



Republic of Macedonia
Ministry of Environment
and Physical Planning

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To: **Mr. Alistair Rieu-Clarke**
Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary
Watercourses and International Lakes
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10,
Switzerland

Subject:

Dear **Mr. Alistair Rieu-Clarke,**

Referring to your e-mail request for revision of our National Report, in the first pilot reporting exercise under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International lakes (Water Convention) and in the monitoring of Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 6.5.2, I would like to inform you that the Ministry revised out the template and attached in addition to this letter.

I would like also to express our satisfaction for this opportunity to participate in this first pilot reporting exercise and thereby support the Convention and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 6.5.2.

With best wishes for continuation of our successful cooperation,



Sincerely yours,

Sadulla Duraki
Minister

Republic of Macedonia
Ministry of Environment
and Physical Planning

Bul. "Goce Delcev" bb
1000 Skopje,
Republic of Macedonia
Telephone: (02) 3251 400
Fax: (02) 3220 165
E-mail: infoeko@moepp.gov.mk
Web: www. moepp.gov.mk

Explanatory note to the template for reporting under the Water Convention and for global SDG indicator 6.5.2

This reporting template aims to gather information on the implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) and on the progress on transboundary cooperation under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, target 6.5 in accordance with the global indicator 6.5.2.

Reporting under the Water Convention

The Water Convention aims to protect and ensure the quantity, quality and sustainable use of transboundary water resources by facilitating cooperation. Originally negotiated as a regional agreement for the pan-European region, the Convention was amended to allow accession to all UN Member States and is now universally available.

Under the Convention, a reporting mechanism was introduced by the Meeting of the Parties at its seventh session in November 2015.

Reporting, among others, is key for reviewing and enhancing national implementation of the Convention, supporting accession to it by creating a baseline, enhancing basin-specific cooperation, promoting the accumulation and exchange of lessons learned, good practices and experiences, and helping to identify the specific needs of basins, and thereby supporting the mobilization of resources, for example, for capacity-building and technical assistance activities.

Reviewing progress on transboundary cooperation under SDG 6

In 2015, the SDGs were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. Target 6.5 calls for countries to implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation, as appropriate.

In late 2015 and early 2016, global indicators were developed in the framework of the Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDGs (IAEG-SDG) and subsequently adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2016.

To measure progress on transboundary cooperation in accordance to target 6.5, indicator 6.5.2 was adopted. The indicator is defined as the *percentage of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for transboundary cooperation* (more information on the methodology of calculation is available in section III).

For SDG 6, UN-Water has been coordinating the technical input to the indicators and the methodologies for their measurement. In this framework, UNECE and UNESCO have been designated as custodian agencies for monitoring this indicator at the global level.

As the reporting under the Convention was also intended as a means to review countries' progress towards target 6.5, the reporting template was revised to include questions related to the calculations of indicator 6.5.2.

Who should report?

Parties to the Water Convention are under a good faith obligation to report.

For the global review of the progress towards target 6.5 in accordance with indicator 6.5.2, all countries sharing transboundary waters are invited to report information in section III, regardless of whether they are Parties to the Water Convention or not.

Even if for the calculation of indicator 6.5.2 only information in section III is strictly necessary, also non-Parties to the Convention are encouraged to fill in sections I and II of the reporting template as they allow outlining a more defined picture of the situation concerning transboundary water cooperation. The overall template can indeed be useful to track progress more closely beyond the indicator value and better describe the current baseline. This is valuable also because inevitably the indicator is based on a number of criteria defining minimum thresholds and the information in sections I and II can allow tracking progress towards the different criteria.

Use of the reported information

Reporting has primarily a national importance and usefulness to inform decision-making at the national and transboundary level.

At the global level, data collected through this reporting will be elaborated to define:

- the global baseline for the implementation and application of the Water Convention
- the global baseline for the status of transboundary cooperation in accordance to indicator 6.5.2.

Results, including synthesis reports, will be submitted both to the High Level Political Forum in July 2018 which will focus, among others, on the in depth review of SDG 6, and to the eight session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention, to be held at the end of 2018.

Deadline for reporting

Countries are requested to submit their filled in template by **31 March 2017** to the Secretariat of the Water Convention

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Palais des Nations

1211 Geneva 10

Switzerland

E-mail: transboundary_water_cooperation_reporting@unece.org

Template for reporting under the Water Convention and for global SDG indicator 6.5.2

Country name: Republic of Macedonia

This template or reporting form is in the form of a questionnaire to be filled out. Questions can be either “closed”, Yes /No , with appropriate boxes to tick; “open”, requiring further information to be supplied, indicated by the words in square brackets [fill in]; or a combination of both. Depending on the country situation, it will not always be necessary to fill in extra information where space is provided for this.

The questions are divided into four parts: national (section I); by transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer (section II); list of transboundary waters and information for calculation of the SDG indicator 6.5.2, Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation (section III), and final questions (section IV). Please answer open questions very briefly, and in less than 200 words, using bullet points as appropriate. Section II will need to be completed for each of the transboundary basins, rivers, lakes or aquifers (please just copy the template for these questions and fill out again for each additional transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer).

The template encourages those reporting to refer to the reporting under other multilateral environmental agreements to which their country is a Party.

I. Transboundary water management at the national level

In this first section, you are requested to provide general information on transboundary water management at the national level. Information on specific transboundary basins, rivers, lakes or aquifers and agreements should be presented in section II and not repeated here.

1. (a) Does your country’s national legislation refer to measures to prevent, control and reduce any transboundary impact (art. 2 of the Convention)?

Yes

If yes, list the main national legislation: Law on Environment (Official Gazette no. 53/05) and Law on Waters (Official Gazette no. 87/08)

- (b) Do your country’s national policies, action plans and strategies refer to measures to prevent, control and reduce any transboundary impact?

Yes

If yes, list the main national policies, action plans and strategies:

National Environment Action Plan, 1997

Water Economy Master Plan, 1974

Physical Plan of R. Macedonia, Spatial Planning Management (1998, revised in 2004)

· National Environmental and Health Action Plan (1999)

· Agriculture Development Strategy

· National Biodiversity Strategy

· National Strategy for Sustainable Development

· National Waste Management Plan

· National Strategy for Water (2012- 2042)

- (c) Does your country’s legislation provide for the following principles?

Precautionary principle Yes

Polluter pays principle Yes

Sustainable development Yes

(d) Does your country have a national licensing or permitting system for wastewater discharges and other point source pollution (art. 3, para. 1 (b)) (e.g., in industry, mining, energy, municipal, wastewater management or other sectors)?

Yes

If yes, for which sectors? (please list): [industry, mining, energy, municipal, wastewater management]

If not, please explain why not (giving the most important reasons) or provide information if there are plans to introduce a licensing or permitting system: [fill in]

If your country has a licensing system, does the system provide for setting emission limits based on best available technology?

Yes

(e) Are the authorized discharges monitored and controlled (art. 3, para. 1 (b))?

Yes

If yes, how? (Please tick the ones applicable):

Monitoring of discharges

Monitoring of physical and chemical impacts on water

Monitoring of ecological impacts on water

Conditions on permits

Inspectorate

Other means (please list): [fill in]

If your country does not have a discharge monitoring system, please explain why not or provide information if there are plans to introduce a discharge monitoring system: [fill in]

(f) What are the main measures which your country takes to reduce diffuse sources of water pollution on transboundary waters (art. 3, para. 1) (e.g., from agriculture, transport, forestry or aquaculture)? The measures listed below relate to agriculture, but other sectors may be more significant. Please be sure to include these under "others":

Legislative measures

Norm for uses of fertilizers

Norms for uses of manure

Bans on or norms for use of pesticides

Others (please list): [fill in]

Economic and financial measures

Monetary incentives

Environmental taxes (such as fertilizer taxes)

Others (please list): [fill in]

Agricultural extension services

Technical measures

Source control measures

Crop rotation

Tillage control

Winter cover crops

Others (*please list*): [fill in]

Other measures

Buffer/filter strips

Wetland reconstruction

Sedimentation traps

Chemical measures

Others (*please list*): [fill in]

Other types of measures

If yes, please list: [fill in]

(g) What are the main measures which your country takes to enhance water efficiency (art. 3)?

Please tick as appropriate (not all might be relevant)

A regulatory system regarding water abstraction

Monitoring and control of abstractions

Water rights are clearly defined

Water allocation priorities are listed

Water-saving technologies

Advanced irrigation techniques

Demand management activities

Other means (*please list*)

(h) Does your country apply the ecosystems approach (art. 3, para. 1 (i), and art. 2, para. 1 (d))?

Yes

If yes, please describe how: [Through Environmental Impact Assessment process]

(i) Does your country take specific measures to prevent the pollution of groundwaters (art. 3, para. 1 (k))?

Yes

If yes, please list the most important measures: [restrictions on discharge on Ground Waters and through establishment of Water Protections Zones]

2. Does your country require transboundary environmental impact assessment (EIA)?

Yes

Does your country have procedures for transboundary EIA?

Yes

If yes, please make reference to the legislative basis (please insert the name and section of the relevant laws). (Please note: If your country is a Party to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, you may refer to your country's report under that Convention.): [Law on Environment, Republic of Macedonia is a Party to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context]

3. Does your country have transboundary agreements or arrangements for the protection and/or management of transboundary waters (i.e., surface waters or aquifers), whether bilateral, multilateral and/or at the basin level?

