



**BAZ COMMUNE**  
**LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**  
**2009 - 2014**

# BAZ LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2009-2014

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## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

*B*az commune in Diber Qark is one of the local government units with a particular history, with colorful traditions and a rich legacy from the past. From early 90-ies and on, there have been investments in all the villages of Baz commune (6 of them), mainly in infrastructure such as roads, canalization and sewage, as well as in education, health and other services. These changes have contributed to the improvement of the wellbeing of the population in these areas.

Nevertheless, the pace of development is yet far from satisfactory and not in compliance with the rhythm of general progress. The citizens' ambitions have risen on a higher stage, thus needs for further investment and services have changed. Short term minor investments are not appropriate any more and same goes for fulfillment of conditions and needs of the moment. What we need to do is to have a clear strategy of what we want for our commune in the future; we need to define issues such as: what will be the most determinant activity so that the citizens can generate income for themselves and based on this focus future investments; what are our priorities, when is solved what, depending on the financial resources to do so; what are the challenges we will face in the course of development? What are the ways we need to go?

Thus, we considered that it would be very important to prepare the Strategic Development Plan for Baz commune, based on opinions and concerns of the intellectuals, commune administration and the whole community.

Baz commune not only needs this development plan but it will also guide the commune administration and the community for the actions they must take in the future. With the support of the Qark Council (Training Unit), the Strategic Development Plan was successfully finalized after several months of work. The plan provides information about the history of this region, traditions and customs, relief and geography which is quite favorable since Baz connects Burrel with Tirana and Rreshen. Baz is a place where harmony between various religions is one of the most distinguished characteristics of the population.

The plan also gives information about the population, economy, natural resources, education, health sector, infrastructure, agriculture and animal husbandry, business, etc. It describes achievements and objectives for the future. As stated above, the plan has the input of the community of all the villages of Baz commune.

Our vision is to see Baz with asphalted roads, green areas, empowered business, good infrastructure, water and lighting, increased economic standards, improved social-cultural and health services in each of the villages of the commune.

We see our commune with functional irrigation canals, sewage, bridges, asphalted rural roads and people who will not think of moving away but make a living here instead.

All of us must work and make sure that the plan will not be just words on

*paper. In order to achieve the objectives of the plan there is need for real commitment, need for funds, as well as hard work and community participation. All the abovementioned in place and with the support of the central government and various donors, I believe that the development plan will become a reality.*

*The objectives and priorities of this plan will be part of the annual economic plan of the commune which will be discussed and approved by the Commune Council and decisions will be made in full compliance with the short and long term objectives of this plan. This document may very well serve as a guidebook for any institution, individual or interest groups which in the future may show interest in knowing more about Baz commune. This is the bases where any social or economic development plans will start from.*

*The plan can be improved or amended by other generations depending on the new needs and priorities.*

*I thank the working group and Diber Regional Council very much and I believe that with our common commitment we shall transform our commune into a prosperous and nice place to live.*

***Fatmir KURTI***

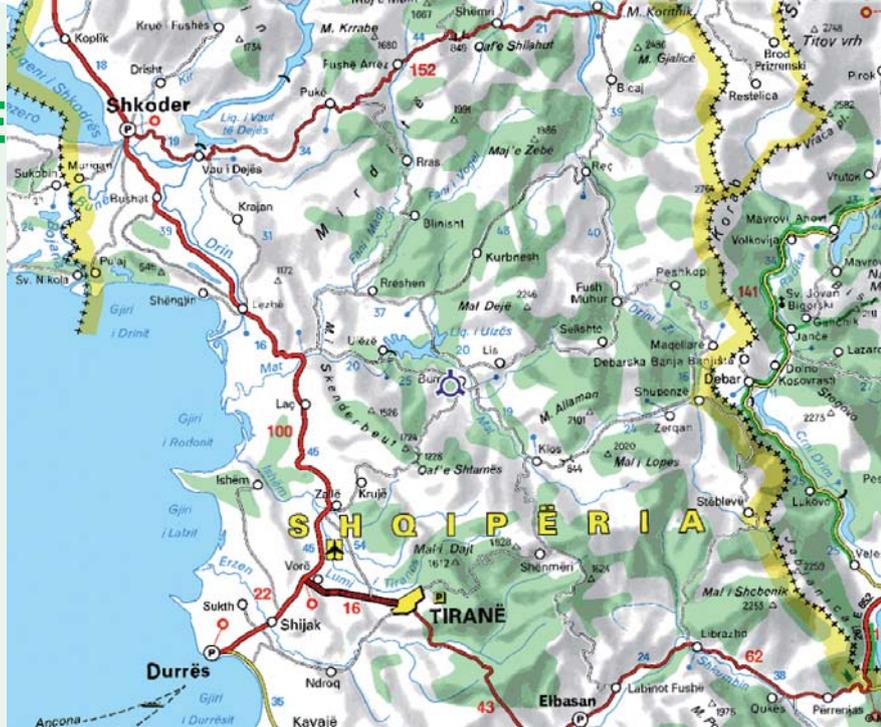
***Mayor of Baz commune***

# COMMUNE PROFILE

## GEOGRAPHIC POSITION

**B**az commune is one of the administrative units of Mat district in Diber Qark. It lays on the west of the town of Burrel and it is bordered by Komsi commune in the east and southeast, Ulez commune in the west and Rukaj commune in the north. The closest villages to the town of Burrel are Drita and Karica - 5 km far from it. The village of Baz which is the commune centre is 14 km far from Burrel. The surface of the commune territory is about 81, 1 km<sup>2</sup> and its population reaches up to 3500 people living in 4 main villages: Baz, Rreth Baz, Karicë and Drita (Ferrë-Karicë). As a matter of fact, in 2000, the Commune Council decided to divide the village of Baz in three villages in order to facilitate administrative issues and because of the big population as well. Thus the commune is actually composed of 6 villages: Baz, Rreth-Baz, Fush-Baz, Karice, Drita and Bashkim. Each of these villages functions as an administrative subunit, i.e. they each have elected the council of village elders, based on Law Nr. 8652 dt.31.07.2000 "For the organization and functioning of the local governance "

The terrain is plain, hilly and mountainous ; in the east there is the lowest elevation from the sea level - 150 m whilst the highest one is the peak of the Skanderbeg Mountain which is 1700 m high. Baz is a joining point between Burrel and Tirana, Durrës, Rëshen (Mirdita district) and the rest of Albania. It is rich in natural resources. The climate is Mediterranean - continental, with cold winters (temperatures can drop below -10 or -15 0 C and hot summers with temperatures up to 30-35 0 (even 40 0 C in the last years). There can be 800-1000 mm of showers per year in the low area and 2000-2500 mm per year in the mountains. There are showers mostly in winter, spring and autumn. The national road Diber-Burrel-Tirana which connects Albania with Macedonia at Bllata Customs in Diber runs through the ter-



ritory of the commune.

