

“Together for the Mediterranean”
Report of the Joint inception meeting of the Albanian and
Montenegrin authorities and partners
Tirana, October, 15, 2010

Developing an Integrative Methodological Framework for Coast, Water and Biodiversity Management¹

Background information

The aims of the meeting were the following:

1. To kick-off the preparation of the TB Buna/Bojana ICZM Plan.
2. To introduce to each other the national authorities, team leaders and partners for the development of this important product, one of the key requests from the ICZM Protocol, ratified by Albania and to be ratified by Montenegro.
3. To get familiar with the Integrative Methodological Framework and the Group, their mandate, and objectives.
4. To agree on the workplan and on the teams for the implementation of this task.

Attendance:

ALBANIA

Mr Pelumb Abeshi, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration (MoEFWA), Secretary General, GEF FP and PAP FP

Ms Rovena Agalliu, MoEFWA, Specialist

Mr Redi Badumi, MoEFWA, Director

Ms Laureta Dibra, MoEFWA, Chief of Department

Mr Idlir Gumbardhi, MoEFWA, Head of Sector

Mr Ermal Halimi, MoEFWA, Head of Sector

Mr Siender Hasa, MoEFWA, Specialist

Ms Kledia Janaqi, MoEFWA, Specialist

Ms Margarita Lutaj, MoEFWA, Specialist

Ms Elvana Ramaj, MoEFWA, Expert

Ms Arjana Sinoimeri, MoEFWA, Specialist

MONTENEGRO

Mr Novak Čađenović, MSPE, Sector Co-ordinator

¹ Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem (Med Partnership)

Regional Component: Implementation of agreed actions for the protection of the environmental resources of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal areas

Component 1. Integrated approaches for the implementation of the SAPs and NAPs: ICZM, IWRM and management of coastal aquifers - Sub-component 1.2. ICZM

Ms Aleksandra Ivanović, PE for coastal zone management of Montenegro, Head of Sustainable Development Department
Mr Igor Vujačić, Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment (MSPE), Architect

UNESCO-IHP:

Mr Bo Appelgren, Consultant, Methodology Specialist
Mr Jose Luis Martin Bordes, IHP Project Co-ordinator

PAP/RAC:

Ms Marina Marković, Programme Officer
Mr Marko Prem, Director a.i.
Ms Daria Povh Škugor, Programme Officer
Mr Brian Shipman, Consultant, IWG Team Leader

TB ICZM Plan:

Mr Zamir Dedej, NTL for Albania
Ms Marina Marković, NTL for Montenegro

GWP Med:

Mr Dimitris Faloutsos, Programme Co-ordinator for South-Eastern Europe
Mr Michael J. Scoullos, Chairman

PMU:

Mr Ivica Trumbić, MedPartnership Project Manager, was unable to reach Tirana, because of the technical problems in Athens.

Date and venue:

October 15, 2010
Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Management (MoEFWA) premises in Tirana

Agenda of the meeting is attached as Annex I.

Presentations from the meeting are attached as Annex II to the report.

Major topics discussed and meeting results:

1. Mr Abeshi opened the meeting and welcomed the participants on behalf of the MoEFWA. He expressed the interest of the Ministry to be active in implementing the project. On behalf of PAP/RAC, Mr Prem thanked the Ministry for the hospitality and welcomed all the participants. After a brief introduction to the GEF LME project, he stressed that the ICZM Protocol was about to be enforced, as already 5 countries, including Albania, had already ratified it. The GEF LME project is designed in order to assist the countries in implementing the Protocol. The development of this plan will be the first ICZM plan after signing the Protocol; the results of this project will be replicated in other areas of the Mediterranean. In addition, the project follow-up might lead to the investments, funded by the World Bank and other international donors. One of the important instruments proposed by the Protocol is the ICZM Plan. The first such Plan will be developed as part of the GEF LME project in the Buna/Bojana area. It will be innovative, comprehensive and an added value to existing management of the coastal zones. Namely, a group of methodologists (in particular experts for water, biodiversity and climate change) has been set up in order to improve the existing methodologies for the Plan development. However, it needs to be emphasised that the project is not finishing with the "paper" but with a concrete tool that can be used for future funding.
2. Mr Abeshi emphasised that this project could serve as a model to other coastal plans in Albania and Montenegro. Also, he said, as many different projects (with different donors) are currently being

implemented in Albania, overlapping needs to be avoided; inputs from other projects should be used as an added value and *vice versa*.