Yes

- If yes, list the bilateral, multilateral and basin agreements (listing for each of the countries concerned): [Law on Ratification of Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Macedonia and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania for the protection and sustainable development of the lake and its basin (Official Gazette no. 46/05)]

Bilateral and trilateral cooperation

Republic of Macedonia is not new to cooperation over transboundary water. All of its main rivers and lakes are shared with its neighbours in South-Eastern Europe, where as much as 90 per cent of the territory falls within transboundary river basins.

Accession to the UNECE Water Convention is an important step in the process of strengthening transboundary water cooperation in the region, particularly because the country co-riparians – Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, and Montenegro (excluding Kosovo) - are already Parties to the Convention.

As a candidate for membership in the European Union (EU), ratification of the Water Convention was also key for approximation towards EU legislation.

Republic of Macedonia is participating in bilateral cooperation in environmental protection with a number of countries, with an emphasis on cooperation with neighboring countries and receiving technical and other assistance from donor countries.

The country places importance on signing agreements and memoranda of understanding (MoUs), although the effectiveness of cooperation often depend more on the availability of funds for joint programmes and projects than on the existence of a formal agreement.

Bilateral and trilateral cooperation is primarily focused on the integrated management and conservation of transboundary natural resources and ecosystems such as transboundary lakes shared with neighbouring countries, i.e. Lake Ohrid (Albania), Prespa Park and Lake Prespa (Albania and Greece), and Lake Dojran (Greece).

Cross-border cooperation also takes place under programme component II of IPA and covers cooperation with Albania, Bulgaria and Greece which includes environmental aspects as well.

Ohrid Lake Basin co-operation

Transboundary cooperation between Albania and Macedonia dates back to 1956 when an agreement between Yugoslavia and Albania on "Questions of Water Management" was ratified. Under this agreement the so-called Joint Water Management Committee was established but became ineffective soon after its establishment.

The first initiative for restoring the cooperation between the two countries came from the World Bank in 1994 concerning the Lake Ohrid. The Memorandum of Understanding of the Lake Ohrid Conservation Project was signed in November 1996. The role of actors like the World Bank, the Swiss Government, and later the German KfW in this process has been important and the project received financial support from the GEF between 1998 and 2004.

On 17 June 2004, the Council of Ministers of Albania and the Government of Republic of Macedonia signed the Agreement for the Protection and Sustainable Development of Lake Ohrid and its Watershed together with Albania, followed by the establishment of the Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee in 2005. (Law on Ratification of Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Macedonia and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania for the protection and sustainable development of the lake and its basin (Official Gazette no. 46/05)). In concluding the Agreement, Albania and the Republic of Macedonia agreed to assure an equitable and integrated approach to protecting and sustainably developing Lake Ohrid and its watershed, pursuant to European Union standards. Ohrid Lake and city are designated as a World Cultural and Natural Heritage Site and the status of "Biosphere Reserve" under UNESCO.

Finally, the two States agreed to take measures to meet the conditions for approval of the Council of Europe's proposal to designate the Prespa-Ohrid area as a Euroregion^a to promote cross-border cooperation.

In order to assure effectiveness in the achievement of the objectives and commitments specified in the Agreement, the Parties agreed to establish the Watershed Management Committee for Lake Ohrid. This Committee was responsible for drafting and applying standards, environmental criteria, and requirements for sustainable development by which the integrated protection of Lake Ohrid and its watershed will be accomplished.

Prespa Lake Basin co-operation

^a In European politics, the term **Euroregion** usually refers to a transnational co-operation structure between two (or more) contiguous territories located in different European countries.

Cooperation between the three countries (MK, AL, GR) started in February 2000 when the Prime Ministers of Albania, FYR Macedonia, and Greece gathered in the village of Agios Germanos and issued a “Joint Declaration on the Creation of the Prespa Park and the Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Lakes and their Surroundings”. According to this Declaration, in order to promote coordination among the 3 countries, as well as to achieve environmental protection and sustainable development of the Prespa Lakes and the region, three Ministers of the Environment established the Prespa Park Coordination Committee (PPCC) as a non-legal entity whose members are appointed by the three Ministers of Environment.

The Prespa Park Coordination Committee (PPCC) was a vital instrument over all this years and was transformed into the Prespa Park Management Committee (PPMC) with the signature of the trilateral Agreement in February 2010 by Albania, Greece and The Republic of Macedonia on the protection and sustainable development of the Prespa Park area. On 14th February 2017, parliament of Greece ratified the international ‘Agreement for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area’ by an overwhelming majority.

This agreement does give clear directions for the future development of the Prespa Park, defines the members and terms of work of the PPMC and obliges the state parties to realize an office for the secretariat. A number of projects by international donors have supported the preservation of the Prespa Basin, including UNDP/GEF, UNESCO, KfW and the Galicica National Park, NATO, an Italian NGO and the Netherlands Development Organization.

Drin river Basin co-operation

In the Drin river Basin, coordinated action has been absent until the development of the Shared Vision for the sustainable management of the Drin Basin and the signing of a related Memorandum of Understanding (Tirana, 25 November 2011) by the Ministers of the water and environment management competent ministries of the Drin Riparians i.e. Albania, the Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Kosovo and Montenegro. This was the outcome of the Drin Dialogue coordinated by the Global Water Partnership Mediterranean (GWP-Med) and UNECE.

Vardar river Basin co-operation

In addition, bilateral cooperation between Republic of Macedonia and Greece is also taking place regarding the conservation of Lake Dojran since a first bilateral meeting in 2001. Although a Joint Water Management Committee of the two countries was established in 2001, this has' not resulted in active cooperation in river basin planning or management of the Lake Dojran.

Key challenges in cross-border cooperation still exist on transboundary waters, including the management of the Vardar River with Greece and the Drin River (Albania, Greece, Montenegro and Kosovo). Over the last decade, numerous projects have been carried out in this region, some of high importance and some being small with local benefits.

II. Questions for each transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer

Please complete this second section for each transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer, or for group of basins covered by the same agreement or arrangement and where conditions are similar. It might also be convenient to group basins or sub-basins for which your country's share is very small.^b In some instances, you may provide information on both a basin and one or more of its sub-basins, for example, where you have agreements^c on both the basin and its sub-basin. You may coordinate your responses with other States with which your country shares the basin or aquifer or even prepare a joint report for shared basins. General information on transboundary water management at the national level should be provided in section I and not repeated here.

Please reproduce the whole section II with its questions for each transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer, or group of basins for which you will provide a reply.

Name of the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer, or group thereof, list of the riparian States, and country's share of the basin: Drin (including Prespa and Ohrid watersheds)

1. Is there one or more transboundary (bilateral or multilateral) agreement(s) or arrangement(s) on this basin (art. 9)?

One or more agreements or arrangements exist and are in force

Agreement or arrangement developed but not in force

Agreement or arrangement developed, but not in force for all riparians

Please insert the name of the agreement or agreements or arrangements:

The 2011 Memorandum of Understanding for the Management of the Extended Transboundary Drin Basin

Agreement or arrangement is under development

No agreement

If there is no agreement or arrangement or it is not in force, please explain briefly why not and provide information on any plans to address the situation: [fill in]

If there is no agreement or arrangement and no joint body for the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer then jump to question 4; if there is no agreement, but a joint body then go to question 3. →

Questions 2 and 3 to be completed for each bilateral or multilateral agreement or arrangement in force in the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer or group of basins or sub-basins

2. (a) Does this agreement or arrangement specify the basin area subject to cooperation?

Yes /No

If yes, does it cover the entire basin, or group of basins, and all riparian States?

^b In principle, section 2 should be submitted for every transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer in the country, but States may decide to group basins in which their share is small or leave out basins in which their share is very minor, e.g., below 1 per cent.

^c In section II, "agreement" covers all kinds of treaties, conventions and agreements ensuring cooperation in the field of transboundary waters. Section II can also be completed for other types of arrangements, such as memorandums of understanding.

Yes /No

If not, what does it cover?: [fill in]

Or, if the agreement or arrangement relates to a sub-basin, does it cover the entire sub-basin?

Yes /No

Which States (including your own) are bound by the agreement or arrangement?
(Please list): [Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, Greece]

(b) Are connected^d aquifers (or groundwater bodies) covered by the agreement/arrangement?

Yes /No

(c) What is the sectoral scope of the agreement or arrangement?

All water uses

A single water use or sector

Several water uses or sectors

If several water uses or sectors, please list (check as appropriate):

Water uses or sectors

Industry

Agriculture

Transport (e.g., navigation)

Households

Energy: hydropower and other energy types

Tourism

Nature protection

Other (please list): [fill in]

(d) What topics or subjects of cooperation are included in the agreement or arrangement (art. 9)?

Procedural and institutional issues

Dispute and conflict prevention and resolution

Institutional cooperation (joint bodies)

Consultation on planned measures

Mutual assistance (art. 15)

Topics of cooperation

Joint vision and management objectives

Joint significant water management issues

Navigation

Environmental protection (ecosystem)

Water quality

^d Either hydraulically connected to the watercourse or those located within the basin area.