Out of the water resources we can mention Baz Creek and Karica Creek. They both flow into the Lake of Ulez which borders the Baz commune in the east and north east. Karica Creek does not have much water and it is used by the households of Karica for irrigation purposes. The Baz Creek has a lot of water and it is used for irrigation by the households of the village of Baz. The rest of the water flows into reservoirs No. 1 and No. 2 which are in the village of Baz and are used to irrigate the whole communal arable land.

Baz commune is quite outspread and rich in forests which take up to 2975 hectares of land. Forests are mostly oak and chestnut trees and then there are beech and pine trees in the Skanderbeg Mountain. The forests provide clean fresh air and also income for the wood industry as well as fire wood for the commune population. During the transition years the forests were damaged because people have been cutting trees down recklessly. The forests and pastures are rich in medicinal plants and fauna (boars, hares, grouses, wild birds, etc). The mountains of Karica and Baz can host up to 2000 sheep and 3000 goats during the summer.

## BRIEF HISTORY

Findings of the archaeologists in FerreKarice, Kalivac, Fushebaze, Rrethe Baz etc, prove that this area was inhabited since the ancient times. There were found and are still in use names such as Lisi i Shenkollit (Shenkoll oak tree) in Karice, Kisha e Shengjergjit (Shengjergj Church), Kisha e Kalivacit (Kalivac Church), Kisha e Shenmarise (Shenmari Church) in Fushe Baz etc.

Another proof are the toponyms which are connected with the names of villages and other sites such as Perroi i varreve (The Graves' Creek), Kalivac, etc...

Throughout its history, Baz has been part of the economic, social and political developments and impacts were same as for the rest of Albania. The population of this area is known for being hardworking and civilized; they love to learn and have participated in many important national historic events. We need to mention Mr. Hoxhe Kurti who together with other well known men of that time took part in the proclamation of independence in 1912 in Vlora. Under the leadership of the King Ahmet Zog, men from Baz and Karice took part in the war against Montenegrins. The population of this territory fought against any kind of invasion. Even during the time when Albania was under the communist rule, many families and well known people of the area were prosecuted and penalized. Distinguished people from the commune are nowadays working in several sectors of the economy throughout the country.



## POPULATION

Baz has a population of 3500 people who, as mentioned above live in 6 villages. The demographic move in Baz commune is smaller than in the rest of Mat district. Furthermore the population of the commune has been stable during the last 5 years. However, those who move, go to Tirana, Dures, Kurbin and Lezha.

## IMMIGRATION

As shown in the table below, the number of immigrants from our commune is quite high. There are about 350 people from Baz commune, i.e. 10% of the population of the commune who have immigrated abroad and their ages vary from 18 to 40. About 30 % of them work in Italy, 50 % in Greece and 20 % in Great Britain, France, Germany, etc. Nevertheless, possibilities for investment with immigrants' income are limited. Some of them have immigrated with their entire families which as a result has caused decrease of capital flow towards Albania.

In the tables below there is information about the main characteristics of the population such as age, gender, education, employment, unemployment, number of pensioners and families receiving state benefit.

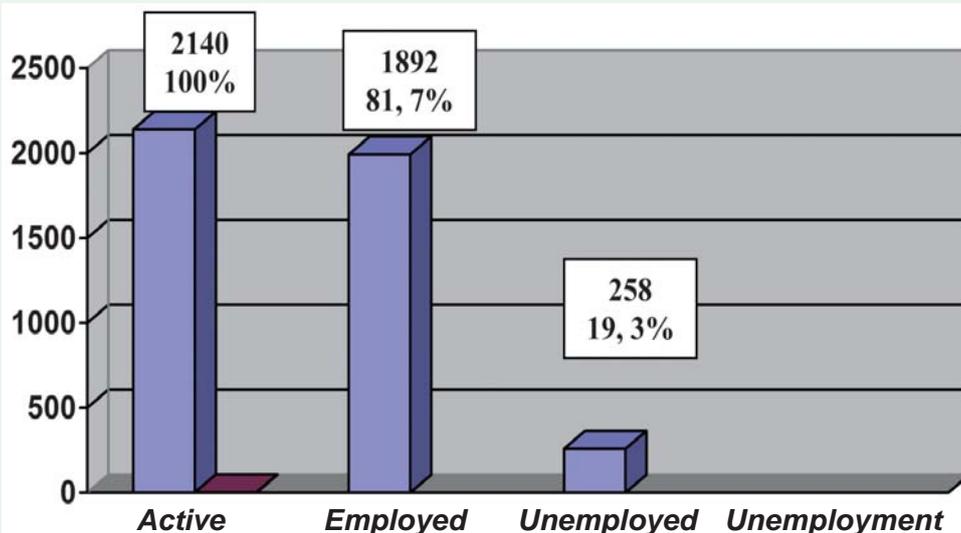
### DEMOGRAPHIC DATA PER EACH VILLAGE

Village/neighborhood	Population			Nr. of families over the years		Nr. of pensioners	Nr. of fam. Receiving state benefit
	Females	Males	Total	2003	2008		
1 BAZ + BASHKIM	618	575	1193	310	335	140	61
2 RRETH BAZ	415	368	783	252	274	125	33
3 KARICË + F.BAZ	496	506	1002	261	211	115	50
4 DRITA	216	206	422	110	125	60	25
<b>COMMUNE (TOTAL)</b>	<b>1745</b>	<b>1655</b>	<b>3400</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>169</b>
%	51.32%	48.68%	100%			12.94%	17.88%

# EMPLOYMENT

## BAZ COMMUNE

<b>Active</b>	
Total	Nr 2140
Females	1105
Males	1035
<b>Employed</b>	
Total	1892
Females	985
Males	<b>907</b>
<b>Unemployed</b>	
Total	258
Females	130
Males	<b>128</b>
<b>Unemployment (%)</b>	
Total	19.3%
Females	9%
Males	10.3%



