

Reporting on global SDG indicator 6.5.2

TEMPLATE of the second cycle for reporting

Content of the template

The template is divided into four parts:

- Section I - Calculation of SDG indicator 6.5.2
- Section II - Information on each transboundary basin or group of basins
- Section III - General information on transboundary water management at the national level
- Section IV - Final questions

Country name: GREECE

I. Calculation of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2

Methodology

1. Using the information gathered in section II, the information gathered in this section allows for the calculation of Sustainable Development Goal global indicator 6.5.2, which is defined as the proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation.
2. The step-by-step monitoring methodology for indicator 6.5.2, developed by UNECE and UNESCO in the framework of UN-Water, should be referred to for details on the necessary data, the definitions and the calculation.^a
3. The value of the indicator at the national level is derived by adding up the surface area in a country of those transboundary basins (river and lake basins and aquifers) that are covered by an operational arrangement and dividing the area obtained by the aggregate total area in a country of all transboundary basins (both river and lake basins, and aquifers).
4. 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 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.
5. 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.
6. For an arrangement to be considered “operational” all the following criteria need to be in place in practice:
 - (a) There is a joint body, joint mechanism or commission (e.g., a river basin organization) for transboundary cooperation (criterion 1);
 - (b) There are regular (at least once per year) formal communications between riparian countries in form of meetings (either at the political or technical level) (criterion 2);
 - (c) Joint objectives, a common strategy, a joint or coordinated management plan, or an action plan have been agreed upon by the riparian countries (criterion 3);
 - (d) There is a regular (at least once per year) exchange of data and information (criterion 4).

Calculation of indicator 6.5.2

7. Please list in the tables below the transboundary basins (rivers and lakes and aquifers) in your country’s territory and provide the following information for each of them:
 - (a) The country/ies with which the basin is shared;

^a Available from the UN-Water website: <https://www.sdg6monitoring.org/indicators/target-65/indicators652/> (updated version “2020”).

(b) The surface area of the basin (the catchment of rivers or lakes and the aquifer in the case of groundwater) within the territory of your country (in square kilometres (km²));

(c) Whether a map and/or a geographical information system (GIS) shapefile of the basin has been provided;

(d) Whether there is an arrangement in force for the basin;

(e) The verification of each of the four criteria to assess operationality;

(f) The surface area of the basin within the territory of your country which is covered by a cooperation arrangement that is operational according to the above criteria.

8. In case an operational arrangement is in place only for a sub-basin or a portion of a basin, please list this sub-basin just after the transboundary basin it is part of. In case there is an operational arrangement for the whole basin, do not list sub-basins in the table below.

Table 1
Transboundary river or lake basin (please add rows as needed)

<i>Name of transboundary river or lake basin/sub-basin</i>	<i>It is a basin or a sub-basin?^b</i>	<i>Countries shared with</i>	<i>Surface area of the basin/sub-basin (in km²) within the territory of the country</i>	<i>Map and/or GIS shapefile provided (yes/no)</i>	<i>Covered by an arrangement (entirely, partly, no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 1 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 2 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 3 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 4 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Surface area of the basin/sub-basin (in km²) covered by an operational arrangement within the territory of the country</i>
Evros (Maritza) River Basin Area	Basin	Greece, Bulgaria, Turkey	3,340	Yes	Entirely	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3,340
Nestos River Basin Area	Basin	Greece, Bulgaria	2,429	Yes	Entirely	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	2,429
Strymonas (Struma) River Basin Area	Basin	Greece, Bulgaria, North Macedonia	5,989	Yes	Entirely	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3,755
Axios (Vardar) River Basin Area	Basin	Greece, North Macedonia, Bulgaria, Serbia	2,513	Yes						0
Doirani (Dojran) Lake (sub-basin of Axios River Basin Area)	Sub-basin	Greece, North Macedonia	191.8	Yes						0
Prespa Lakes Area	Basin	Greece, Albania,	347	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	347

^b List sub-basins after the basin they belong to.