- Water quantity or allocation
- Cooperation in addressing floods
- Cooperation in addressing droughts
- Climate change adaptation

Monitoring and exchange

- Joint assessments
- Data collection and exchange (art. 13)
- Joint monitoring (art. 11)
- Maintenance of joint pollution inventories
- Elaboration of joint water quality objectives
- Common early warning and alarm procedures (art. 14)
- Exchange of experience between riparian States
- Exchange of information on planned measures

Joint planning and management

- Development of joint regulations on specific topics
- Development of international or joint river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans
- Management of shared infrastructure
- Development of shared infrastructure

Other (*please list*): [fill in]

(e) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the agreement or arrangement and its implementation, if any (*please describe, if applicable*):

- Insufficient management of the sub-basins at the national level
- Insufficient human, financial and technical resources,
- Insufficient management of the sub-basins at the transboundary level

(f) What are the main achievements in implementing the agreement or arrangement and what were the keys to achieving such success?:

- The Drin Dialogue Process started on May 1st 2010
- The Drin Core Group (DCG), established through the Drin Dialogue, was given the mandate to coordinate actions for the implementation of the MoU
- Established Expert Working Groups for transboundary cooperation and the implementation of the MoU
- An Action Plan for the implementation of the MoU

(g) Please attach a copy of the agreement or arrangement or provide the web address of the document (*please attach document or insert web address, if applicable*): [fill in]

3. Is your country a member of an operational joint body or joint bodies for this agreement/arrangement (art. 9)?

Yes /No

If no, why not? (please explain): [fill in]

Where there is a joint body (or bodies)

- (a) If there is a joint body, which kind of joint body (*please tick one*)?
- Plenipotentiaries
 - Bilateral commission
 - Basin or similar commission
 - Other (*please describe*): [fill in]
- (b) Does the joint body cover the entire transboundary basin or sub-basin, river, lake or aquifer, or group of basins, and all riparian States?
Yes /No
- (c) Which States (including your own) are member of the joint body? (*Please list*): [Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro and Greece]
- (d) Does the joint body have any of the following features (*please tick the ones applicable*)?
- A secretariat
If the secretariat is a permanent one, is it a joint secretariat or does each country host its own secretariat? (Please describe): [fill in]
 - A subsidiary body or bodies
Please list (e.g., working groups on specific topics):
Working Groups on:
 - (i) Water Framework Directive;
 - (ii) Monitoring and Information Exchange;
 - (iii) Biodiversity and Ecosystems.Other features (*please list*): [fill in]
- (e) What are the tasks and activities of this joint body (art. 9, para. 2)?^e
- Identification of pollution sources
 - Data collection and exchange
 - Joint monitoring
 - Maintenance of joint pollution inventories
 - Setting emission limits
 - Elaboration of joint water quality objectives
 - Management and prevention of flood or drought risks
 - Preparedness for extreme events, e.g., common early warning and alarm procedures
 - Water allocation and/or flow regulation
 - Policy development
 - Control of implementation
 - Exchange of experience between riparian States

^e This may include tasks according to the agreement or tasks added by the joint body, or its subsidiaries. Both tasks which joint bodies coordinate and tasks which they implement should be included.

- Exchange of information on existing and planned uses of water and related installations
- Settling of differences and conflicts
- Consultations on planned measures
- Exchange of information on best available technology
- Participation in transboundary EIA
- Development of river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans
- Management of shared infrastructure
- Addressing hydromorphological alterations
- Climate change adaptation
- Joint communication strategy
- Basin-wide or joint public participation and consultation of, for example, basin management plans
- Joint resources to support transboundary cooperation
- Capacity-building
- Any other tasks (*please list*): [fill in]
- (f) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the operation of the joint body, if any?
- Governance issues
Please describe, if any: [fill in]
- Unexpected planning delays
Please describe, if any: [fill in]
- Lack of resources
Please describe, if true: [fill in]
- Lack of mechanism for implementing measures
Please describe, if true: [fill in]
- Lack of effective measures
Please describe, if true: [fill in]
- Unexpected extreme events
Please describe, if any: [fill in]
- Lack of information and reliable forecasts
Please describe, if any: [fill in]
- Others (*please list and describe, as appropriate*): [fill in]
- (g) If not all riparian States are members of the joint body how does the body cooperate with them?
- No cooperation
- They have observer status
- Other (*please describe*): [fill in]
- (h) Does the joint body or its subsidiary bodies meet regularly?
Yes /No

If yes, how frequently does it meet? [Drin Core Group (DCG), as a joint coordination body meets at least once per year. The 14th DCG meeting was held in Podgorica, Montenegro in November 2017]

(i) What are the main achievements with regards to the joint body?: [[Prevent, control and reduce pollution of the waters in the Extended Drin River Basin]

(j) Are representatives of international organizations invited to the meetings of the joint body (or bodies) as observers?

Yes /No GIZ

(k) Did the joint body ever invite a coastal State to cooperate (art. 9, paras. 3 and 4)?

Yes /No

If yes, please give details. If no, why not?: [fill in]

The 2000 Joint Declaration on the Creation of the Prespa Park and the Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Lakes and their Surroundings

2. (a) Does this agreement or arrangement specify the basin area subject to cooperation?

Yes

If yes, does it cover the entire basin, or group of basins, and all riparian States?

No

If not, what does it cover?: [Prespa Lake Basin]

Or, if the agreement or arrangement relates to a sub-basin, does it cover the entire sub-basin?

Yes

Which States (including your own) are bound by the agreement or arrangement? *(Please list):* [Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Greece]

(b) Are aquifers (or groundwater bodies) covered by the agreement/arrangement?

Yes

(c) What is the sectoral scope of the agreement or arrangement?

All water uses +

A single water use or sector -

Several water uses or sectors -

If one or several water uses or sectors, please list (check as appropriate):

Water uses or sectors

Industry +

Agriculture +

Transport (e.g., navigation) +

Households +

Energy: hydropower and other energy types +

Tourism +

Nature protection +

Other (*please list*): [fill in]

(d) What topics or subjects of cooperation are included in the agreement or arrangement (art. 9)?

Procedural and institutional issues

Dispute and conflict prevention and resolution +

Institutional cooperation (joint bodies) +

Consultation on planned measures +

Mutual assistance (art. 15) +

Topics of cooperation

Joint vision and management objectives +

Joint significant water management issues +

Navigation +

Environmental protection (ecosystem) +

Water quality +

Water quantity or allocation +

Cooperation in addressing floods -

Cooperation in addressing droughts -

Climate change adaptation -

Monitoring and exchange

Joint assessments +

Data collection and exchange (art. 13) +

Joint monitoring (art. 11) +

Maintenance of joint pollution inventories +

Elaboration of joint water quality objectives +

Common early warning and alarm procedures (art. 14) -

Exchange of experience between riparian States -

Exchange of information on planned measures -

Joint planning and management

Development of joint regulations on specific topics +

Development of international or joint river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans +

Management of shared infrastructure +

Development of shared infrastructure +

Other (*please list*): [fill in]

(e) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the agreement or arrangement and its implementation, if any:

- Insufficient management of the sub-basins at the national level (Legal framework, Institutional capacity, Overlapping competences, Ineffective communication and coordination)

- Insufficient human, financial and technical resources
- Insufficient management of the sub-basins at the transboundary level

(f) What are the main achievements in implementing the agreement or arrangement and what were the keys to achieving such success?:

[The Prespa Park Management Committee established, in the Prespa Watershed a number of relevant projects were implemented]

(g) Please attach a copy of the agreement or arrangement or provide the web address of the document: [copy attached]

3. Is your country a member of an operational joint body or joint bodies for this agreement/arrangement (art. 9)?

Yes

If no, why not? (please explain): [fill in]

Where there is a joint body (or bodies)

(a) If there is a joint body, which kind of joint body (*please tick one*)?

- Plenipotentiaries +
- Bilateral commission -
- Basin or similar commission -
- Other (*please describe*): [fill in]

(b) Does the joint body cover the entire transboundary basin or sub-basin, river, lake or aquifer, or group of basins, and all riparian States?

No (only the Prespa Lake Basin)

(c) Which States (including your own) are member of the joint body? (*Please list*): [Macedonia, Greece and Albania]

(d) Does the joint body have any of the following features (*please tick the ones applicable*)?

A secretariat +

If the secretariat is a permanent one, is it a joint secretariat or does each country host its own secretariat? (Please describe): [fill in]

A subsidiary body or bodies +

Please list (e.g., working groups on specific topics):

[Working group on Water Management]

Other features (*please list*): [fill in]

(e) What are the tasks and activities of this joint body (art. 9, para. 2)?^f

- Identification of pollution sources +
- Data collection and exchange +
- Joint monitoring +
- Maintenance of joint pollution inventories +

^f This may include tasks according to the agreement or tasks added by the joint body, or its subsidiaries. Both tasks which joint bodies coordinate and tasks which they implement should be included.