Employment diagram

## EMPLOYED PEOPLE IN VARIOUS SECTORS

	Type of the activity	Private Sector			Public Sector			Total		
		Nr.Sub	Employed	Women	Nr.Sub	Employed	Women	Total nr of subjects	Total nr of employed	Total nr of women employed
1	Agriculture&Animal husbandry	901	1709	880	6	69	60	907	1778	940
2	Mining Industry	3	16	-	-	-	-	3	16	-
3	Processing industry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	Construction	12	17	-	-	-	-	12	17	-
5	Business, automobile and domestic appliances repair	4	5	2	-	-	-	4	5	2
6	Hotels and restaurants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Transport and telecommunication	11	11	-	1	3	-	12	14	-
8	Financial institutions (banks)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	Public administration	-	-	-	1	13	6	1	13	6
10	Education	-	-	-	1	39	28	1	39	28
11	Health sector and social activities	-	-	-	1	10	9	1	10	9
	<b>Total</b>	<b>931</b>	<b>1758</b>	<b>882</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>1892</b>	<b>985</b>





## EMPLOYMENT SECTORS

### Human resources

Nr	Name	Total	Employed	Unemployed
<b>University degree</b>				
1	Economists	3	3	-
2	Agronomists	4	1	3
3	Engineers	3	3	
4	Teachers	9	8	1
5	Medical doctors	1	1	-
6	Te Other	1	1	-
Total		21	17	4
<b>High school diploma</b>				
1	Economists	12	3	9
2	Agronomists	71	-	71
<b>Comprehensive</b>		<b>57</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>35</b>
Total		140	25	115

## EDUCATION

Education is structured as below:

- preschool,
- primary school ,
- elementary school (up to the 9th grade)
- comprehensive high school

Even though we have a good tradition in this respect considering the great number of well educated people over the years, there are still lots to do in order to improve the quality of teaching and bring it to the European standards and make it one of the best in the country.

In a commune level we actually have 1 comprehensive high school and 2 secondary schools

(9 grade schools) we have made a few investments in them but there is still need for more intervention and apart from their physical condition, there is instant need for labs, benches and stools, other equipment, sports facilities, etc.

Teaching is of good quality since many of the pupils who go to the local high school in Baz are graduated with good results and are able to go to university.

Statistics show that the general number of pupils has increased from year to year. The explanation behind is:

- Migration is pretty low now;
- because of the good quality of teaching.



Village	Elementary schools (up to the 9th grade)			High schools			Kindergartens			Nr. of teachers and educators (Total)
	Nr. of elementary schools up to the 9th grade)	Nr. of pupils	Nr. of teachers	Nr. of high schools	Nr. of pupils	Nr. of teachers	Nr. of kindergartens	Nr. of children	Nr. of educators	
<b>Baze</b>	1	139	11	1	114	6	1	17	1	18
<b>Karic</b>	1	156	11				1	19	1	12
<b>Rreth-baz</b>	1	107	9				2	34	2	11
<b>Drita</b>										
<b>COMMUNE</b>	3	402	31	1	114	6	4	70	4	41



## HEALTH SERVICES

**P**ublic health care is a responsibility of both central and local government. It comprises pharmaceutical, hospital and primary health care, but actually the last mentioned takes the major part. Mother and child health care and emergencies are the most necessary. There is one health center in Baz. The building is in good condition since in 2007 it was completely renovated. We must provide medical appliances for the commune health center and the 3 village health posts in order to improve the quality of health services. As a result, the population will not have to travel towards the town of Burrel for basic services which could be offered by the commune health personnel.

We have an adequate number of health workers who certainly need continuous trainings.

Community health culture is an issue which needs attention. People see the doctor only if they are really sick and in emergency cases but they hardly do periodical check ups.

The health sector faces a range of challenges such as:

- i) Lack of medical appliances,
- ii) Poor conditions of the hospital,

### DATA

#### 1. General data

Village/neighborhood	Health center	Village health post
1 <b>Baz</b>	1	
2 <b>Rreth Baz</b>	-	1
3 <b>Karicë</b>	-	1
4 <b>Drita</b>	-	1
<b>Total</b>	1	3

#### *Pharmaceutical service*

Village	Nr of pharmacies
1 <b>Baz</b>	1

#### *Medical doctors*

Specialty	Nr
1 GPs	2
<b>Total</b>	2

- iii) Lack of health centers in the 3 other villages of the commune (they only have health posts),
- iv) Low professional skills including both family doctors and nurses, etc.



## GENERAL SITUATION

The main branches of the economy are agriculture, animal husbandry and services which mainly consist in minibars, shops and kiosks which sell groceries, stationeries and other items of daily use.

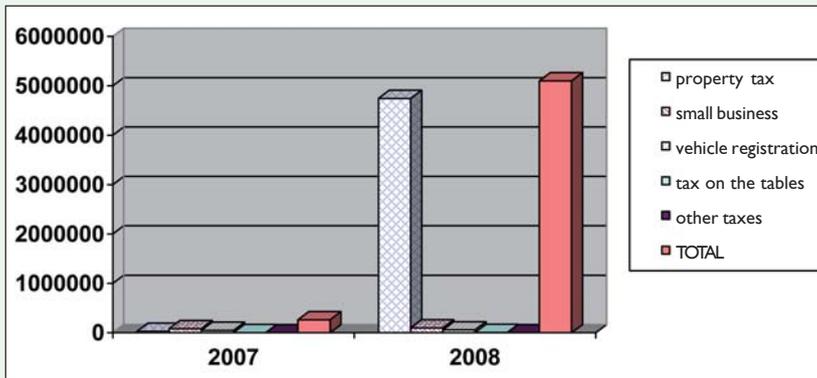
## BUSINESSES

There are 13 small businesses in Baz commune which are focused on the activities below: transport, pharmacy, café, wood processing, agricultural machinery, grocery stores, industrial materials, etc. Income from the local business does not make a considerable part of the commune budget.

The commune administration must work towards registration of new businesses as well as collection of the tax on real estate such as the buildings' tax and agricultural land tax. Income from these taxes was never as much as it is supposed to be.