3. Mr Scoullos highlighted once again that the implementing agencies were developing a methodology to converge different plan development processes. The mandate for this is coming from the ICZM Protocol but also from the GEF project itself. Mr Faloutsos added that this would be the prototype for integration of development potentials. This, he concluded, is quite an ambitious task but we (the implementing agencies) have the expertise.
4. Mr Čađenović expressed his pleasure to participate in this important event. He gave a brief overview on the national context in terms of coastal management, mentioning the National ICZM Strategy, the Feasibility Study and the Agreement for the CAMP Montenegro, as well as the expected ICZM Protocol ratification. He presented in more detail the CAMP horizontal and vertical activities, as well as the relevant EU context for Montenegro. The ICZM-related activities in 2010 in Montenegro include mapping undertaken for the first MPA in Montenegro (Petrovac), construction of a landfill in Ulcinj, wastewater treatment facilities in Bar and Ulcinj, reorganisation of a public enterprise for maritime domain, etc.
5. Mr Dedej gave a short introduction on Buna/Bojana river area. He emphasised driving forces of major changes in the area, as well as the key problems in the water sector (such as flooding, groundwater pollution, erosion, negative dam effects, etc.). In addition, he presented interlinks of tourism development and nature conservation, as well as the main socio-economic changes (such as a poor local GDP, migration, urbanisation, land use, etc.). He concluded his presentation with mentioning the national policies relevant for ICZM.
6. Ms Marković (NTL) first presented previous steps that were undertaken in order to start the project that included discussions with national authorities and preparation of the initial reference document (INR) that identified area to be covered by the plan, as well as the key issues and activities. She highlighted the key drivers for ICZM (such as the economic development, the EU accession, international treaties, etc.), the main pressures (urbanisation, tourism development, pollution, etc.) but also some encouraging responses (new generations of spatial plans, stricter measures for illegal construction, expansion of PAs in the coastal zone, etc.). She also highlighted the activities undertaken by now and documents produced in relation to climate change in the area. Finally, she concluded her presentation with mentioning relevant national ICZM-related policies as well as opportunities for a trans-boundary co-operation.
7. After stimulating and interesting national presentations, Mr Prem concluded that there were many similar elements from both sides as well as a plenty of opportunities for co-operation.
8. Mr Shipman presented the coastal Plan development process, highlighting that this process is a result of integrating work of different sectors, under big partnership. He presented the main stages of the Plan development process, i.e. the initiation (ICZM Protocol could be used as a starting point as it provides an umbrella for different sectors), the establishment (including defining the project governance, assessing main risks, drivers, pressures, etc.), the vision and objective stage, analysis (collecting information that are relevant for the problems, objectives and process itself; identifying alternative scenarios), plan formulation, consultation and adoption as well as implementation stage.
9. Ms Povh started her presentation emphasising that the MedPartnership is the largest partnership in the Mediterranean with the investment portfolio of 85 million US dollars. Based on investment proposals, she stressed, the World Bank can choose out of those for the financing. An important segment of the project is also country contribution to which countries have signed for. Following the Plan development process, she said, we are now in the establishment phase. As this is the transboundary plan, only transboundary issues should be chosen. In addition to this one, in 2011 another harmonisation meeting is planned. Finally, Ms Povh initiated the discussion on Steering Committee (SC) representatives.
10. An interesting discussion on organisation of the SC took place. The questions were raised on the necessity of having representatives of all implementing agencies in the SC (PAP/RAC, GWP, UNESCO,

SPA/RAC), as well as on which government representatives, local administrations and funding agencies' representatives should be part of the SC. Ms Marković has emphasised that, although it is necessary that the key institutions are present, this body should be operational and small-scale. Out of the implementing organisations, there was a question whether PAP/RAC, GWP and UNESCO all have to have their representatives or they could be represented by a single organisation. Ms Povh expressed the position of PAP/RAC in which it should be part of the SC as it provides funds. Mr Bordes, on behalf of UNESCO, expressed its willingness to be represented by PAP/RAC that is a leader of Component 1 of the project. Mr Scoullos, on behalf of GWP, also said that they would be happy to be represented by PAP/RAC in the SC but, according to the project, they have the mandate for Plan development as well. In addition, legislative frameworks that serve as a basis for this process are the ICZM Protocol and Water Framework Directive. This is why their plan and water management system itself could not be considered as a sub-system of ICZM. Therefore, unless two separate plans would be developed (although they strongly believe that integration should be present from the beginning), GWP needs to participate in the SC as well. Following this input, Mr Vujačić has stressed that everybody needs to work together and to elaborate one plan for the entire zone, taking into consideration spatial planning projects, joint infrastructure, etc. In terms of governmental representatives, Mr Abeshi stated that it would be beneficial (from the Albanian side) to have representatives of the Ministry of tourism and territorial planning as spatial planning is the good platform that enables integration of all other. Still, other ministries should be involved as well, but from the start, not in the later stages.

