

The Objectives of the national training course were:

- To review the MED POL guidelines for the Mediterranean river monitoring
- To train the national experts on the matter
- To review the present status of river monitoring programmes or projects in Albania
- To provide experts with scientifically sound methodologies for the quantification of pollutant inputs from rivers into the Mediterranean

Introduction

1. The national training course on Mediterranean river monitoring was held at the Ministry of Environment on 19-20 January 2004. The course was organized by MAP/MED POL and the Ministry of Environment of Albania, and supported by the GEF Mediterranean Project. The training course was undertaken in Albanian and the invited expert made his presentations in English. Simultaneous interpretation was provided in both English and Albanian.

Attendance

2. The training course was attended by 27 experts from different organizations/institutes from all over the country. A list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

Opening and organization of the work

3. On 19 January 2005 at 9:45 a.m. Mrs. Etleva Canaj, the Deputy Minister of the Environment, opened the training course and welcomed the participants. She pointed out the importance of the pollution monitoring programmes as well as the prevention, control and elimination of them at source. Finally, she thanked the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Coordinating Unit, the organization committee and participants.
4. Mr Ante Baric, GEF Project Manager, welcomed the participants and expressed his thanks to the Ministry of Environment for their support in organizing the training course. Later he informed the participants about the GEF Mediterranean Project, whose aim is to create a sound ground at both regional and national levels for the implementation of the revised LBS Protocol and SAP MED. He stressed the importance of a capacity building component of the project through which a series of training courses have been organized. Finally, he highlighted the specific objectives of the training programme as above, and introduced the Agenda, which is attached as Annex II.

Overview of rivers in the Mediterranean

5. Mr. Wolfgang Ludwig from CNRS, Université de Perpignan, made an overview of the Mediterranean rivers and their typical characteristics and inputs to the Mediterranean sea. He stressed the strong variability of Mediterranean river water discharges as a result of hydroclimatic events of the region and the strong anthropogenic pressure on Mediterranean rivers, hence, these two major factors have to be carefully taken into account in assessments. He also pointed out that there is a lack of data in the Mediterranean basin particularly from eastern and southern regions, therefore the region wide assessments cannot easily be made.

Presentation of the guidelines for the monitoring of river pollution

6. Ms. F. Hila, a national expert, from the Institute for Environment, introduced the document Guidelines for the river pollution monitoring programme for the Mediterranean region - including estuaries (in Albanian). The aim of these guidelines is to present a frame to harmonize the methodology of river monitoring and establish a common approach for the Mediterranean countries.
7. During the presentation the participants actively discussed the subject, posing their questions and comments.

Estimation of inputs of materials from rivers into the Mediterranean Sea

8. Mr Wolfgang Ludwig introduced the concept and the current situation of the estimation of riverine inputs from a scientific and technical point of view. He presented the different methods of estimations and their preferential application for different cases and data sets. He also specified the positive and negative aspects of each method.

Case study on estimation of inputs from rivers into the Mediterranean Sea

9. Mr Wolfgang Ludwig presented a case study for the Gulf of Lions including both land and marine systems. Different approaches to the quantification of riverine inputs to the selected marine area were applied and the results were compared. Flood events and their contributions to the quantifications of inputs were carefully examined and stressed.

State-of-the-art of river monitoring in Albania

10. Ms. M. Banja, a national expert, Institute of Hydrometeorology, reviewed the state of the art-of-the river monitoring in Albania (the power point presentation in Albanian is attached as Annex III). First, she described the river basins of Albania, where most of them belong to the Mediterranean basin. Furthermore, she described the monitoring programme, including the monitoring network, parameters and frequency of sampling, and she presented the results of recent measurements, as well as some specific projects and studies. She pointed out that funds for the monitoring activities, which were secured in the first quarter of each year, are not enough for the implementation of the entire programme. Therefore, a reduced number of sampling at 29 stations was done (six times a year, instead of 12 times at mid and lower parts of rivers). Finally, she concluded and recommended the following:
 - ✓ The most polluted rivers in Albania are Ishmi and Gjanica
 - ✓ Improving the quality of these waters is connected with the diminishing of urban and industrial discharges
 - ✓ The quality monitoring of the rivers should be continuous and must aim for an optimal monitoring network to have a real view of the situation
 - ✓ This monitoring programme must provide financial support for the Quality Assurance in order to have reliable monitoring and reported data
 - ✓ Integral quantity and quality monitoring should be performed
 - ✓ Improvement of sampling technique is essential
 - ✓ Familiarization and establishment of information for the quality control procedure is required

