

Republic of Albania**Commune of Qendër****No. prot. 771****Vlora, on 9th December 2005**

Subject: Improvement of the environmental situation of Narta Lagoon –Vlora.

To: Giulia Cafiero

UNDP/UNOPS IDEAS International Secretary, Rome, Italy

Attn. To: Mr. Luigi CafieroUNOPS/PASARP Chief Technical Adviser, Tirana, Albania, Fax n. 04.340.214, E-mail: luigic@unops.icc-al**Mr. Piero D'Onofrio**UNDP/UNOPS/Ideass consultant for Albania, Fax. n.: 04.340.214, E-mail: ideassalb@icc-al.org

Honorable Ms. Darjo,

I am pleased to have this first communication with you, particularly with regard to environmental problems which have significant impact to our ecosystem and socioeconomic life our commune.

As we have been informed by the MedWetCoast representatives, based on the need to further improve water quality of Narta Lagoon, we are convinced that our concerted efforts will affect the environmental situation of this Lagoon, which actually is suffering some environmental stress.

The water table of this lagoon is about 2900 ha, situated in the northwestern part of the Vlora city. The freshwater supply is basically coming from the drainage network of the Myzeqeja lowland of Vlora region and some other minor source of fresh water inputs (inc. precipitation). In the meantime there are two communication channels which provide sea water exchange with the Adriatic Sea. In Narta lagoon there are discharged (along with fresh water) some sewage waters coming from Narata village, Zvernec Village and from some parts of Vlora city. These sewerage discharges have a very negative impact in the Lagoon water quality and mainly during the summer season when the pollution concentration is very high. This is supported also by the insufficient supply with fresh water and malfunctioning of the communication channels.

In regard to above considerations following the activity and commitment of the MedWetCoast project and Albanian Ministry of Environment to resolving these issues, I fully support any initiative to establish cooperation with your specialized institutions in order to accomplish projects that further improve water quality in the Narta Lagoon.

Particularly, I would like also to draw your attention on the significant interest shown to these problems from the neighboring villages and their communes, in supporting any

measure which contributes improvement of the environmental situation, consequently valorization of the natural, cultural and historical resources of the area.

Thanking you for the cooperation and understanding,

The chairman of Qendra Commune,

Feredun Xhindoli

(seal, signature)