Setting emission limits	+ <input type="checkbox"/>
Elaboration of joint water quality objectives	+ <input type="checkbox"/>
Management and prevention of flood or drought risks	- <input type="checkbox"/>
Preparedness for extreme events, e.g., common early warning and alarm procedures	- <input type="checkbox"/>
Water allocation and/or flow regulation	+ <input type="checkbox"/>
Policy development	+ <input type="checkbox"/>
Control of implementation	+ <input type="checkbox"/>
Exchange of experience between riparian States	+ <input type="checkbox"/>
Exchange of information on existing and planned uses of water and related installations	+ <input type="checkbox"/>
Settling of differences and conflicts	+ <input type="checkbox"/>
Consultations on planned measures	+ <input type="checkbox"/>
Exchange of information on best available technology	+ <input type="checkbox"/>
Participation in transboundary EIA	+ <input type="checkbox"/>
Development of river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans	+ <input type="checkbox"/>
Management of shared infrastructure	+ <input type="checkbox"/>
Addressing hydromorphological alterations	+ <input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change adaptation	+ <input type="checkbox"/>
Joint communication strategy	+ <input type="checkbox"/>
Basin-wide or joint public participation and consultation of, for example, basin management plans	+ <input type="checkbox"/>
Joint resources to support transboundary cooperation	+ <input type="checkbox"/>
Capacity-building	+ <input type="checkbox"/>
Any other tasks (<i>please list</i>): [fill in]	

(f) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the operation of the joint body, if any?

Governance issues	+ <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please describe, if any:</i> [fill in]	
Unexpected planning delays	+ <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please describe, if any:</i> [fill in]	
Lack of resources	+ <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please describe, if true:</i> [fill in]	
Lack of mechanism for implementing measures	+ <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please describe, if true:</i> [fill in]	
Lack of effective measures	+ <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please describe, if true:</i> [fill in]	
Unexpected extreme events	+ <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please describe, if any:</i> [fill in]	
Lack of information and reliable forecasts	+ <input type="checkbox"/>

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Others (please list and describe, as appropriate): [fill in]

(g) If not all riparian States are members of the joint body how does the body cooperate with them?

No cooperation +

They have observer status -

Other (please describe): [fill in]

(h) Does the joint body or its subsidiary bodies meet regularly?

No

If yes, how frequently does it meet? [fill in]

(i) What are the main achievements with regards to the joint body?:

[a number of very important strategies and action plans have been prepared for the Prespa lake watershed, a number of relevant projects were implemented in parallel with the UNDP GEF Prespa project]

(j) Are representatives of international organizations invited to the meetings of the joint body (or bodies) as observers?

Yes

(k) Did the joint body ever invite a coastal State to cooperate (art. 9, paras. 3 and 4)?

No

If yes, please give details. If no, why not?: [fill in]

The 2004 Agreement for the Protection and Sustainable Development of Lake Ohrid and its Watersheds, as well as the Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee

2. (a) Does this agreement or arrangement specify the basin area subject to cooperation?

Yes

If yes, does it cover the entire basin, or group of basins, and all riparian States?

No

If not, what does it cover?: [Ohrid Lake Basin]

Or, if the agreement or arrangement relates to a sub-basin, does it cover the entire sub-basin?

Yes

Which States (including your own) are bound by the agreement or arrangement? (Please list): [Republic of Macedonia, Albania]

(b) Are aquifers (or groundwater bodies) covered by the agreement/arrangement?

Yes

(c) What is the sectoral scope of the agreement or arrangement?

All water uses +

A single water use or sector -

Several water uses or sectors -

If one or several water uses or sectors, please list (check as appropriate):

Water uses or sectors

Industry +

Agriculture +

Transport (e.g., navigation) +

Households +

Energy: hydropower and other energy types +

Tourism +

Nature protection +

Other (*please list*): [fill in]

(d) What topics or subjects of cooperation are included in the agreement or arrangement (art. 9)?

Procedural and institutional issues

Dispute and conflict prevention and resolution +

Institutional cooperation (joint bodies) +

Consultation on planned measures +

Mutual assistance (art. 15) +

Topics of cooperation

Joint vision and management objectives +

Joint significant water management issues +

Navigation +

Environmental protection (ecosystem) +

Water quality +

Water quantity or allocation +

Cooperation in addressing floods -

Cooperation in addressing droughts -

Climate change adaptation -

Monitoring and exchange

Joint assessments +

Data collection and exchange (art. 13) +

Joint monitoring (art. 11) +

Maintenance of joint pollution inventories +

Elaboration of joint water quality objectives +

Common early warning and alarm procedures (art. 14) -

Exchange of experience between riparian States -

Exchange of information on planned measures -

Joint planning and management

Development of joint regulations on specific topics +

Development of international or joint river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans +

Management of shared infrastructure +

Development of shared infrastructure +

Other (*please list*): [fill in]

(e) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the agreement or arrangement and its implementation, if any:

- Insufficient management of the sub-basins at the national level (Legal framework, Institutional capacity, Overlapping competences, Ineffective communication and coordination)

- Insufficient human, financial and technical resources

- Insufficient management of the sub-basins at the transboundary level

(f) What are the main achievements in implementing the agreement or arrangement and what were the keys to achieving such success?:

[a bilateral "Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee" established]

(g) Please attach a copy of the agreement or arrangement or provide the web address of the document: [copy attached]

3. Is your country a member of an operational joint body or joint bodies for this agreement/arrangement (art. 9)?

Yes

If no, why not? (please explain): [fill in]

Where there is a joint body (or bodies)

(a) If there is a joint body, which kind of joint body (*please tick one*)?

Plenipotentiaries -

Bilateral commission +

Basin or similar commission -

Other (*please describe*): [fill in]

(b) Does the joint body cover the entire transboundary basin or sub-basin, river, lake or aquifer, or group of basins, and all riparian States?

No (only the Ohrid Lake Basin)

(c) Which States (including your own) are member of the joint body? (*Please list*): [Macedonia and Albania]

(d) Does the joint body have any of the following features (*please tick the ones applicable*)?

A secretariat +

If the secretariat is a permanent one, is it a joint secretariat or does each country host its own secretariat? (Please describe): [fill in]

A subsidiary body or bodies -

Please list (e.g., working groups on specific topics): [fill in]

Other features (*please list*): [fill in]

- (e) What are the tasks and activities of this joint body (art. 9, para. 2)?^g
- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Identification of pollution sources | + <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Data collection and exchange | + <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Joint monitoring | + <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Maintenance of joint pollution inventories | + <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Setting emission limits | + <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Elaboration of joint water quality objectives | + <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Management and prevention of flood or drought risks | - <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Preparedness for extreme events, e.g., common early warning and alarm procedures | - <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Water allocation and/or flow regulation | + <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Policy development | + <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Control of implementation | + <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Exchange of experience between riparian States | + <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Exchange of information on existing and planned uses of water and related installations | + <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Settling of differences and conflicts | + <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Consultations on planned measures | + <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Exchange of information on best available technology | + <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Participation in transboundary EIA | + <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Development of river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans | + <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Management of shared infrastructure | + <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Addressing hydromorphological alterations | + <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Climate change adaptation | + <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Joint communication strategy | + <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Basin-wide or joint public participation and consultation of, for example, basin management plans | + <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Joint resources to support transboundary cooperation | + <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Capacity-building | + <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Any other tasks (<i>please list</i>): [fill in] | |
- (f) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the operation of the joint body, if any?
- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Governance issues | + <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Please describe, if any:</i> [fill in] | |
| Unexpected planning delays | + <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Please describe, if any:</i> [fill in] | |
| Lack of resources | + <input type="checkbox"/> |

^g This may include tasks according to the agreement or tasks added by the joint body, or its subsidiaries. Both tasks which joint bodies coordinate and tasks which they implement should be included.

Please describe, if true: [fill in]

Lack of mechanism for implementing measures +

Please describe, if true: [fill in]

Lack of effective measures +

Please describe, if true: [fill in]

Unexpected extreme events +

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Lack of information and reliable forecasts +

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Others (please list and describe, as appropriate): [fill in]

(g) If not all riparian States are members of the joint body how does the body cooperate with them?

No cooperation +

They have observer status -

Other (please describe): [fill in]

(h) Does the joint body or its subsidiary bodies meet regularly?

No

If yes, how frequently does it meet? [fill in]

(i) What are the main achievements with regards to the joint body?:

[Prevent, control and reduce pollution of the waters in the Ohrid lake watershed]

(j) Are representatives of international organizations invited to the meetings of the joint body (or bodies) as observers?

Yes

(k) Did the joint body ever invite a coastal State to cooperate (art. 9, paras. 3 and 4)?

No

If yes, please give details. If no, why not?: [fill in]

4. Is there a joint or coordinated management plan (such as an action plan or a common strategy) or have joint objectives been set specifically on the transboundary waters subject to cooperation (art. 9, para. 2 (f)) ?

Yes

If yes, please provide further details: [An Action Plan was prepared to support the implementation of the Drin MoU and to set the Drin CODA into operation. The Drin Action Plan, approved by the 6th DCG Meeting (May 2012) and endorsed by the 1st Meeting of the Parties (May 2013), is structured around six actions:

- Enhancement of coordination mechanisms among the parties.
- Enhancement of the knowledge base concerning the Drin Basin.
- Improvement of information exchange by establishing a system for regular exchange of information among the competent authorities of each party.

- Enhancement of cooperation in the field of flood risk preparedness, management and mutual support.
- Institutional strengthening in the field of integrated water resources management.
- Promotion of public participation and stakeholders' engagement

5. How is the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer protected, including the protection of ecosystems, in the context of sustainable and rational water use (art. 2, para. 2 (b), and art. 3, para. 1 (i)) ?

- Afforestation
- Restoration of ecosystems
- Environmental flow norms
- Groundwater measures (e.g., protection zones)
- Other measures (*please list*): [fill in]

6. (a) Does your country exchange information and data with other riparian States in the basin (art. 13)?