### Income collected and income forecast:

Name	Total income in 2007	% of income for the commune	Forecast for 2008
<b>I. Tax income</b>	<b>159498</b>		<b>4906706</b>
1. Real estate tax	27638		4746021
a) Buildings' tax	3050		88734
b) Agricultural land tax	24588		4657287
2. Tax on small business	82650		98785
A) Local tax on small business	82650		98785
3. Tax for the annual registration of vehicles	47160		56900
4. Tax for signs	2000		5000
5. Other taxes	0		0
<b>Total I</b>	<b>159498</b>		<b>4906706</b>
<b>II. Non taxing income</b>	<b>121980</b>		<b>195250</b>
1. Tariffs			
a) Tariffs for public services	56450		75000
b) Issue of licenses, permissions, authorizations and other documents	65530		120250
2. Other income			
3. Payments			
a) From kindergarten children's parents			
b) From crèche children's parents			
c) Other			
<b>TOTAL II</b>	<b>121980</b>		<b>195250</b>
<b>III. Contributions and sponsorships</b>			
<b>TOTAL III</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL (I + II + III + IV + V)</b>	<b>261428</b>		<b>5101956</b>



### Public services and Infrastructure

ALL

Nr	Year	Transfers(grants) from the state budget	Conditioned government funds (ministries)	Commune income from taxes/tariffs	Donors/Sponsorships	Total
1	2004	2 157 000		200.000		2 357 000
2	2005	2.200.000	120.000.000	200.000		1.440.000
3	2006	7 217 000		180 000		7 217 000
4	2007	14.494.000	6.000.000	320 000		7 934 000
5	2008	15 500 000		530,000		16,030,000

### Investments in 2004 - 2007

ALL

	Commune income + grants	Other funds from the state budget	Donations	Loans	Total
<b>2004</b>	<b>2357000</b>				<b>2357000</b>
Schools					
Roads	150000				150000
Machinery	748000				748000
Canalization	733000				733000
Wells	546000				546000
Photocopy machine	180000				180000
<b>2005</b>	<b>2400000</b>	<b>120000000</b>			<b>144000000</b>
Schools	2357000				2357000
Cemetery					
Commune building reconstruction	150000				150000
Canalization	748000				748000
Market					
<b>2006</b>	<b>7217000</b>				<b>7217000</b>
Schools	412000				412000
Roads	5900000				5900000
Bridges	270000				270000
Other	570000				570000
Market	65000				65000
<b>2007</b>	<b>7934000</b>	<b>5.500.000</b>			<b>7934000</b>
Schools	470000				470000
Roads	5064000				5064000
Bridges	1400000				1400000
Canalization	1000000				1000000
Health sector		5.500.000			5500000

**Investments in 2004-2007 (in ALL)**  
**Investments for 2007**

Functions	Expenses 2007					
	Total	Salaries	Social insurance	Maintenance and running costs	Investments	Transfers
1.General administration	14951794	3567619	752174	3711001	6921000	
2.Public services	0	0	0	0	0	
3.Education	21121583	16737942	3601446	782195	0	
4.Health	5643000	0	0	0	5643000	
5.Culture	0	0	0	0	0	
6. Social issues	16224560	16224560	0	0	0	
7.Other(Civil State Office)	447041	365743	73298	8000	0	
Out of these: contingency fund	250000	250000	0		0	
	0	0	0		0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>58637978</b>	<b>37145864</b>	<b>4426918</b>	<b>4501196</b>	<b>12564000</b>	

## NATURAL RESOURCES

**B**az commune is rich in natural resources. There is a mix of fields and mild hills with the highlands of The Skanderbeg Mountain covered with forests, lots of water and high cliffs which make the landscape so colorful. The beautiful and fulsome countryside makes you feel optimistic for development possibilities in the area.

The commune has a considerable surface of forests of beech, pine, fir, acacia as well as impressive pastures and meadows. The forests provide protection from erosion and also wood for heating and construction purposes. They are also rich in medicinal plants such as juniper, canker rose, mountain tea, hollyhock, st, johnsworth, elder, blueberry, etc. The people here have traditionally grown fruit trees and we actually have many farmers who grow apples, cherries, plums, pears, grapes, chestnuts and walnuts. The last mentioned are of a special variety and preferable for the consumers.

Within the commune territory there are about 2200 hectares of forests which are characterized by a rich flora.



## AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

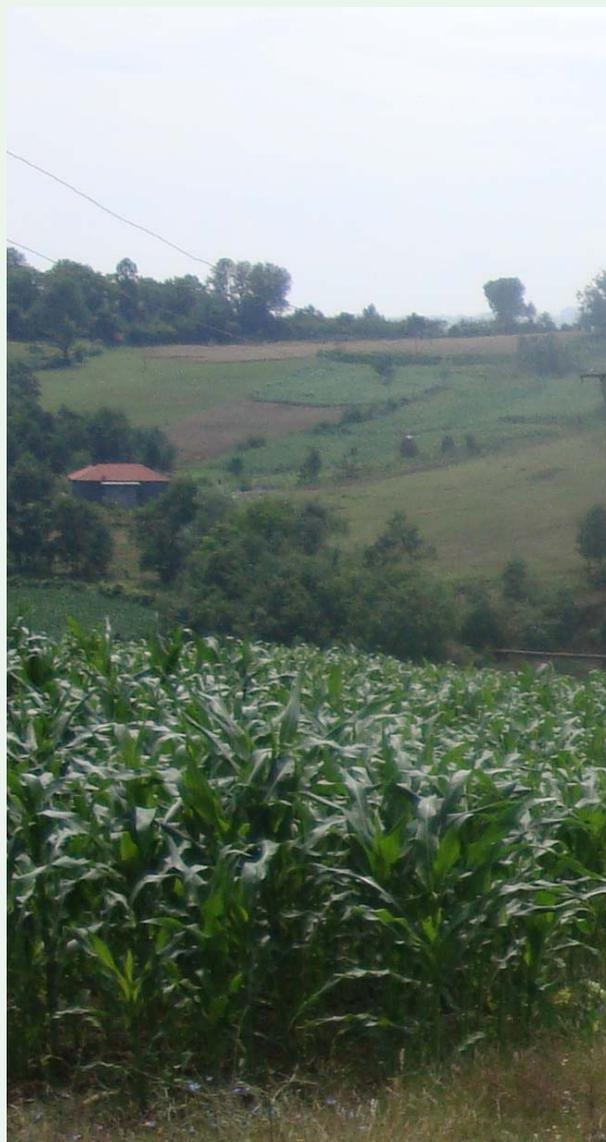
### AGRICULTURE

As in the rest of Albania, agriculture in Baz commune during the transition period has gone through big changes. During these times drainage and irrigation canals were seriously damaged. Same happened to buildings which had been used for agriculture purposes in the past. Use of agricultural resources dropped drastically which caused decrease of agricultural products. The reforms of 1991 in agriculture started in a situation when this branch of local economy was in total collapse. The first important step was the agricultural land reform which created ground for the establishment of private farms. Anyway, these farms are small and fragmented which results in low productivity. There are about 586 hectares of agricultural land which is mainly fields and hills.