11. Mr Bordes has presented the main issues in coastal aquifers management. Through this joint methodology, it would be the first time that ground water issues are fully integrated in ICZM. Climate change is bringing the big level of uncertainty in the coming years to the ground waters. Therefore, the assessment of the vulnerability/risks and uncertainties are necessary. UNESCO is undertaking regional actions for coastal aquifers management. These include legal, institutional and policy reform for coastal aquifer management in 13 countries.
12. Ms Scoullos reminded that the plan is being developed for the entire basin management. This is the first time that transnational waters and marine issues are converged. It can present a coherent and logical framework that would require a joint and strong guidance from the countries. This plan would be, not only about managing physical resources, but the overall development of the area. It should all be about usability of what is being produced as well as added value for the planning and decision-making process. It is important not to duplicate resources and efforts, mainly for the benefits of the countries. So three main sub-components should be together – groundwater, coastal zone and river basin. This is why they believe it is important to have one steering committee for two major components (ICZM and IWRM, including groundwater).
13. Mr Čađenović highlighted the need for involving specialists from spatial planning sector; namely, all projects can be stopped or discarded if they are not in line with spatial planning documents (as it happened recently in Montenegro). In addition to spatial planning, in the SC, there should be someone from agriculture and forestry sector (including groundwater), representatives of the public enterprise for maritime domain and municipality representatives. Overall, it should be clear that drivers or the process are countries not (external) institutions.
14. In terms of management organisation, Mr Shipman pointed out that SC itself should be small and rational in order to enable smooth functioning of the project. In addition, it should represent legal and financial interests; therefore, it should include representatives of those institutions that are putting the money into project. In addition, there should be other, wider management groups that could offer technical support to the SC.
15. Summarising all the views of SC composition, Mr Prem concluded that four main representative groups (equally from Albania and Montenegro) should compose SC, namely:
 - GEF FPs;
 - Ministries for spatial planning;

- Somebody from the water sector; and
- Local representatives (based on plan boundaries).

Mr Shipman said that these should be appointed by the Governments.

16. Mr Bordes added that implementing agencies should not have the decision role. Also, it was agreed that TORs should be prepared for functioning of the SC.
17. Mr Prem expressed his gratitude to the authorities of Albania for hosting the meeting as well as Montenegrin authorities, partners and consultants for attending the meeting. It's been said that the date for the harmonisation meeting is yet to be defined. The meeting was closed at 13:00 p.m.

Annex I

Agenda of the meeting

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| 1. Opening of the meeting
(Mr P. Abeshi, Secretary General, GEF Focal Point and PAP Focal Point) | 9.00 - 9.10 |
| 2. Background and meeting objectives. Introducing a TB ICZM Plan and Integrative Methodological Framework, a new attempt towards convergence in planning
(Mr M. Prem, PAP/RAC) | 9.30 – 9.40 |
| 3. National context and authorities' expectations, identifying a framework for a transboundary collaboration (Mr P. Abeshi) | 9.40 – 9.50 |
| 4. National context and authorities' expectations, identifying a framework for transboundary collaboration
(Mr N. Čađenović, Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment) | 9.50 - 10.00 |
| 5. Identifying key drivers, opportunities and quality solutions for transboundary collaboration (Mr Z. Dedej, NTL for Albania) | 10.00 – 10.10 |
| 6. Identifying key drivers, opportunities and quality solutions for a transboundary collaboration (Ms M. Marković, NTL for Montenegro) | 10.10 – 10.25 |
| 7. Introducing a process of preparation of the TB ICZM Plan
(Mr B. Shipman, PAP/RAC) | 10.25 – 10:45 |
| 8. Presentation of the roadmap and organigrams, and discussion on setting up of the teams (D. Povh, PAP/RAC) | 10.45 - 11.00 |
| 9. Discussion | 11.00 – 11.30 |
| 10. Presentation of the key issues and priorities related to the groundwater/aquifers (Mr J.L. Bordes, UNESCO-IHP) | 11:30 - 12:00 |
| 11. Concluding remarks and closure of the meeting (PAP/RAC) | 12:00 |

October 16, 2010 Field trip

Departure from Tirana at 08:30

**Annex II
Presentations**