Yes /No

(b) If yes, on what subjects are information and data exchanged?

- Environmental conditions (art. 13, para. (1) (a))
- Research activities and application of best available techniques (arts. 5, 12 and 13, para. 1 (b))
- Emission monitoring data (art. 13, para. 1 (c))
- Planned measures taken to prevent, control or reduce transboundary impacts (art. 13, para. 1 (d))
- Point source pollution sources
- Diffuse pollution sources
- Existing hydromorphological alterations (dams, etc.)
- Discharges
- Water abstractions
- Future planned measures with transboundary impacts, such as infrastructure development
- Other subjects (*please list*): [fill in]

(c) Is there a shared database or information platform?

Yes /No

(d) Is the database publicly available?

Yes /No

If yes, please provide the web address: [fill in]

(e) What are the main difficulties and challenges to data exchange, if applicable? (*please describe*): [no new agreement in place]

(f) What are the main benefits of data exchange on the transboundary waters subject to cooperation? (*please describe*): [better floods management]

7. Do the riparian States carry out joint monitoring in the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer (art. 11, para. 1)?

Yes /No

(a) If yes, what does the joint monitoring cover?

	Covered?	Hydrological	Ecological	Chemical
Border surface waters	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Surface waters in the entire basin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Surface waters on the main watercourse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Connected aquifers (or groundwaters)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unconnected aquifers (or groundwaters)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(b) If joint monitoring is carried out, how is this done?

- National monitoring stations connected through a network or common stations
- Joint and agreed methodologies
- Joint sampling
- Common monitoring network
- Common agreed parameters

(c) Please describe the main achievements regarding joint monitoring, if any: [fill in]

(d) Please describe any difficulties experienced with joint monitoring: [fill in]

8. Do the riparian States carry out joint assessment of the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer (art. 11)?

Yes /No

If yes, please provide the date of the last or only assessment, the frequency and scope (e.g., surface waters or groundwaters only, pollution sources, etc.) of the assessment: [fill in]

9. Have the riparian States agreed to use joint water quality standards?

Yes /No

If yes, is the basis an international or regional standard (please specify which) or has it been adapted from the national standards of the riparian States?: [fill in]

10. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of accidental pollution (art. 14)?

- Notification and communication
- Coordinated or joint alarm system for accidental water pollution
- Other (*please list*): [fill in]
- No measures

If not, why not? What difficulties does your country face in putting in place such measures?: [fill in]

11. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of extreme weather events (art. 14)?

- Notification and communication
- Coordinated or joint alarm system for floods
- Coordinated or joint alarm system for droughts
- Joint climate change adaptation strategy
- Joint disaster risk reduction strategy

Other (*please list*): [fill in]

No measures

If not, why not? What difficulties does your country face in putting in place such measures?: [fill in]

12. Are procedures in place for mutual assistance in case of a critical situation (art. 15)?

Yes /No

If yes, please provide a brief summary: [procedures are in place under The Directorate for rescue and Protection (<http://www.dzs.gov.mk>) and Crisis Management Centre (<http://www.cuk.gov.mk>)]

13. Are the public or relevant stakeholders involved in transboundary water management in the basin, river, lake or aquifer? (art. 16)?

Yes /No

If yes, how? (please tick all applicable) (Please note: If your country is a Party to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention), you may refer to your country's report under that Convention.):

Stakeholders have observer status in a joint body

If yes, please specify the stakeholders for each joint body: [fill in]

Availability of information to the public

Consultation on planned measures or river basin management plans^h

Public involvement

Other (*please specify*): [fill in]

Please remember to complete section II for each of the transboundary basins, rivers, lakes or aquifers. Please also remember to attach copies of agreements, if any.

^h Or, where applicable, aquifer management plans.

Name of the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer, or group thereof, list of the riparian States, and country's share of the basin: Vardar River Basin

1. Is there one or more transboundary (bilateral or multilateral) agreement(s) or arrangement(s) on this basin (art. 9)?

One or more agreements or arrangements exist and are in force

Agreement or arrangement developed but not in force

Agreement or arrangement developed, but not in force for all riparians

Please insert the name of the agreement or agreements or arrangements:

Agreement or arrangement is under development

No agreement

If there is no agreement or arrangement or it is not in force, please explain briefly why not and provide information on any plans to address the situation:

[Vardar river flows into the North Aegean Sea as Axios river in Greece (87 km long, extending over 3,212 km²) and covers 23,747 km² (86.9%) of Macedonia; small catchments parts are further in Kosovo and Serbia. *Bilateral agreements* exist with Greece but, for various reasons, the cooperation does not function recently and has to be re-established. The old agreements from former Yugoslavia, aren't in line with new national water legislation, EU requirement and UNECE Water Convention. Macedonia has taken over all legal obligations and international commitments as a successor of the former Yugoslavia, as well as new ones by becoming party of the UN and of various Conventions.

- Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a transboundary context (Espoo, 1991). Ratified by RM in 1999.
- Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio). Ratified by RM in 1997.
- Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially waterfowl habitats. Regulation on ratification adopted (Official Gazette of SFR of Yugoslavia, No. 9/77). RM became party of Convention with accession act and with the nomination of Prespa Lake in the Ramsar list in 1995.
- Convention on the Conservation of migratory Species of wild animals. Ratified by RM in 1999. In force since November 1999.
- Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats. Ratified by RM in 1997. In force since April 1999.
- Convention for the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage. Ratified by SFR Yugoslavia in 1974]

If there is no agreement or arrangement and no joint body for the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer then jump to question 4; if there is no agreement, but a joint body then go to question 3. →

Questions 2 and 3 to be completed for each bilateral or multilateral agreement or arrangement in force in the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer or group of basins or sub-basins

2. (a) Does this agreement or arrangement specify the basin area subject to cooperation?

Yes /No

If yes, does it cover the entire basin, or group of basins, and all riparian States?

Yes /No

If not, what does it cover?: [fill in]

Or, if the agreement or arrangement relates to a sub-basin, does it cover the entire sub-basin?

Yes /No

Which States (including your own) are bound by the agreement or arrangement?
(Please list): [fill in]

(b) Are connectedⁱ aquifers (or groundwater bodies) covered by the agreement/arrangement?

Yes /No

(c) What is the sectoral scope of the agreement or arrangement?

All water uses

A single water use or sector

Several water uses or sectors

If several water uses or sectors, please list (check as appropriate):

Water uses or sectors

Industry

Agriculture

Transport (e.g., navigation)

Households

Energy: hydropower and other energy types

Tourism

Nature protection

Other (please list): [fill in]

(d) What topics or subjects of cooperation are included in the agreement or arrangement (art. 9)?

Procedural and institutional issues

Dispute and conflict prevention and resolution

Institutional cooperation (joint bodies)

Consultation on planned measures

Mutual assistance (art. 15)

Topics of cooperation

Joint vision and management objectives

Joint significant water management issues

Navigation

Environmental protection (ecosystem)

Water quality

Water quantity or allocation

ⁱ Either hydraulically connected to the watercourse or those located within the basin area.

- Cooperation in addressing floods
- Cooperation in addressing droughts
- Climate change adaptation

Monitoring and exchange

- Joint assessments
- Data collection and exchange (art. 13)
- Joint monitoring (art. 11)
- Maintenance of joint pollution inventories
- Elaboration of joint water quality objectives
- Common early warning and alarm procedures (art. 14)
- Exchange of experience between riparian States
- Exchange of information on planned measures

Joint planning and management

- Development of joint regulations on specific topics
- Development of international or joint river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans
- Management of shared infrastructure
- Development of shared infrastructure

Other (*please list*): [fill in]

(e) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the agreement or arrangement and its implementation, if any (*please describe, if applicable*): [fill in]

(f) What are the main achievements in implementing the agreement or arrangement and what were the keys to achieving such success?: [fill in]

(g) Please attach a copy of the agreement or arrangement or provide the web address of the document (*please attach document or insert web address, if applicable*): [fill in]

3. Is your country a member of an operational joint body or joint bodies for this agreement/arrangement (art. 9)?

Yes /No

If no, why not? (please explain): [fill in]

Where there is a joint body (or bodies)

(a) If there is a joint body, which kind of joint body (*please tick one*)?

- Plenipotentiaries
- Bilateral commission
- Basin or similar commission

Other (*please describe*): [fill in]

(b) Does the joint body cover the entire transboundary basin or sub-basin, river, lake or aquifer, or group of basins, and all riparian States?

Yes /No

(c) Which States (including your own) are member of the joint body? *(Please list):* [fill in]

(d) Does the joint body have any of the following features *(please tick the ones applicable)*?

A secretariat

If the secretariat is a permanent one, is it a joint secretariat or does each country host its own secretariat? (Please describe): [fill in]

A subsidiary body or bodies

Please list (e.g., working groups on specific topics): [fill in]

Other features *(please list):* [fill in]

(e) What are the tasks and activities of this joint body (art. 9, para. 2)?^j

Identification of pollution sources

Data collection and exchange

Joint monitoring

Maintenance of joint pollution inventories

Setting emission limits

Elaboration of joint water quality objectives

Management and prevention of flood or drought risks

Preparedness for extreme events, e.g., common early warning and alarm procedures

Water allocation and/or flow regulation

Policy development

Control of implementation

Exchange of experience between riparian States

Exchange of information on existing and planned uses of water and related installations

Settling of differences and conflicts

Consultations on planned measures

Exchange of information on best available technology

Participation in transboundary EIA

Development of river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans

Management of shared infrastructure

Addressing hydromorphological alterations

Climate change adaptation

Joint communication strategy

Basin-wide or joint public participation and consultation of, for example, basin management plans

^j This may include tasks according to the agreement or tasks added by the joint body, or its subsidiaries. Both tasks which joint bodies coordinate and tasks which they implement should be included.