The structure of agricultural land according to the production

Village	Agricultural land (hectares)			Forests (hectares)	Pastures meadows (hectares)
	Plots	Orchards	Vineyards		
1 Baz	170	1	2	1371	127
2 Karicë	125	-	0.7	844	195
3 Rreth-Baz	170	1	1.3	398	151
4 Drita	82	2		193	60
5 Fush-Baz	30	1		85	37
6 Bashkim			84		
<b>COMMUNE</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2975</b>	<b>570</b>

The following possibilities were identified during discussions with relevant specialists: Increase the surface of sowing land, Construction of irrigation systems, Construction of the agricultural market, Provision of technical assistance for the farmers, Subvention of fertilizers and pesticides, Low interest loans for farmers, etc.



Village	Corn		Agriculture Product			Fruit (t)	Grapes (t)	Fodder
	Wheat (t)	Maize (t)	Other (t)	Potatoes (t)	Beans (t)			
1 Baz	43	80	303	108	21	80	160	2350
2 Karice	51	52	212	81	25	86	280	1400
3 Rreth-Baz	43	60	308	81	32	78	100	2380
4 Drita	43	40	226	108	25	81	140	974
5 Fush-Baz	13	28	111	80	5	78	140	222
6 Bashkim	8	4	53	31	2			123
<b>COMMUNE</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>1160</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>7326</b>

## ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

As a result of the reform, households received the land and also cattle and other assets such as tractors, stables, etc. Nevertheless, animal husbandry developed faster than agriculture. Number of livestock increased from year to year and the table below shows how it changed in 2005 compared to 2003. The reasons behind this are as following:

- Small farms are more suitable for livestock
- Increase of surfaces of fodder (the commune has about 150 hectares of pastures where fodder can grow)
- Cattle is not very expensive to keep
- It is a way of making a living
- It pays back throughout the year
- Increased demand for animal products, etc...

year	Bovine		Cattle	Poultry	Pigs	Bees
	Sheep	Goats				
<b>2008</b>	<b>2740</b>	<b>2050</b>	<b>1146</b>	<b>9820</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>300</b>

As shown in the table, the number of livestock has increased a lot.

Actually, there are 4790 sheep and goats and 1146 cattle in the commune. This has caused increase of animal products as well. There is real



need to have a modern dairy farm where milk will be processed in order to produce all its sub products and increase households' income. It is foreseen that even in the future animal husbandry will be the most important activity in the commune. Nevertheless, there is need to improve the pedigree, improve the hygiene and sanity, increase number of cattle in every farm, and of course improve the infrastructure in order to facilitate processing and marketing of animal products.



## Number of livestock per village

Village	Bovine		Cattle	Pigs	Poultry	Beens
	Sheep	Goats				
1. Baz	400	470	226	300	1830	60
2. Karicë	760	550	315	0	1690	80
3. Rreth-Baz	700	200	250	200	1820	60
4. Drita	550	500	210	0	1000	50
5. Fush-Baz	180	200	85	50	480	30
6. Bashkim	150	130	60	20	3000	20
<b>KOMUNA</b>	<b>2740</b>	<b>2050</b>	<b>1146</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>9820</b>	<b>300</b>



