

Diverting sewage water discharge from Narta Lagoon to the Vlora City Pumping Station

This article refers to "Deviation Works in the High Waters Channel-Narta Lagoon" - implementation of Priority Management Plan actions, Narta Lagoon, Vlora, ALBANIA relevant to GEF/UNDP MedWetCoast project: "Conservation of Wetlands & Coastal Ecosystems in the Mediterranean Basin". This project was part of the MWC priority management action to be taken on site as per management plan finding and work program introduced in this plan.

It aimed at an urgent rehabilitation of the water quality on Narta lagoon which is threatening the wild life of the Narta ecosystem, habitats hosted in this site and also the human settlements living in this area. Along with project progress, MWC office paid due attention to this phenomenon, causes and impacts it had for the whole natural and human environment.

All the alternative solutions and appropriate maintenance of related works are carefully analyzed in close and intensive cooperation of the MWC and MP experts, international expertise and with local community, authorities and stakeholder, particularly with the efforts coming from Parliamentary Member of that area H.E. Mr. Arben Malaj, the Prefect of Vlora Country Mr. Artan Nelaj, the Chair of Vlora County Council Mr. Theodhori Shia etc. This proposal finds full relevance and support from MWC project document (especially from the Management Plans document) and financial means, as well as from co-financing received by the Qendër Commune (to where the working site pertains administratively) and also from the Vlora County Council which contributes the worth value of the preparation of the project design. In addition, it received the fullest support by the Prefect of Vlora who designates also the local enterprises for sustainable maintenance of channel.



In the actual situation and circumstances, Narta Lagoon is supplied with fresh water from the irrigation network, water basin of the area (Panaja, Low lands, and Novosela) as well as from one of the drainage channels of the city (so called "High Waters Channel" Vlore-Narta lagoon [KUL]) which drains the

precipitations, run-of, domestic and other waters from Vlora city. It is built during the 70's. After 1990, due to demographic changes, this channel received other communal and industrial waters, polluted by different users such as waters of the dwellings in the north east part of Vlora city, sewages discharged



from some families of Narta village, industrial waters from industrial users e.g. the Brewery "Norga", bricks factory, technological run-off of ARMO (located close to 'Pusi i Mezinit' place), different car washers etc.

The polluted waters received in the lagoon through this channel cause a serious aggravation of the water quality in the lagoon. This is more prevailing during summer time due to drought period and consequently high concentration of pollutants. Thus, in order to protect Narta lagoon from the eutrophication and conserve the

wild life and habitats hosted there, MWC project has provided an analysis of the situation and an alternative solution aiming at diverting the channel water discharge from lagoon site to Vlora City Pumping station through a sluice which will operate according to water table conditions (see enclosed documents).

The process was preceded by several meetings, exchange of opinions and provision of complementary roles of local institutions whose activity relates to this project and its works accomplishments. Several round tables, debates and understandings were pursued with main institutions concerned with this issue such as Chairman of the Council of Narta Village, County Council, local experts group, Department of Agriculture and Food, Department of Waters, Regional Environment Agency of Vlora, Vlora Municipality, Prefecture, Qender Commune, Minister of the Environment and even the Parliament Member of that area H.E. Mr. Arben Malaj. All this process reassured and provided coordination and additional expertise to resolve the problem speeding up all necessary procedures for financing project implementation, reaffirming the co-financing by the County Council and the financial commitment of Qender Commune (namely County Council finances the cost of the project design while Qender commune finances the value of the construction permission fees), as well as their confirmation to engagement of respective local institutions for the maintenance and administration of the work after it is completed). Also a significant role was played by the UNDP CO through its Environmental offices in charge Mr. Batkhuyag Baldangombo which clarified and provided better insight bringing to engagement and contribution of the local institutions to the maintenance work thereafter completion. Several documents attesting data, records and information from local experts arguing

pollution status of Narta lagoon from the “High Waters Channel” discharges, as well as measures to be taken for his deviation were addressed during those meetings.



The diverting of the channel flow during certain time seasons was accomplished based on implementation of a project designed by building a hydro-technical work along the channel. It's a culvert, designed and built to branch this channel

to another drainage system which discharged in the main city pumping station. There is also a semiautomatic gate build on this place in order to operate mainly during summer and dry periods of the year, when the polluted waters concentration is very high due to the lack of clean water and their mixing with polluted water, discharged by various family and industrial users of the northeastern part of the city. The polluted waters through the channel system will be discharged in the city pumping station.

All process of implementation was closely supervised by the MWC project and the engineer in charge. In taking over and completing this work MWC Project covered the cost at about 60,000 USD while County Council and Commune of Qender complemented with some additional financial support. Vlora municipality took the responsibility of not allowing any illegal construction as well as the systemization of the channels network over the channel of high waters; The Drainage Board will maintain and administer the work in course of its operation.



The implementation of this project included excavation, profiling, cross-section reshaping with concrete, bypassing-subway and culvert establishment, building and assembling of gate structures. The project lasted from 3 and half months