Name of transboundary river or lake basin/sub-basin	It is a basin or a sub-basin? ^b	Countries shared with	Surface area of the basin/sub-basin (in km ²) within the territory of the country	Map and/or GIS shapefile provided (yes/no)	Covered by an arrangement (entirely, partly, no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)	Criterion 1 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)	Criterion 2 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)	Criterion 3 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)	Criterion 4 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)	Surface area of the basin/sub-basin (in km ²) covered by an operational arrangement within the territory of the country
		North Macedonia								
Aoos (Vijose) River Basin Area	Basin	Greece, Albania	2,361	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	0
(A) Total surface area of transboundary basins/sub-basins of rivers and lakes covered by operational arrangements within the territory of the country (in km ²) (do not double count sub-basins)										9,871
(B) Total surface area of transboundary basins of rivers and lakes within the territory of the country (in km ²) (do not double count sub-basins)			16,979							

Table 2

Transboundary aquifers (please add rows as needed)

<i>Name of the transboundary aquifer</i>	<i>Countries shared with</i>	<i>Surface area of the aquifer^c (in km²) within the territory of the country</i>	<i>Map and/ or GIS shapefile provided (yes/no)</i>	<i>Covered by an aquifer specific arrangement (entirely, partly, no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Covered within an arrangement not specific to the aquifer^d (entirely, partly, no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 1 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 2 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 3 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 4 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Surface area of the aquifer (in km²) covered by an operational arrangement within the territory of the country</i>
Paraevria area Delta Evros system	Greece, Turkey	225.17								0
Potamoi Stavroupoli system	Greece, Bulgaria	2,416.34								0
Drosinio system	Greece, Bulgaria	976.53								0
Orestias system	Greece, Bulgaria, Turkey	835.16								0
Soufli Didimoticho system	Greece, Bulgaria, Turkey	1,203.57								0

^c 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.

^d In the text of the agreement or arrangement or in the practice.

<i>Name of the transboundary aquifer</i>	<i>Countries shared with</i>	<i>Surface area of the aquifer^c (in km²) within the territory of the country</i>	<i>Map and/or GIS shapefile provided (yes/no)</i>	<i>Covered by an aquifer specific arrangement (entirely, partly, no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Covered within an arrangement not specific to the aquifer^d (entirely, partly, no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 1 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 2 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 3 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 4 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Surface area of the aquifer (in km²) covered by an operational arrangement within the territory of the country</i>
Great Sterna system	Greece, North Macedonia	39.1								0
Prespa Florina subsystem	Greece, Albania and North Macedonia	115	Yes	No	Entirely	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	115
Triklariou Kastoria subsystem	Greece, Albania and North Macedonia	142.4								0
Prespa subsystem	Greece, Albania and North Macedonia	24.8	Yes	No	Entirely	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	24.8
Florina system	Greece, North Macedonia	214.5								0
Aridaia system	Greece, North Macedonia	415.6								0
Vora system	Greece, North	192.5								0

Indicator value for the country

Surface waters:

Percentage of surface area of transboundary basins of rivers and lakes covered by an operational arrangement:

$$A/B \times 100 = 9871/16979 \times 100 = 58,13\%$$

Aquifers:

Percentage of surface area of transboundary aquifers covered by an operational arrangement:

$$C/D \times 100 = 139,8/13576,90 \times 100 = 1,02\%$$

Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2:

Percentage of surface area of transboundary basins covered by an operational arrangement:

$$((A + C)/(B + D)) \times 100 = (9,871 + 139,8) / (16,979 + 13,576,90) = 10,010,8/30,555,9 \times 100 = 32,8\%$$

Spatial information

If a map (or maps) of the transboundary surface water catchments and transboundary aquifers (i.e., “transboundary basins”) is available, please consider attaching them. Ideally, shapefiles of the basin and aquifer delineations that can be viewed in GIS should be sent.

See maps for Transboundary rivers at the end of each Section, and for Groudwater bodies at the end of the entire Questionnaire

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:

For the Prespa Florina system and Prespa subsystem groundwater bodies please refer to article 5 of the Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area, as well as to article 4(1)(b) and (e) of the Drin MoU.

Does your country have transboundary agreements or arrangements for the protection and/or management of transboundary waters (i.e., rivers, lakes or groundwater), whether bilateral or multilateral?