Joint resources to support transboundary cooperation

Capacity-building

Any other tasks (*please list*): [fill in]

(f) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the operation of the joint body, if any?

Governance issues

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Unexpected planning delays

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Lack of resources

Please describe, if true: [fill in]

Lack of mechanism for implementing measures

Please describe, if true: [fill in]

Lack of effective measures

Please describe, if true: [fill in]

Unexpected extreme events

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Lack of information and reliable forecasts

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Others (*please list and describe, as appropriate*): [fill in]

(g) If not all riparian States are members of the joint body how does the body cooperate with them?

No cooperation

They have observer status

Other (*please describe*): [fill in]

(h) Does the joint body or its subsidiary bodies meet regularly?

Yes /No

If yes, how frequently does it meet? [fill in]

(i) What are the main achievements with regards to the joint body?: [fill in]

(j) Are representatives of international organizations invited to the meetings of the joint body (or bodies) as observers?

Yes /No

(k) Did the joint body ever invite a coastal State to cooperate (art. 9, paras. 3 and 4)?

Yes /No

If yes, please give details. If no, why not?: [fill in]

4. Is there a joint or coordinated management plan (such as an action plan or a common strategy) or have joint objectives been set specifically on the transboundary waters subject to cooperation (art. 9, para. 2 (f)) ?

Yes /No

If yes, please provide further details: [fill in]

5. How is the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer protected, including the protection of ecosystems, in the context of sustainable and rational water use (art. 2, para. 2 (b), and art. 3, para. 1 (i)) ?

Afforestation

Restoration of ecosystems

Environmental flow norms

Groundwater measures (e.g., protection zones)

Other measures (*please list*): [fill in]

6. (a) Does your country exchange information and data with other riparian States in the basin (art. 13)?

Yes /No

- (b) If yes, on what subjects are information and data exchanged?

Environmental conditions (art. 13, para. (1) (a))

Research activities and application of best available techniques (arts. 5, 12 and 13, para. 1 (b))

Emission monitoring data (art. 13, para. 1 (c))

Planned measures taken to prevent, control or reduce transboundary impacts (art. 13, para. 1 (d))

Point source pollution sources

Diffuse pollution sources

Existing hydromorphological alterations (dams, etc.)

Discharges

Water abstractions

Future planned measures with transboundary impacts, such as infrastructure development

Other subjects (*please list*): [fill in]

- (c) Is there a shared database or information platform?

Yes /No

- (d) Is the database publicly available?

Yes /No

If yes, please provide the web address: [fill in]

- (e) What are the main difficulties and challenges to data exchange, if applicable? (*please describe*): [fill in]

- (f) What are the main benefits of data exchange on the transboundary waters subject to cooperation? (*please describe*): [fill in]

7. Do the riparian States carry out joint monitoring in the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer (art. 11, para. 1)?

Yes /No

- (a) If yes, what does the joint monitoring cover?

	Covered?	Hydrological	Ecological	Chemical
Border surface waters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surface waters in the entire basin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Surface waters on the main watercourse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connected aquifers (or groundwaters)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unconnected aquifers (or groundwaters)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(b) If joint monitoring is carried out, how is this done?

- National monitoring stations connected through a network or common stations
- Joint and agreed methodologies
- Joint sampling
- Common monitoring network
- Common agreed parameters

(c) Please describe the main achievements regarding joint monitoring, if any: [fill in]

(d) Please describe any difficulties experienced with joint monitoring: [fill in]

8. Do the riparian States carry out joint assessment of the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer (art. 11)?

Yes /No

If yes, please provide the date of the last or only assessment, the frequency and scope (e.g., surface waters or groundwaters only, pollution sources, etc.) of the assessment: [fill in]

9. Have the riparian States agreed to use joint water quality standards?

Yes /No

If yes, is the basis an international or regional standard (please specify which) or has it been adapted from the national standards of the riparian States?: [fill in]

10. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of accidental pollution (art. 14)?

- Notification and communication
- Coordinated or joint alarm system for accidental water pollution
- Other (*please list*): [fill in]
- No measures

If not, why not? What difficulties does your country face in putting in place such measures?: [fill in]

11. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of extreme weather events (art. 14)?

- Notification and communication
- Coordinated or joint alarm system for floods
- Coordinated or joint alarm system for droughts
- Joint climate change adaptation strategy
- Joint disaster risk reduction strategy
- Other (*please list*): [fill in]
- No measures

If not, why not? What difficulties does your country face in putting in place such measures?: [fill in]

12. Are procedures in place for mutual assistance in case of a critical situation (art. 15)?

Yes /No

If yes, please provide a brief summary: [procedures are in place under the Directorate for rescue and Protection (<http://www.dzs.gov.mk>) and Crisis Management Center (<http://www.cuk.gov.mk>)]

13. Are the public or relevant stakeholders involved in transboundary water management in the basin, river, lake or aquifer? (art. 16)?

Yes /No

If yes, how? (please tick all applicable) (Please note: If your country is a Party to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention), you may refer to your country's report under that Convention.):

Stakeholders have observer status in a joint body

If yes, please specify the stakeholders for each joint body: [fill in]

Availability of information to the public

Consultation on planned measures or river basin management plans^k

Public involvement

Other (*please specify*): [fill in]

Please remember to complete section II for each of the transboundary basins, rivers, lakes or aquifers. Please also remember to attach copies of agreements, if any.

^k Or, where applicable, aquifer management plans.

Name of the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer, or group thereof, list of the riparian States, and country's share of the basin: Strumica River Basin

1. Is there one or more transboundary (bilateral or multilateral) agreement(s) or arrangement(s) on this basin (art. 9)?

One or more agreements or arrangements exist and are in force

Agreement or arrangement developed but not in force

Agreement or arrangement developed, but not in force for all riparians

Please insert the name of the agreement or agreements or arrangements: [fill in]

Agreement or arrangement is under development

No agreement

If there is no agreement or arrangement or it is not in force, please explain briefly why not and provide information on any plans to address the situation:

[The Strumica River Basin (SRB) is one of the four river basins in Macedonia. Basin's area is part of a larger trans-boundary river basin comprising parts of Bulgaria and Greece; it gravitates towards the Aegean Sea. The SRBD includes a total area of roughly 1,600 km², which accounts for 6.4% of the country's territory.

Bilateral agreements exist with Bulgaria but, for various reasons, the cooperation does not function recently and has to be re-established. The old agreements from former Yugoslavia, aren't in line with new national water legislation, EU requirement and UNECE Water Convention. Macedonia has taken over all legal obligations and international commitments as a successor of the former Yugoslavia, as well as new ones by becoming party of the UN and of various Conventions.

- Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a transboundary context (Espoo, 1991). Ratified by RM in 1999.
- Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio). Ratified by RM in 1997.
- Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially waterfowl habitats. Regulation on ratification adopted (Official Gazette of SFR of Yugoslavia, No. 9/77). RM became party of Convention with succession act and with the nomination of Prespa Lake in the Ramsar list in 1995.
- Convention on the Conservation of migratory Species of wild animals. Ratified by RM in 1999. In force since November 1999.
- Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats. Ratified by RM in 1997. In force since April 1999.
- Convention for the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage. Ratified by SFR Yugoslavia in 1974]

If there is no agreement or arrangement and no joint body for the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer then jump to question 4; if there is no agreement, but a joint body then go to question 3. →

Questions 2 and 3 to be completed for each bilateral or multilateral agreement or arrangement in force in the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer or group of basins or sub-basins

2. (a) Does this agreement or arrangement specify the basin area subject to cooperation?

Yes /No

If yes, does it cover the entire basin, or group of basins, and all riparian States?

Yes /No

If not, what does it cover?: [fill in]

Or, if the agreement or arrangement relates to a sub-basin, does it cover the entire sub-basin?

Yes /No

Which States (including your own) are bound by the agreement or arrangement?
(Please list): [fill in]

(b) Are connected¹ aquifers (or groundwater bodies) covered by the agreement/arrangement?

Yes /No

(c) What is the sectoral scope of the agreement or arrangement?

All water uses

A single water use or sector

Several water uses or sectors

If several water uses or sectors, please list (check as appropriate):

Water uses or sectors

Industry

Agriculture

Transport (e.g., navigation)

Households

Energy: hydropower and other energy types

Tourism

Nature protection

Other (please list): [fill in]

(d) What topics or subjects of cooperation are included in the agreement or arrangement (art. 9)?

Procedural and institutional issues

Dispute and conflict prevention and resolution

Institutional cooperation (joint bodies)

Consultation on planned measures

Mutual assistance (art. 15)

Topics of cooperation

Joint vision and management objectives

Joint significant water management issues

Navigation

Environmental protection (ecosystem)

¹ Either hydraulically connected to the watercourse or those located within the basin area.

