

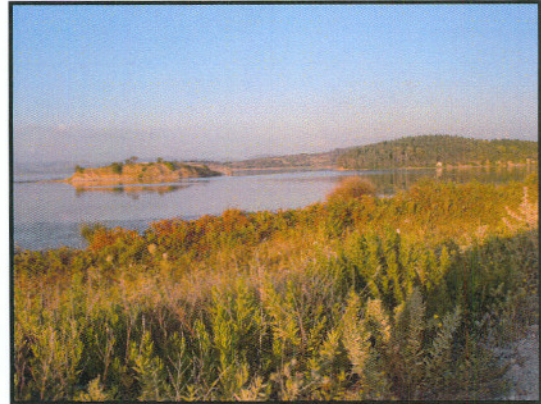
Constructed Wetlands in Albania

December 2005

A letter of interest was sent to the IDEASS International Secretariat by the Albanian Municipalities surrounding the Narta Lagoon – north-west of the city of Vlore (Vlore Region) – to express their interest in the implementation of the Constructed Wetlands method, aimed at improving the environmental condition of the Lagoon.

The letter follows a meeting in Tirana, held on November 25, with the participation of Petrit Dervishi, Director of the Vlore Local Office of the UNDP Project “MedWetCoast” for the Conservation of the Biodiversity of the Mediterranean Coastal Wetlands; Eno Dodbiba, expert of Water Problems for UNDP and the Albanian Ministry of Environment; Gerard Collin, UNDP Affiliated International Expert and inspector of Narta Lagoon situation; Arjan Gaçe, UNDP-GEF Small Grand National Coordinator for Albania; Piero D’Onofrio, IDEASS Albania Coordinator, Evis Pano IDEASS Albania Programme Officer.

All the participants knew the IDEASS Innovation for Constructed Wetlands and expressed their strong conviction that the implementation of a Constructed Wetland system to depurate the waters of the Lagoon could represent an effective contribution to the solution of local environmental problems.



The water table of Narta Lagoon is about 2900 ha. The freshwater supply comes basically from the drainage network of the Myzqueja lowland of Vlore region and from some minor source of fresh water inputs (incl. Precipitation). In the meantime, there are two communication channels which provide water exchange with the Adriatic Sea. In Narta Lagoon are discharged (along with fresh water) some sewage waters coming from Narta village, Zvernec village and from some parts of Vlore city. These sewerage discharges have a highly negative impact on the Lagoon water quality, mainly on summer, when the pollution concentration is very high. This is supported also by insufficient supply of fresh waters and malfunctioning of the communication channels.

For these reasons, villages and communities surrounding the area ask Local Authorities to implement initiatives to improve the environmental situation. The Lagoon area itself is also intended to make part of a protected natural area, that could also represent a significant income for the inhabitants, if effective policies for environmental-safe and sustainable tourism will be implemented.

Following these requests, the IDEASS Initiative, in collaboration with the UNDP MedWetCoast Project, the Albanian Ministry of Environment, the Narta Lagoon Local Authorities, will realized in the next period a mission to Albania of an Italian Wetland expert, in order to define needs and guidelines to implement a Wetland pilot system in the area.