Yes /No

If yes, list the bilateral and multilateral agreements or arrangements (listing for each of the countries concerned): [fill in]

- **UN Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes done at Helsinki on 17/03/1992 [Law 2425/1996 (Government Gazette 148/A/04-07-1997), as amended by Law 4137/2013 (Government Gazette 71/A/19-03-2013)]**
- **UN Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational uses of International Watercourses done at New York on 21/05/1997 [Law 3876/2010 (Government Gazette 159/A/20-09-2010)]**
- **Amendments to articles 25 and 26 of the UN Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes done at Madrid on 28/11/2003 [Law 4137/2013 (Government Gazette 71/A/19-03-2013)]**
- **Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy [Law 3199/2003 (Government Gazette 280/A/09-12-2003) and Presidential Decree 51/2007 (Government Gazette 54/A/08-03-2007)]**
- **Directive 2007/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 on the assessment and management of flood risks [Joint Ministerial Decision 31822/1542/E103/2010 (Government Gazette 1108/B/21-07-2010)]**
- **Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration [Joint Ministerial Decision 39626/2208/E130/2009 (Government Gazette 2075/B/25-09-2009)].**
- **Greek-Turkey Accord relative to the regulation of hydraulic works on both banks of the Maritza Evros River signed in Ankara on 20/06/1934 [Mandatory Law 225/1936 (Government Gazette 474/A/27-10-1936)].**
- **Accord between the Kingdom of Greece and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on hydroeconomy issues signed in Athens on 18/09/1959 [Legislative Decree 4012/1959 (Government Gazette 232/A/31-10-1959), regarding Axios River].**
- **Accord between Greece and Bulgaria ‘regarding the cooperation on the use of water from the rivers running the territories of the two countries’ signed in Athens on 09/07/1964 [Legislative Decree 4393/1964 (Government Gazette 193/A/04-11-1964), regarding Strymonas, Evros, Ardas and Nestos Rivers].**
- **Accord between Greek Government and People's Republic of Bulgaria concerning the establishment of a Greco-Bulgarian Commission for cooperation between the two countries in the fields of electrical energy and the utilization of the waters of rivers crossing the territories of Greece and Bulgaria, signed in Sofia 12/07/1971 [Law 366/1976 (Government Gazette 160/A/25-06-1976)].**

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- Agreement, between the Government of the Hellenic Republic and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria regarding waters of the Nestos River, signed in Sofia on 22/12/1995 [Law 2402/1996 (Government Gazette 98/A/04-06-1996)].
 - Agreement between the Government of the Hellenic Republic and the Government of the Republic of Albania on the establishment of the permanent Greek-Albanian Commission on transboundary freshwater issues, signed in Athens on 03/04/2003 [Law 3405/2005 (Government Gazette 264/A/25-10-2005)].
 - Agreement between the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Albania, the Republic of North Macedonia and the European Union on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area, signed in Pili on 02/02/2010 [Law 4453/2017 (Government Gazette 19/A/20-02-2017)].
 - Declaration on the Creation of the Prespa Park and the Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Lakes and their Surroundings, signed at Aghios Germanos (Greece), on 2 February 2000, by the Prime Ministers of the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Albania and the Republic of North Macedonia.
 - Joint Statement regarding the Prespa Park, signed at Pili on 27/11/2009, by the Prime Ministers of the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Albania and the Republic of North Macedonia.
 - “Drin: A strategic shared vision”, Memorandum of Understanding for the Management of the Extended Transboundary Drin Basin, signed in Tirana on 25/11/2011.
 - Joint Declaration between the Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change of the Hellenic Republic and the Minister of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria on Understanding and Cooperation in the field of use of water resources on the respective territories of the shared river basins between the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria, signed in Sofia on 27/07/2010 regarding the Strymonas, Evros, Ardas and Nestos Rivers).
 - Joint Declaration between the Minister for Environment, Energy and Climate Change of the Hellenic Republic and the Minister for Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Turkey, signed in Athens, on 14/05/2010 (regarding the Evros River).

II. Questions for each transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin, or group of basins (river, lake or aquifer)

Please complete this second section for each transboundary basin (river or lake basin, or aquifer), sub-basin, part of a basin or a group of basins covered by the same agreement or arrangement where conditions are similar.¹ In some instances, you may provide information on both a basin and one or more of its sub-basins or parts thereof, for example, where you have agreements² or arrangements on both the basin and its sub-basin. You may coordinate your responses with other States with which your country shares transboundary waters, or

¹ In principle, section II 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.

² 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.

even prepare a joint report. General information on transboundary water management at the national level should be provided in section III and not repeated here.

Please reproduce this whole section with its questions for each transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins for which you will provide a reply.