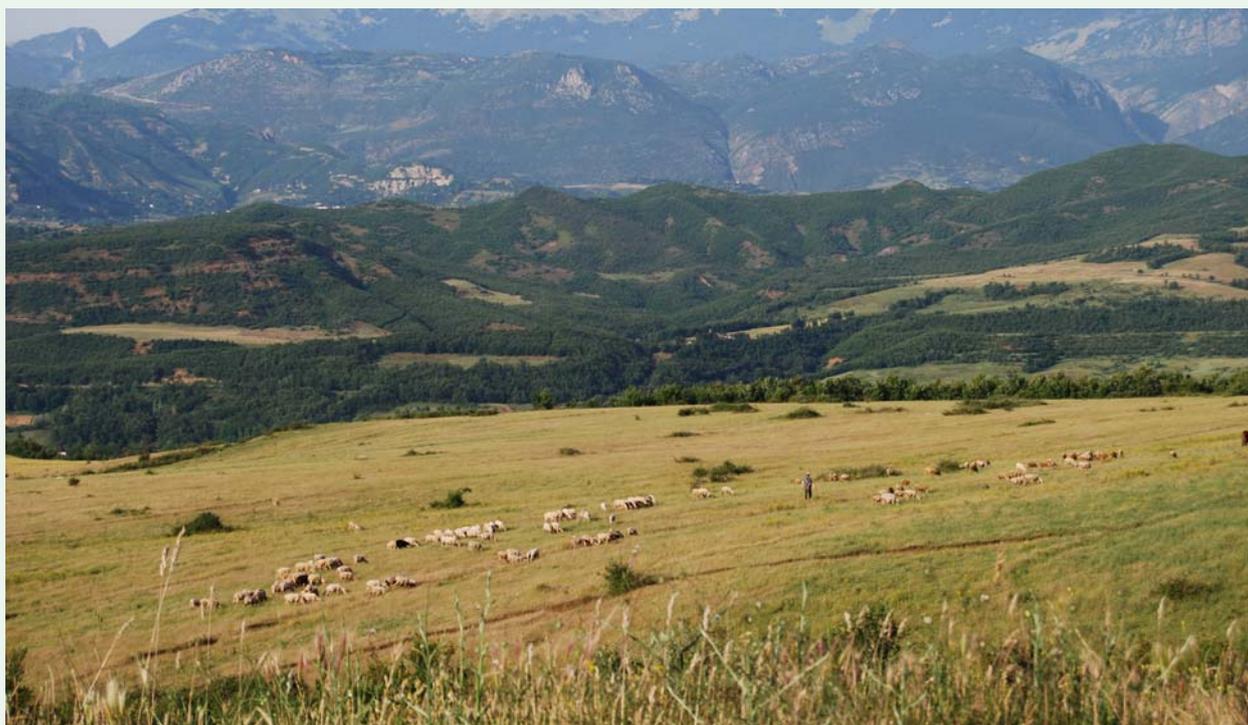
## Animal products

Village	Sheep			Goats		Cows		Poultry		Honey
	Meat	Milk	Wool	Meat	Milk	Meat	Milk	Meat	Eggs (thousands)	
1. Baz	13	28	0,96	13	57	25	300	1,4	178	0,48
2. Karicë	15	32,5	1,14	9	42,7	25	420	1,7	157	0,64
3. Rreth-Baz	12	26,3	1,05	4	20	30	300	1,5	155	0,48
4. Drita	8	22,5	0,825	10	44	12	240	1	88	0,35
5. Fush-Baz	3	7,5	0,288	3	16	6	90	0,8	40	0,30
6. Bashkim	2	5	0,200	2	12	4	70	0,5	30	0,20
<b>KOMUNA</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>121,8</b>	<b>4,463</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>191,7</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>1420</b>	<b>6,9</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>2,45</b>

As mentioned above, even in the future, animal husbandry will be the most important sector of the economy in our commune. There are several issues which need attention though:

improvement of the pedigree, improvement of the nutriment structure, good sanity and hy-

giene, increase of cattle in the farms, improvement of infrastructure for the processing and marketing of animal products, adaptation of small farms for livestock, increase of surfaces cultivating fodder, etc.



## INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

### ROADS



Roads and transport are necessary for the people since they have impact in the services they need to receive as well as in the local production and marketing. From an administrative point of view, the roads have 2 owners: on one side there is the Rural Road Enterprise of Burrel which is in charge of 7 km of regional roads i.e. communal roads. In the last few years there have been lots of investments in order to improve rural roads. Investments either came from the state budget or donors or even from the commune budget itself. The village of Baz which is the commune center is connected to the town of Burrel through the national road Tirana-Baz-Burrel. This road is asphalted and in good condition and is used by the villages around Baz. The rural roads which connect various villages with one another are cobbled or graveled but there are dirt roads too. There are about 20 km of rural roads which connect commune villages with the commune center and the national road and these roads are not asphalted yet. The interior village roads are cobbled but they are not in good condition. If you look closely at the road map of Baz commune, it is quite obvious that most of the main road segments serve not only to the population of this commune, but also to those of the neighboring villages. The national road Burrel-Tirana is very busy.

In order to improve road infrastructure and facilitate transportation, in the last 2 years, the commune has opened 8 km of track of new roads which are already paved with gravel.

### DRINKING WATER

Water supply is a priority for both local and central government. Provision of quality water for the whole community will definitely improve the quality of their lives. For the moment this problem is not solved yet since only half of the households of Karice village, i.e. 15 % of the commune population has water as a result of the water supply system of Karice which was built in 2001. Some households have solved the problem by drilling their own family wells thus there are two ways of getting water: water supply system and individual wells. The commune has prepared projects for the reconstruction of the water supply of Karice village and construction of water supply system for Baz village. Water supply for all the commune villages is our priority.

### SEWAGE AND STORM WATER SYSTEM

Sewage is one of the elements of infrastructure where we need to focus since nothing has been done about it so far even though the commune has made investments in other sectors.

The most common way of sewage management in the villages is sewage manholes dug up by each household. There are cases when they are not built properly and the sewage runs along the village alleys. There are villages where due to the suitable terrain the sewage can flow towards creeks and streams, but nevertheless they have problems regarding maintenance.

The commune has not invested yet to build sewage systems in none of its villages. However there have been individual initiatives which have resulted in partial construction of sewage systems in some of the villages. Thus, it is a priority for us to prepare good projects and find funds in order to change the situation as soon as possible.



## TELECOMMUNICATION AND MAIL SERVICES

The only way of telecommunication is mobile telephones and the service providers are AMC and Vodafone mobile companies. Access to mobile communication does not mean that landline phones are not necessary. The landline system was totally damaged in 1997 and since that time it has been out of use. As for the mail service, there is only one person for the whole commune hired to cover this service and basically what this person does is delivery of pensions to 440 pensioners.

## ELECTRICAL ENERGY

Power supply is realized through the central system and Baz commune is fully dependent on the electric substation of Ulez. This service is problematic because of the amortization of the old system and on the other side the collective cabins can not afford supplying power for many consumers. One of the main priorities would be to build up additional power cabins for certain villages and neighborhoods and also improve the power distribution system. Lack of power supply damages the local business by making people's lives more difficult.

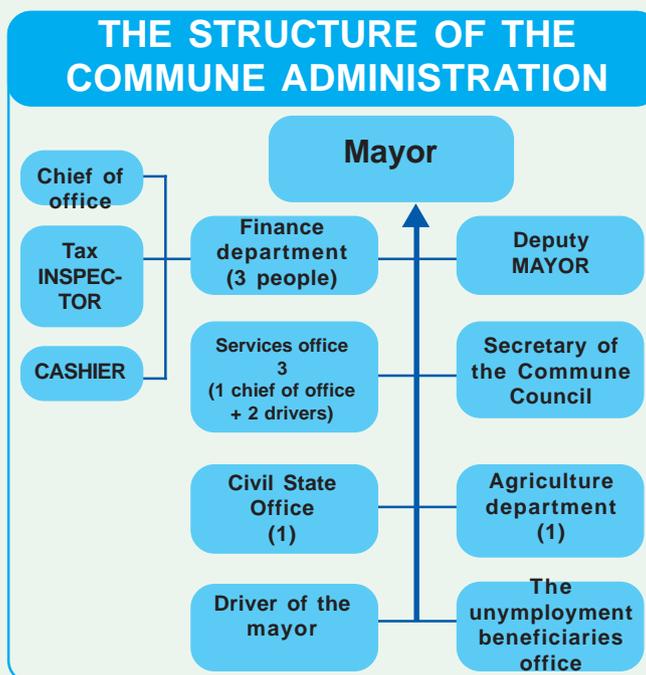


## LOCAL GOVERNANCE

### COMMUNE STRUCTURE

Since 1991 when governance in Albania was restructured, Baz Commune has become part of the first level of local governance. It has the administration which is hired by the mayor of the commune and the mayor is elected by the citizens through direct voting. The Commune Council is the decision making structure and it is composed of representatives of various political parties based on the percentage of votes in local election.

