

## Environmental organizations have called on Albania to stop building an airport in the protected lagoon

The airport should cover an area of about 19,000 hectares, which is a protected area. In that zone there are pelicans, flamingos and about 200 other species of birds.

Environmental NGOs have called on Albania to abandon the construction of an airport in a protected part of the Adriatic lagoon, where there are several species of birds, and the project is worth several tens of millions of euros.

The government has so far received two responses to a 86m-euro tender announced for the construction of another international airport near the tourist city of Vlora, south of Tirana. In an open letter to the authorities, 36 national and international environmental organizations expressed deep concern over the project, which would “irreversibly damage the ecosystem”, especially the endangered bird sanctuary.

Albanian Infrastructure Minister Belinda Baljuku said two international consortia had responded to the tender, adding that the final choice would be announced in March. The winner of the tender will be responsible for infrastructure management for 35 years.

Source: [danas.rs](http://danas.rs)