**A. Name of the transboundary basin,-sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins:
PRESPA LAKES**

List of the riparian States: **Greece, Albania and North Macedonia**

In the case of an aquifer, what is the nature of the aquifer and its relation with the river or lake basin:

- Unconfined aquifer connected to a river or lake
- Unconfined aquifer with no or limited relation with surface water
- Confined aquifer connected to surface water
- Confined aquifer with no or limited relation with surface water
- Other
- Please describe: [fill in]
- Unknown

Percentage of your country's territory within the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins: **Greece's portion share is approximately 90% for the Small Lake Prespa and 13.8% for the Great Lake Prespa.**

1. Is there one or more transboundary (bilateral or multilateral) agreement(s) or arrangement(s) on this basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

- 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(s) or arrangement(s)

- **Agreement between the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Albania, the Republic of North Macedonia and the European Commission on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area, signed in Pili on 02/02/2010 [Law 4453/2017 (Government Gazette 19/A/20-02-2017) – entry into force 29.5.2019.**

- **Declaration on the Creation of the Prespa Park and the Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Lakes and their Surroundings, signed at Aghios Germanos (Greece), on 2 February 2000, by the Prime Ministers of the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Albania and the Republic of North Macedonia.**

- **Joint Statement regarding the Prespa Park, signed at Pili on 27/11/2009, by the Prime Ministers of the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Albania and the Republic of North Macedonia.**

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- **“Drin: A strategic shared vision”, Memorandum of Understanding for the Management of the Extended Transboundary Drin Basin, signed in Tirana on 25/11/2011.-in force**

Agreement or arrangement is under development

No agreement or arrangement

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 or mechanism for the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins then jump to question 4; if there is no agreement or arrangement, but a joint body or mechanism 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, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins.

A.I. Agreement between the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Albania, the Republic of North Macedonia and the European Union on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area

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

Yes /No If yes, does it cover the entire basin or group of basins and all riparian States?

Yes /No

Additional explanations? [fill in]

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

Yes /No

Additional explanations? [fill in]

Which States (including your own) are bound by the agreement or arrangement?
(Please list): **Greece, Albania, North Macedonia and the European Union**

(b) If the agreement or arrangement relates to a river or lake basin or sub-basin, does it also cover aquifers?

Yes /No

If yes, please list the aquifers covered by the agreement or arrangement:

for Greece Prespa Florina subsystem and Prespa subsystem

(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	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Transport (e.g., navigation)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Households	<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy: hydropower and other energy types	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fisheries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tourism	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nature protection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other (<i>please list</i>):	

Sustainable development, economic and social development of local societies, including the development of integrated river basin plans

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

Procedural and institutional issues

Dispute and conflict prevention and resolution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Institutional cooperation (joint bodies)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Consultation on planned measures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mutual assistance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Topics of cooperation

Joint vision and management objectives	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Joint significant water management issues	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Navigation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human health	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental protection (ecosystem)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Water quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Water quantity or allocation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cooperation in addressing floods	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cooperation in addressing droughts	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change adaptation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Monitoring and exchange

Joint assessments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Data collection and exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Joint monitoring	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maintenance of joint pollution inventories	<input type="checkbox"/>

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- Elaboration of joint water quality objectives
 - Common early warning and alarm procedures
 - 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?

- Aligning implementation of agreement or arrangement with national laws, policies and programmes
- Aligning implementation of agreement or arrangement with regional laws, policies and programmes
- Lack of financial resources
- Insufficient human capacity
- Insufficient technical capacity
- Tense diplomatic relations
- Non-participation of certain riparian countries in the agreement
- No significant difficulties
- Other (*please describe*): [fill in]

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

The Prespa Park Area (established under the Declaration signed at Aghios Germanos (Greece), on 2 February 2000, by the Prime Ministers of the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Albania and the Republic of North Macedonia) is the first transboundary protected area in south-eastern Europe that fosters environment cooperation in the region thereby contributing to its stability and prosperity.