Every single village has its own village elder that is also voted in by the representatives of the village neighborhoods. In the last years we had several users' associations established such as the Forests Users' Association, Water Users' Association, etc and there are also some commissions which



deal with various issues, such as the commission for conflict resolution, commission for property issues, etc. The commune administration is composed of 13 people. Apart from the mayor and deputy mayor there is the services office, finance department, agriculture department, tax office, economic benefit, administration office and 2 drivers (truck driver and excavator driver). The Communal Council is composed of 13 people.

**Composition of the Commune Council**

As a result of the local election of 18 February 2007, the Commune Council is composed as shown below:

CHAIRMAN
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN
Democratic Party - 2 members
Socialist Party - 1 members
Party of Democratic Union - 1 members
Demochristian Party - 2 members
Democrat Party - 1 members
Legality Party - 2 members
Agrarian Environmentalist Party - 1 members
Social Democrat Party - 1 members
Socialist Movement for Integration - 2 members

## SITUATION ANALYSIS

### A. ADVANTAGES / STRENGTHS

- GEOGRAPHIC POSITION is very favorable for agriculture, animal husbandry, business and tourism. Baz is the connecting point between Mat ,Durres and Tirana.
- NATURAL RESOURCES, fertile soil, forests and pastures, water sources
- Human resources
- Income (commune income, personal and family income, compared to other communes in Diber Qark)
- Interest to invest and stay in Baz instead of migrating to other parts of the country



### B. DISADVANTAGES

- Lack of a zoning plan for the centre of the commune and other villages
- Bad rural roads
- Commune lacks capacities to receive investments
- Lack of a communal market where local products could be traded
- Old technology for the processing of agricultural and animal products
- Limited funds which makes it impossible to invest in all the sectors where it is necessary to do so
- The loan system is not consolidated yet
- Lack of local media

3. Subventions for farmers by the Ministry of Agriculture.
4. Decentralization. Space created by Law Nr. 8652 date 31.07.2000 'For organization and functioning of the Local Governance'.
5. The programme of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands with Diber Qark.
6. Increased interest by creditors and foreign donors.

### C. OPPORTUNITIES.

1. Government policies to invest for rural roads paving and/or asphaltting.
2. Competing grants which are funded by respective Ministries depending on the nature of intervention.

### D. THREATS.

1. Conjuncture market policies
2. New social phenomenons
3. Criminality, corruption and illegal trafficking.
4. Environmental pollution

## VISION AND SECTORIAL STRATEGIES

### VISION:

**B**y 2014, Baz commune will be an administrative unit with paved and asphalted roads, water supply systems, sewage and canalization in each village, reconstructed schools where children can have normal conditions to learn, health posts in each village and a health center where services are qualified and at all times. It will have a zoning plan and will become a nice place to live and work. It will attract tourists who will want to visit its tourist sites. The agriculture and animal husbandry will have made progress and households can generate good income for themselves, the infrastructure is good and the people will make use of all the local resources and human capacities to build up their future.

### OBJECTIVES:

1. **Strengthening and improvement of the local governance to increase the number of projects and activities for the benefit of the citizens.**
2. **Ensure local economic development especially agriculture, animal husbandry. Local tourism; good management of natural resources and business.**
3. **Improvement of the infrastructure in the whole commune territory.**
4. **Ensure a good social development with good premises for education, health services, cultural activities, sports, etc.**



### SECTORIAL STRATEGIES

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

The economic development is seen in 3 major aspects:

- Agriculture and animal husbandry
- Good management of human resources
- Business

#### OBJECTIVE 1:

**increase the income through increase of agricultural and animal products up to 30%**

#### Actions to take in agriculture:

- Improve the irrigation infrastructure
- Increase the surface of vineyards and orchards
- Increase the surface where vegetables are growing
- Improve the mechanization
- Identify and receive the necessary technical assistance
- Intensify collaboration with the Directorate of Agriculture and Ministry of Agriculture, foreign donors and agencies.
- Encourage establishment of various associations according to the production.

#### Actions to take in animal husbandry:

- Increase the production of milk, meat by improving the pedigree.
- Offering of the necessary technical assistance in the commune
- Ensure necessary infrastructure
- Encourage the profilization of farms
- Lobbying and promotion of the local production.





**OBJECTIVE 2:**  
**increase income as a result of effective management of natural resources:**

**Actions to take:**

- Transfer of forests and pastures into the ownership of the commune
- Preparation of a plan for tourism development
- Support the “Forests and Pastures Users’ Association” in the preparation of the management plan
- Improve collaboration with donors with the aim of protecting natural resources
- Registration of properties being transferred under the commune ownership

**OBJECTIVE 3:**  
**increase income through empowering of the business**

**Actions to take:**

- Generate local income by efficient collection of local taxes.
- Improvement of the quality of services in bars, restaurants, shops, etc.
- Increase the number of mechanic and electronic services, handicraft, etc.
- Encourage the establishment of processing workshops.
- Attract loan agencies to start their activity in the commune.
- Capacity building for the commune administration and decision makers so that they can offer better services to the local business.
- Internet access (tax free).

**INFRASTRUCTURE**

**OBJECTIVE:**  
**by 2014, 85% of the commune infrastructure will be improved through investments in the following issues:**

**Actions to take:**

- Commune urban/zoning plan
- Management of drinking water
- Asphalt more than 60% of the main roads (roads that connect commune villages with the national road)
- Solve the sewage issue up to 80% for the whole commune.
- Build up a system for waste management.
- Establish landline telephone communication.
- Electricity
- Increase fund for the maintenance of infrastructure



**SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Education**

**OBJECTIVE:**  
**improve the quality of education institutions**

**Actions to take:**

- Increase investments for schools, kindergartens, equipment, labs, sports facilities, etc.
- Transport teachers and pupils to and back from school in cases when schools are far from their homes.
- Good collaboration with the district Education Department in order to enable proper implementation of relevant policies
- Encourage communication with the community and make use of their contribution to improve the education parameters.