- ✓ On-line information (automatic and permanent stations which can transmit the information in distance) would be of special importance
 - ✓ Continuous exchange of information between our institutions (monitoring and studying) is necessary
 - ✓ An elevated performance in the evaluation of water quality requires the application of new techniques as well as the classic ones
 - ✓ Upgrading of the collaboration between intellectual capacities and a rational use of logistic capacities of different national and local institutions
 - ✓ Studying and monitoring of complex water systems in order to prevent the eventual flooding as those of previous years
 - ✓ Monitoring and documentation of the river bed changes affected by different activities should be included in the monitoring programme
 - ✓ Rising of the population awareness
11. In the discussion which followed the presentation, the participants supported the presentation, particularly the conclusions and recommendation. Specific attention was given to the need to increase funds allocated for the monitoring and the upgrading of monitoring equipment. In addition, the participants were advised by the representatives of the Ministry of Environment on the biological monitoring of rivers and lakes, as well as on the MED POL monitoring programme.

Round Table

12. A round table discussion, which was moderated by Ms. Canaj, was focused on the improvement of the existing river monitoring programme in order to satisfy the country's needs. The following issues were particularly pointed out and discussed;
- Sustainability of the monitoring programme;
 - Improvement of sampling strategy
 - Establishment of a network of permanent stations
 - Capacity building
 - Sediments monitoring
13. In addition, a strong message was given, from the majority of the participants, concerning the need of the better exchange of data and information between the relevant national institutions. The Ministry of Environment was indicated as the national institution which should be responsible for securing the dissemination of data and information.

Conclusions

14. The participants directly and indirectly supported the conclusions given in paragraph 10, in the discussion which was chaired by Ms. Etleva.
15. After several participants expressed their thanks to the UNEP/MAP/GEF and the Ministry of Environment for organizing the training course, the course was closed at 13:00 hours on 20 January 2005.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. NATIONAL EXPERTS

Nr		Name	Institution	Tel/Fax	Mobile	E-mail
1	Mr.	Ilir QESJA	Regional Environmental Agency, Durres	05222352, 05226386	0692796627	
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22	Ms.	Manjola BANJA	Institute of Hydrometeorology	223518		
23	Mr.	Mitat SANXHAKU	Institute of Hydrometeorology	223518		
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25	Mr.	Gafur GISHTI	Regional Environmental Agency, Berat	03232990	0692549207	
26	Mr.	Vasil DORACI	Ministry of Territory Adjustment and Tourism	256088	0682143133	
27	Mr.	Artan MEÇO	Ministry of Territory Adjustment and Tourism	256088		

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ANNEX II**AGENDA****DAY 1****Session I**

09:00-9:30 Opening and objectives of the training course

9:30-10:30 Overview of rivers in the Mediterranean
(presentation by a regional expert)

10:30-11:00 Break

Session II

11:00-12:30 Presentation of the guidelines for the monitoring of river pollution
(presentation by a national expert)

12:30-14:40 Lunch break

Session III

14:00-15:30 Estimation of inputs of materials from rivers into the Mediterranean Sea
(presentation by a regional expert)

15:30-16:00 Break

16:00-17:30 Case study on estimation of inputs of material into the Mediterranean Sea
(presentation by a regional expert)

DAY 2**Session IV**

9:00- 11:00 State-of-the-art of river monitoring in Albania
(presentation by a Albanian national expert)

11:00-11:30 Break

Session V

11:30-12:30 Round table:

- review of the Albanian state of the art of rivers monitoring, identification of needs for development
- identification of needs for the integration of quantification of inputs in national and the Albanian monitoring programme

12:30-13:00 Conclusions

13.00 Closure of the training course

13.00-14.30 Lunch