(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*):

Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area. (O.J. Reference L 258, 04/10/2011, p. 2):

Entry of the Agreement into force on 29 May 2019:

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/documents-publications/treaties-agreements/agreement/?id=2010096&DocLanguage=en>

<http://ec.europa.eu/world/agreements/prepareCreateTreatiesWorkspace/treatieGeneralData.do?step=0&redirect=true&treatyId=9102>

Law 4453/2017 for the Ratification of the Agreement by Greece:

http://www.et.gr/docs-nph/search/pdfViewerForm.html?args=5C7QrtC22wEsrjP0JA1xBXdvtvSoClrL8rzyE3xwSGuPtiI9LGdkF53UIxss942CdvqxSQYNuqAGCF0IfB9HI6qSYtMQEkEHLwnFqmgJSASWIsuV-nRwOIoKqSe4BIOTSpEWYhszF8P8UqWb_zFijPfuzyvsBcvysIIWBfALRJGJcFCNJsXfSE-maxccaSf

Law 3405/2015:

http://www.et.gr/docs-nph/search/pdfViewerForm.html?args=5C7QrtC22wHrZvzjsKBkq3dtvSoClrL8WEzaAz7B3iF5MXD0LzOTLWPU9yLzB8V68knBzLCmTXKaO6fpVZ6Lx3UnKl3nP8NxdnJ5r9cmWyJWelDvWS_18kAEhATUkJb0x1LIdQ163nV9K--td6SIuc3PWa8Qvm-cSBvaJH2rQnr71UHt_vpSHP0gwR2C_viu

Joint Statement regarding the Prespa Park, signed in Pili (Greece), on 27 November 2009, by the Prime Ministers of the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Albania and the Republic of North Macedonia:

<http://www.vpeka.gr/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=5ea8w0wVZlo%3d&tabid=406&language=el-GR>

Declaration on the Creation of the Prespa Park and the Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Lakes and their Surroundings, signed at Aghios Germanos (Greece), on 2 February 2000, by the Prime Ministers of the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Albania and the Republic of North Macedonia.

http://www.spp.gr/declaration_en.pdf

3. Is your country a member of any joint body or mechanism for this agreement or arrangement?

Yes /No

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

Where there is a joint body or mechanism

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

Plenipotentiaries	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bilateral commission	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basin or similar commission	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Expert group meeting or meeting of national focal points	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other (please describe):

The Prespa Park Management Committee (PPMC)

- (b) Does the joint body or mechanism cover the entire transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes /No

(c) Which States (including your own) are members of the joint body or mechanism? (*Please list*): **Greece, Albania and North Macedonia**

(d) Are there any riparian States that are not members of the joint body or mechanism? (*please list*): **No**

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

No cooperation

They have observer status

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

(f) Does the joint body or mechanism 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): **The Secretariat is at the moment under establishment and shall be a joint one with representatives from the three riparian States. For the 4 first years of its operation Greece has signalled its intention and willingness to host it.**

A subsidiary body or bodies

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

Working Group on Water Management to be established very soon

Other features (*please list*):

(g) What are the tasks and activities of this joint body or mechanism?³

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

Surveillance and early warning of water related disease

Water allocation and/or flow regulation

Policy development

Control of implementation

³ 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 experience between riparian States	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Basin-wide or joint public participation and consultation of, for example, basin management plans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Joint resources to support transboundary cooperation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Capacity-building	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other tasks (<i>please list</i>): [fill in]	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • completion of the regulatory framework of the watershed area, including spatial plans and protected area regulations and management plans • the application of a programme of effective monitoring in order to observe, manage and control the state of the environment and the status of surface and ground waterbodies • evaluate the results of ongoing actions • identify and propose possible funding sources • prepare and publish an annual report • contribute to the mobilisation of resources of the Parties and the international community 	
(h) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the operation of the joint body or mechanism, 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"/>

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]

(i) Does the joint body or mechanism, or its subsidiary bodies meet regularly?

Yes /No

If yes, how frequently does it meet?-

According to the Agreement, which is already in force since 29 May 2019, the Prespa Park Management Committee (PPMC), once operational, will meet twice a year

More than once per year

Once per year

Less than once per year

(j) What are the main achievements with regards to the joint body or mechanism?

As soon as its setting up is completed, in the next few months, the Prespa Park Management Committee (PPMC) will expedite, at the earliest possible, the process of elaborating an Action Plan and Work Programme with priority activities to be carried out jointly by the Parties of the Agreement for delivering the objective of the Agreement.

(k) Did the joint body or mechanism ever invite a non-riparian coastal State to cooperate?