## Health

**OBJECTIVE:**  
increase the quality of health services.

### Actions to take:

- Increase investment for reconstruction and maintenance of health facilities (health center, health posts)
- Better quality services for the citizens at all times
- Increase funds to improve services in the hospital of the commune
- Improve mother and child health care
- Build up health posts in the villages which do not have one yet
- Cooperate with the authorities of Primary Health Care in the commune and District level

## Sports

**OBJECTIVE:**  
attract more attention and receive support for sports activities

### Actions to take:

- Increase investments and funds for sports facilities
- Encourage local business to build football minifields
- Better use of schools' sports facilities
- Support establishment of commune sports teams

## The museum:

### OBJECTIVE:

Create a facility where historic, cultural, archaeological and folkloric values of the commune can be exposed.

## GOOD LOCAL GOVERNANCE

### OBJECTIVE:

improve the quality of services to the citizens; be professional and timely effective and ensure transparency with regards to the management of public funds.

### Actions to take:

- Create good working conditions (facilities, equipment) for the commune administration.
- Improve the skills of the commune administration and Commune Council members.
- Increase community participation in decisionmaking.
- Improve the cooperation with all the key actors.



## List of objects and priority activities in various sectors:

FIELD / SECTOR	PROJECT/ACTIVITY
<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>  <b>Agriculture</b>  <b>Animal husbandry</b>  <b>Business</b>  <b>Natural resources</b>  <b>Tourism</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reconstruction of the irrigation canals in the villages of Drita, Karice, Rrethe Baz and BAZ</li> <li>2. Construction of the irrigation canals in Commune</li> <li>3. Reconstruction of the canal which flows into Baz reservoir.</li> <li>4. Reservoir Nr.2</li> <li>5. Irrigation pumping station for the villages of Drita and Rrethe Baz</li> <li>6. Milk processing center (dairy-farm)</li> <li>7. Service and supply center for agriculture</li> <li>8. Business Plan</li> <li>9. Development plan for tourism</li> <li>10. Communal market</li> </ol>
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE</b>  <b>Roads</b>  <b>Water supply</b>  <b>Sewage</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Commune urban/zoning plan</li> <li>2. Reconstruction and asphaltting of the rural road Ura Karices- Rrethe Baz</li> <li>3. Reconstruction and asphaltting of the road of Karice</li> <li>4. Construction of the footbridge in Rrethe Baz</li> <li>5. Construction of the sewage system in the villages of Baz and Drita</li> <li>6. Reconstruction and asphaltting of the road of Baz village</li> <li>7. Reconstruction and asphaltting of the road of Drita village</li> <li>8. Reconstruction and asphaltting of the road of Fushe Baz village</li> <li>9. Construction of sewage system in Karice village</li> <li>10. Water supply for the villages of Baz, Rrethe Baz and Bashkim</li> <li>11. Reconstruction of the water supply for the village of Karice</li> </ol>
<b>SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT</b>  <b>Education</b> <b>Health</b> <b>Sport</b> <b>Culture</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reconstruction of the Comprehensive High School Baz</li> <li>2. Construction of a primary school in Drita village</li> <li>3. Construction of health post A-2 in Baz village</li> <li>4. Construction of health post A-2 in Karice village</li> <li>5. Cultural center (Museum, internet center, etc) in the center of the commune</li> </ol>
<b>GOOD GOVERNANCE</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reconstruction of commune building/offices</li> <li>2. Purchase of office equipment</li> <li>3. Contract with the Training Unit for capacity building activities</li> <li>4. Operational plan</li> </ol>





## PRIORITIES FOR BAZ COMMUNE

LISTA E PRIORITETEVE	Estimated cost (000/ALL)	Dead- line
1. Urban/zoning plan for Baz commune	43000	2009
2. Reconstruction and asphaltting of the road of Karice	65000	2009
3. Reconstruction and asphaltting of the road Drita-Rrethe Baz	21600	2009
4. Construction of the road of Kalivac (graveled)	14500	2010
5. Construction of the footbridge across the River Mat in Rrethe Baz	6300	2011
6. Construction of sewage in Baz village	1800000	2011
7. Sistemim e shtrim me cakell rruga Kalivaç-repeated	38400	2010
8. Reconstruction and asphaltting of the road of Rrethe Baz	8200	2011
9. Reconstruction and asphaltting of the road Baz-Kishe	7300	2012
10. Reconstruction and asphaltting of the road Karice - Komsi	5800	2013
11. Construction of sewage system in Karice	4200	2011
12. Construction of sewage system in Drita	3200	2011
13. Construction of sewage system in Bashkim	3150	2012
14. Construction of sewage system in Rrethe Baz	96500	2009
15. Construction of water supply system for BAZ village	21400	2010
16. Reconstruction of the water supply system for Karice	7500	2009
17. Reconstruction of commune building/offices	25.000	2010
18. Reconstruction of the reservoir of Vith - Kuçes	25100	2009
19. Reconstruction of the Comprehensive High School in Baz	8500	2010
20. Construction of a primary school in Drita village	2600	2011
21. Construction of a health post A-2 in Baz village	2600	2012
22. Construction of a health post A-2 in Karice	1850	
23. Cultural center (Museum, internet center, etc) in the center of the commune	3000	2010
24. Milk processing dairy farm	20000	2011
25. Commune market	1800	2102
26. Riparim i Zyrave per Komunen- repeated	1200	2010
27. Purchase of office equipment	1000	2010
28. Contract with the Training Unit for Capacity building activities		2009
29. Operational plan		

## FEASIBILITY

**T**his plan is feasible since it is based on real objectives and the current situation and preconditions. It represents ideas and opinions of all the potential actors in our community as well as successful models suggested by them.

The working group also took into consideration opinions of specialists, millennium objective goals and the national development strategy.

The plan will be implemented by:

- Baz commune that is in charge of preparing programmes and policies. It will encourage, support and implement many projects and activities which are part of this development plan.

- The community-they are the beneficiaries, producers and main investors of this plan. They are consumers, farmers, investors, subject of loans for many activities, etc.

- Users' Associations that will help with the effective management of the resources and possibilities in each field (water, forests, vineyards, orchards, youth, sports, art, etc).

- The regional institutions that will help coordinate and harmonize the local policies with the regional and national ones.

- Cooperation with the farmers, community, state institutions and donor organizations will be the key to success in the implementation of this plan.