- Water quality
- Water quantity or allocation
- Cooperation in addressing floods
- Cooperation in addressing droughts
- Climate change adaptation

Monitoring and exchange

- Joint assessments
- Data collection and exchange (art. 13)
- Joint monitoring (art. 11)
- Maintenance of joint pollution inventories
- Elaboration of joint water quality objectives
- Common early warning and alarm procedures (art. 14)
- Exchange of experience between riparian States
- Exchange of information on planned measures

Joint planning and management

- Development of joint regulations on specific topics
- Development of international or joint river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans
- Management of shared infrastructure
- Development of shared infrastructure

Other (*please list*): [fill in]

(e) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the agreement or arrangement and its implementation, if any (*please describe, if applicable*): [fill in]

(f) What are the main achievements in implementing the agreement or arrangement and what were the keys to achieving such success?: [fill in]

(g) Please attach a copy of the agreement or arrangement or provide the web address of the document (*please attach document or insert web address, if applicable*): [fill in]

3. Is your country a member of an operational joint body or joint bodies for this agreement/arrangement (art. 9)?

Yes /No

If no, why not? (please explain): [fill in]

Where there is a joint body (or bodies)

(a) If there is a joint body, which kind of joint body (*please tick one*)?

- Plenipotentiaries
- Bilateral commission
- Basin or similar commission
- Other (*please describe*): [fill in]

(b) Does the joint body cover the entire transboundary basin or sub-basin, river, lake or aquifer, or group of basins, and all riparian States?

Yes /No

(c) Which States (including your own) are member of the joint body? (*Please list*): [fill in]

(d) Does the joint body have any of the following features (*please tick the ones applicable*)?

A secretariat

If the secretariat is a permanent one, is it a joint secretariat or does each country host its own secretariat? (Please describe): [fill in]

A subsidiary body or bodies

Please list (e.g., working groups on specific topics): [fill in]

Other features (*please list*): [fill in]

(e) What are the tasks and activities of this joint body (art. 9, para. 2)?^m

Identification of pollution sources

Data collection and exchange

Joint monitoring

Maintenance of joint pollution inventories

Setting emission limits

Elaboration of joint water quality objectives

Management and prevention of flood or drought risks

Preparedness for extreme events, e.g., common early warning and alarm procedures

Water allocation and/or flow regulation

Policy development

Control of implementation

Exchange of experience between riparian States

Exchange of information on existing and planned uses of water and related installations

Settling of differences and conflicts

Consultations on planned measures

Exchange of information on best available technology

Participation in transboundary EIA

Development of river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans

Management of shared infrastructure

Addressing hydromorphological alterations

Climate change adaptation

Joint communication strategy

Basin-wide or joint public participation and consultation of,

^m This may include tasks according to the agreement or tasks added by the joint body, or its subsidiaries. Both tasks which joint bodies coordinate and tasks which they implement should be included.

- for example, basin management plans
- Joint resources to support transboundary cooperation
- Capacity-building
- Any other tasks (*please list*): [fill in]

(f) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the operation of the joint body, if any?

- Governance issues
Please describe, if any: [fill in]
- Unexpected planning delays
Please describe, if any: [fill in]
- Lack of resources
Please describe, if true: [fill in]
- Lack of mechanism for implementing measures
Please describe, if true: [fill in]
- Lack of effective measures
Please describe, if true: [fill in]
- Unexpected extreme events
Please describe, if any: [fill in]
- Lack of information and reliable forecasts
Please describe, if any: [fill in]
- Others (*please list and describe, as appropriate*): [fill in]

(g) If not all riparian States are members of the joint body how does the body cooperate with them?

- No cooperation
- They have observer status
- Other (*please describe*): [fill in]

(h) Does the joint body or its subsidiary bodies meet regularly?

Yes /No

If yes, how frequently does it meet? [fill in]

(i) What are the main achievements with regards to the joint body?: [fill in]

(j) Are representatives of international organizations invited to the meetings of the joint body (or bodies) as observers?

Yes /No

(k) Did the joint body ever invite a coastal State to cooperate (art. 9, paras. 3 and 4)?

Yes /No

If yes, please give details. If no, why not?: [fill in]

4. Is there a joint or coordinated management plan (such as an action plan or a common strategy) or have joint objectives been set specifically on the transboundary waters subject to cooperation (art. 9, para. 2 (f)) ?

Yes /No

If yes, please provide further details: [fill in]

5. How is the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer protected, including the protection of ecosystems, in the context of sustainable and rational water use (art. 2, para. 2 (b), and art. 3, para. 1 (i)) ?

Afforestation

Restoration of ecosystems

Environmental flow norms

Groundwater measures (e.g., protection zones)

Other measures (*please list*): [fill in]

6. (a) Does your country exchange information and data with other riparian States in the basin (art. 13)?

Yes /No

- (b) If yes, on what subjects are information and data exchanged?

Environmental conditions (art. 13, para. (1) (a))

Research activities and application of best available techniques (arts. 5, 12 and 13, para. 1 (b))

Emission monitoring data (art. 13, para. 1 (c))

Planned measures taken to prevent, control or reduce transboundary impacts (art. 13, para. 1 (d))

Point source pollution sources

Diffuse pollution sources

Existing hydromorphological alterations (dams, etc.)

Discharges

Water abstractions

Future planned measures with transboundary impacts, such as infrastructure development

Other subjects (*please list*): [fill in]

- (c) Is there a shared database or information platform?

Yes /No

- (d) Is the database publicly available?

Yes /No

If yes, please provide the web address: [fill in]

- (e) What are the main difficulties and challenges to data exchange, if applicable? (*please describe*): [no new agreement in place]

- (f) What are the main benefits of data exchange on the transboundary waters subject to cooperation? (*please describe*): [fill in]

7. Do the riparian States carry out joint monitoring in the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer (art. 11, para. 1)?

Yes /No

(a) If yes, what does the joint monitoring cover?

	Covered?	Hydrological	Ecological	Chemical
Border surface waters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surface waters in the entire basin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surface waters on the main watercourse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connected aquifers (or groundwaters)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unconnected aquifers (or groundwaters)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(b) If joint monitoring is carried out, how is this done?

- National monitoring stations connected through a network or common stations
- Joint and agreed methodologies
- Joint sampling
- Common monitoring network
- Common agreed parameters

(c) Please describe the main achievements regarding joint monitoring, if any: [fill in]

(d) Please describe any difficulties experienced with joint monitoring: [fill in]

8. Do the riparian States carry out joint assessment of the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer (art. 11)?

Yes /No

If yes, please provide the date of the last or only assessment, the frequency and scope (e.g., surface waters or groundwaters only, pollution sources, etc.) of the assessment: [fill in]

9. Have the riparian States agreed to use joint water quality standards?

Yes /No

If yes, is the basis an international or regional standard (please specify which) or has it been adapted from the national standards of the riparian States?: [fill in]

10. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of accidental pollution (art. 14)?

- Notification and communication
- Coordinated or joint alarm system for accidental water pollution
- Other (*please list*): [fill in]
- No measures

If not, why not? What difficulties does your country face in putting in place such measures?: [fill in]

11. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of extreme weather events (art. 14)?

- Notification and communication
- Coordinated or joint alarm system for floods
- Coordinated or joint alarm system for droughts
- Joint climate change adaptation strategy
- Joint disaster risk reduction strategy

Other (*please list*): [fill in]

No measures

If not, why not? What difficulties does your country face in putting in place such measures?: [fill in]

12. Are procedures in place for mutual assistance in case of a critical situation (art. 15)?

Yes /No

If yes, please provide a brief summary: [procedures are in place under the Directorate for rescue and Protection (<http://www.dzs.gov.mk>) and Crisis Management Center (<http://www.cuk.gov.mk>)]

13. Are the public or relevant stakeholders involved in transboundary water management in the basin, river, lake or aquifer? (art. 16)?

Yes /No

If yes, how? (please tick all applicable) (Please note: If your country is a Party to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention), you may refer to your country's report under that Convention.):

Stakeholders have observer status in a joint body

If yes, please specify the stakeholders for each joint body: [fill in]

