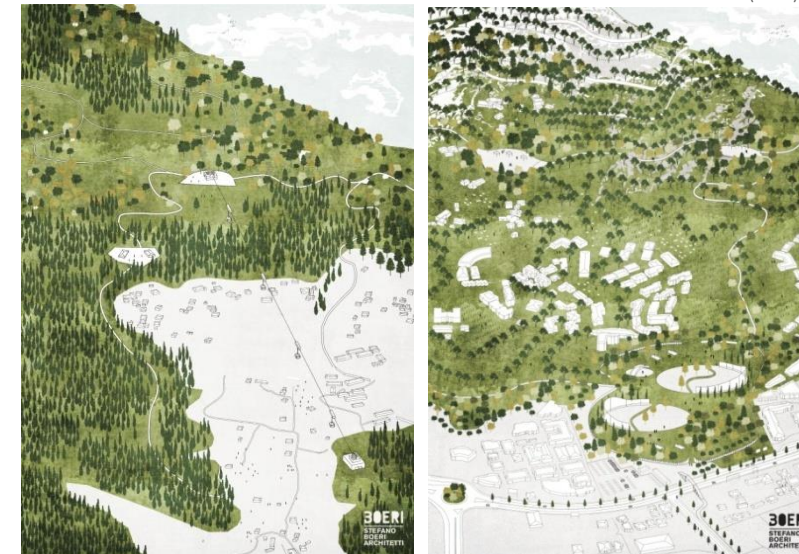
- A New Orbital Forest (MetroBosco)

The **Orbital Forest** is defined as an **instrument for preventing land consumption** (agricultural and natural), & **urban sprawl** identified as the **physical limit of the development and expansion of the urban system** in the natural environment. This border is defined in legal and technical terms as a belt with a naturalization function, which will connect the existing suburban parks, agricultural areas, forest areas and areas around the lakes, thus being in itself one of the new green spaces of Tirana. With an **area of 2563.8 ha**, this forest is conceived as a protective belt which will be able to block land consumption **by creating a ring of fruit trees, parks, forests with naturalization** aiming to plant **2 million trees by 2030**.

- A Natural Oasis
- The New World Park
- Three Green and Blue Corridors



\*Source: The Municipality of Tirana General Local Plan (2017)



\*Source: The Municipality of Tirana General Local Plan (2017)

## Summary of Urban Biodiversity Context

### Green City Action Plan - 2018

**GCAP Vision:** enabling people to **enjoy a healthy and high-quality life** in a **green, resilient and inclusive Tirana** that makes smart use of resources

### Strategic Objectives:

- Sustainable Mobility
- Green Spaces & Biodiversity
- Sustainable Energy
- Resource Management
- Climate Change Resilience & Adaptation

### The departments managing and monitoring urban biodiversity:

*The Agency of Parks and Recreation - APR\**

*General Directorate of Environment and Sustainable Development\**

*\*Part of the municipal organizational structure*



\*Source: The Municipality of Tirana General Local Plan (2017)

## The top three key challenges in implementing urban biodiversity strategy in Tirana

- **Urban Sprawl** - If left uncontrolled, the **city's growth** could take **the form of continuing sprawl**, leading to rising infrastructure costs, longer commuting times, **destruction of the natural environment** and productive agricultural areas, and overall rising energy and transport fuel consumption.
- **Open Green Spaces** - The Urban Plan of Tirana indicates that the ratio of open green space per 100,000 inhabitants is 4.6ha, indicating **lack of green areas within neighborhoods**.
- **Pollution in Water Bodies** - Tirana River (N) and Lana River (S) are two main disposal sites for city sewage and drainage. There is **no water treatment plant in Tirana** and only 74% of consumers are connected to the city's sewerage network. Surface water pollution levels in rivers and lakes, including Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Ammonium (NH<sub>4</sub>), are key issues and signs of untreated wastewater discharges.

*Biodiversity quality data results limited for both terrestrial and aquatic ecology. Anecdotal evidence indicates that the quality of biodiversity in Tirana is poor, despite of extensive networks of parks, natural areas and street trees.*



\*Source: The Municipality of Tirana General Local Plan (2017)

## What are the opportunities and benefits for implementing urban biodiversity strategy?

### Green Spaces & Biodiversity

The benefits of more and better green spaces include:

- stormwater management
- carbon sequestration
- urban heat mitigation
- improved air quality
- reduced energy demand
- improved quality of life
- reduced pollution and greater biodiversity



\*Source: The Municipality of Tirana General Local Plan (2017)