Availability of information to the public

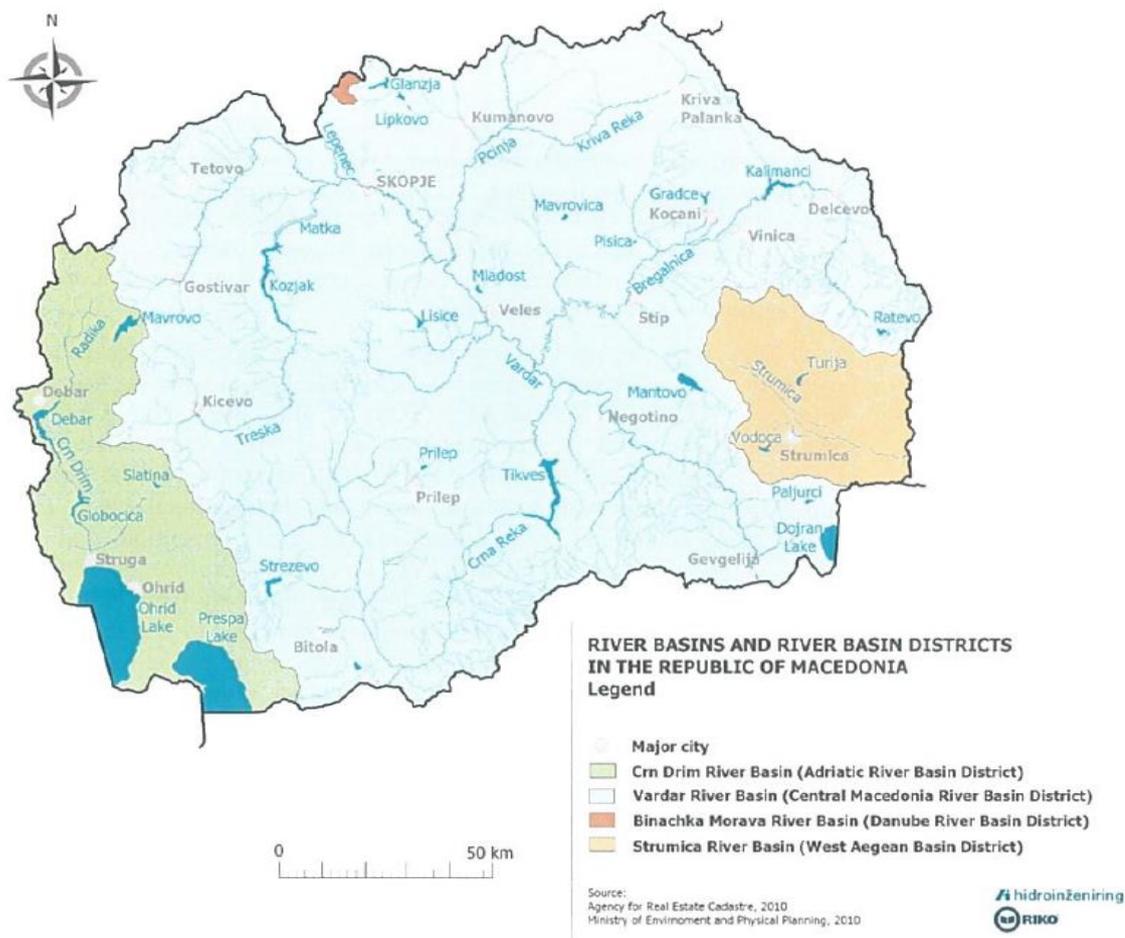
Consultation on planned measures or river basin management plansⁿ

Public involvement

Other (*please specify*): [fill in]

Please remember to complete section II for each of the transboundary basins, rivers, lakes or aquifers. Please also remember to attach copies of agreements, if any.

ⁿ Or, where applicable, aquifer management plans.



III. Calculation of SDG indicator 6.5.2

Methodology

Using the information gathered in section II, the information gathered in this section allows for the calculation of the Sustainable Development Goal global indicator 6.5.2, which is defined as *the proportion of transboundary basins' area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation*.

The value of the indicator at the national level is derived by **adding up the surface area in a country of those transboundary surface water catchments and transboundary aquifers (i.e. 'transboundary' basins) that are covered by an operational arrangement and dividing the obtained area by the aggregate total area in a country of all transboundary basins (both catchments and aquifers).**⁹

Transboundary basins are basins of transboundary waters, that is, of any surface waters (notably rivers, lakes) or groundwaters which mark, cross or are located on boundaries between by two or more States. For the purpose of the calculation of this indicator, for a

⁹ Draft Step-by-step monitoring methodology for SDG indicator 6.5.2 on transboundary cooperation can be referred to for details of the necessary data, the definitions and the calculation. It is available at <http://www.unwater.org/publications/publications-detail/en/c/428764/>

transboundary river or lake, the basin area is determined by the extent of its catchment. For groundwater, the area to be considered is the extent of the aquifer.

An “**arrangement for water cooperation**” is a bilateral or multilateral treaty, convention, agreement or other formal arrangement among riparian countries that provides a framework for cooperation on transboundary water management.

For an arrangement to be considered “**operational**” all the following criteria needs to be fulfilled:

- There is a joint body, joint mechanism or commission (e.g. a river basin organization) for transboundary cooperation,
- There are regular formal communications between riparian countries in form of meetings,
- There is a joint or coordinated water management plan(s), or joint objectives have been set, and
- There is a regular exchange of data and information.

Calculation of indicator 6.5.2

Please list below the surface waters (rivers and lakes) and aquifers in your country’s territory that are transboundary and provide the following information for each of them:

- the surface area of their basins (the catchment of rivers or lakes and the aquifer in the case of groundwater) within the territory of your country (in km²); and
- whether they are covered by a cooperation arrangement that is operational according to the above criteria (please consider the replies to the questions in section II, in particular questions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6).

Transboundary basin (river or lake) [please add rows as needed]

Name of transboundary basin / sub-basin	Countries shared with	Surface area of the basin / sub-basin (in km ²) within the territory of the country	Surface area of the basin / sub-basin (in km ²) covered by an operational arrangement within the territory of the country
Vardar River Basin	Kosovo, Serbia and Greece	22.475,1	0
Drin River Basin	Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro Greece	3.771,8	3.771,8
Strumica River Basin	Bulgaria	1.520.0	0
Total surface area of transboundary basins / sub-basins of rivers and lakes covered by operational arrangements within the territory of the country (in km²) [A] (do not double count sub-basins)			3.771,8
Total surface area of transboundary basins of rivers and lakes within the territory of the country (in km²) [B] (do not double count sub-basins)		27.766.9	

Transboundary aquifers [please add rows as needed]

Name	Countries shared with	surface area (in km ²) ^p within the territory of the country	Covered by an operational arrangement (yes/no)
Sub-total: surface area of transboundary aquifers covered by operational arrangements (in km²) [C]			
Total surface area of transboundary aquifers (in km²) [D]			

Indicator value for the country

$$((A + C)/(B + D)) \times 100\% = (3.771,8/27.766,9) \times 100 = 13.58\% \text{ Drin}$$

Additional information

If the respondent has comments that clarify assumptions or interpretations made for the calculation, or the level of certainty of the spatial information, please write them here:

Spatial information

If a map (or maps) of the transboundary surface water catchments and transboundary aquifers (i.e. ‘transboundary basins’) is available, please attach that. Ideally, shapefiles of the basin and aquifer delineations that can be viewed in Geographical Information Systems should be sent.

^p For a transboundary aquifer, the extent is derived from the aquifer system delineation which is commonly done relying on information of the subsurface (notably the extent of geological formations). As a general rule, the delineation of aquifer systems is based on the delineation of the extent of the hydraulically connected water-bearing geological formations. Aquifer systems are three-dimensional objects and the aquifer area taken into account is the projection on the land surface of the system. Ideally, when different aquifer systems not hydraulically connected are vertically superposed, the different relevant projected areas are to be considered separately, unless the different aquifer systems are managed conjunctively, if possible.

IV. Final questions

1. What are the main challenges your country faces in implementing the Convention and cooperating on transboundary waters? (*Please describe*): Ohrid Lake is considered as oligotrophic, with increased phosphorous and nitrogen concentrations, n Drini river is the out-flow of lake Ohrid. Main economic sectors are tourism and fishing. The only environmental degradation in the region of Ohrid Lake on Macedonian side is agriculture and industry. Tourism in the Ohrid area is very active. The most important issues are solid waste and waste-water management.

The “Agreement between the Government of the People’s Republic of Yugoslavia and the Government of the People’s Republic of Albania” was signed in 1955 but is not in use since 1986. Macedonia and Kosovo have no bilateral agreement. Update of all old agreements with our neighbour countries (Albania, Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia and Kosovo is a main challenge.

The Drin Memorandum of Understanding

Coordinated action at the Drin Basin level has been absent until the development of the Shared Vision for the sustainable management of the Drin Basin and the signing of a related Memorandum of Understanding (Tirana, 15 November 2011) by the Ministers of the water and environment management competent ministries of the Drin Riparian i.e. Albania, The Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Kosovo and Montenegro. This was the outcome of the Drin Dialogue coordinated by the Global Water Partnership Mediterranean (GWP-Med) and UNECE.

The main objective of the Drin MoU is the attainment of the Shared Vision: “Promote joint action for the coordinated integrated management of the shared water resources in the Drin Basin, as a means to safeguard and restore, to the extent possible, the ecosystems and the services they provide, and to promote sustainable development across the Drin Basin”. A process called the “Drin CORDA”, Drin Coordinated Action for the implementation of the Drin MoU, was put in place after the signing of the latter. Following the provisions of the MoU an institutional structure was established in 2012. It include:

1. The Meeting of the Parties.
2. The Drin Core Group (DCG). This body is given the mandate to coordinate actions for the implementation of the MoU.
3. Three Expert Working Groups (EWG) to assist the DCG in its work.
 - Water Framework Directive implementation EWG
 - Monitoring and Information exchange EWG
 - Biodiversity and Ecosystem EWG

The DCG Secretariat provides technical and administrative support to the DCG; Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med) serves by appointment of the Parties through the MoU as the Secretariat.

An Action Plan was prepared to operationalize the Drin CORDA. This has been subject to updates and amendments in accordance with the decisions of the Meeting of the Parties to the Drin MoU and the DCG. The DCG and its Secretariat guides the implementation of the action plan while its implementation is currently being supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF)

2. What have been the main achievements in implementing the Convention and cooperating on transboundary waters? What were the keys to achieving that success? (*Please describe concrete examples*):
[On 29 July 2015, the Republic of Macedonia deposited its instrument of accession to the