Yes /No

If yes, please give details. If no, why not, e.g. are the relevant coastal States also riparian States and therefore already members of the joint body or mechanism? [fill in]

4. Have joint objectives, a common strategy, a joint or coordinated management plan or action plan been agreed for the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes /No

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

Joint objectives have already been identified and agreed upon, at the political level, through the Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area, itself. Since the various Joint Bodies of the Prespa Park Agreement (e.g. the PPMC, Secretariat, Working Group on Water Management) are currently under establishment soon to be completed, the Drin Basin MoU framework (see below analytical point A.II) fosters interim discussions on elements and actions for a joint action plan especially for the Prespa Lakes area.

Therefore Questions 4 to 13 are answered below (see A.II) for the 'Drin: A strategic shared vision', Memorandum of Understanding for the Management of the Extended Transboundary Drin Basin

A.II 'Drin: A strategic shared vision', Memorandum of Understanding for the Management of the Extended Transboundary Drin Basin, signed in Tirana on 25/11/2011.

2. (a) Does this agreement or arrangement specify the area subject to cooperation?
 Yes /No
- If yes, does it cover the entire basin or group of basins and all riparian States?
 Yes /No
- Additional explanations? [fill in]
- Or, if the agreement or arrangement relates to a sub-basin, does it cover the entire sub-basin?
 Yes /No
- Additional explanations? [fill in]
- Which States (including your own) are bound by the agreement or arrangement?
(Please list): [five signatories to the Drin MoU]
- (b) If the agreement or arrangement relates to a river or lake basin or sub-basin, does it also cover aquifers?
 Yes /No
- (c) What is the sectoral scope of the agreement or arrangement?
- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| All water uses | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| A single water use or sector | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Several water uses or sectors | <input type="checkbox"/> |
- If one or several water uses or sectors, please list (check as appropriate):*
- Water uses or sectors**
- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Transport (e.g., navigation) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Households | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Energy: hydropower and other energy types | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fisheries | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tourism | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Nature protection | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other <i>(please list):</i> [fill in] | |

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

Procedural and institutional issues

- Dispute and conflict prevention and resolution
- Institutional cooperation (joint bodies)
- Consultation on planned measures
- Mutual assistance

Topics of cooperation

- Joint vision and management objectives
- Joint significant water management issues
- Navigation
- Human health
- 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
- Joint monitoring
- Maintenance of joint pollution inventories
- Elaboration of joint water quality objectives
- Common early warning and alarm procedures
- 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?

Aligning implementation of agreement or arrangement with

-
- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| national laws, policies and programmes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Aligning implementation of agreement or arrangement with regional laws, policies and programmes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lack of financial resources | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Insufficient human capacity | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Insufficient technical capacity | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tense diplomatic relations | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Non-participation of certain riparian countries in the agreement | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| No significant difficulties | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other (<i>please describe</i>): [fill in] | |

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

Recent adoption of a Strategic Action Programme

(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*):

https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/oes/MOU/MOU_Drin_Strategic_Shared_vision_Final.pdf

3. Is your country a member of any joint body or mechanism for this agreement or arrangement?

Yes /No

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

Where there is a joint body or mechanism

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

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Plenipotentiaries | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Bilateral commission | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Basin or similar commission | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Expert group meeting or meeting of national focal points | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other (<i>please describe</i>): Drin Core Group | |

(b) Does the joint body or mechanism cover the entire transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes /No

(c) Which States (including your own) are members of the joint body or mechanism? (*Please list*): **The five signatories to the Drin MoU**

(d) Are there any riparian States that are not members of the joint body or mechanism? (*please list*): **No**

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

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

(f) Does the joint body or mechanism 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): **Expert Working Groups on (i) Water Framework Directive; (ii) Monitoring and Information Exchange; (iii) Biodiversity and Ecosystems**

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

(g) What are the tasks and activities of this joint body or mechanism?⁴

- 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
- Surveillance and early warning of water related disease
- 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

⁴ 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.

-
- 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]
- (h) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the operation of the joint body or mechanism, 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]
- (i) Does the joint body or mechanism, or its subsidiary bodies meet regularly?
Yes /No
- If yes, how frequently does it meet?
- More than once per year
- Once per year
- Less than once per year
- (j) What are the main achievements with regards to the joint body or mechanism? [fill in]

(k) Did the joint body or mechanism ever invite a non-riparian coastal State to cooperate?

Yes /No

If yes, please give details. If no, why not, e.g. are the relevant coastal States also riparian States and therefore already members of the joint body or mechanism? [fill in]

4. Have joint objectives, a common strategy, a joint or coordinated management plan or action plan been agreed for the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes /No

If yes, please provide further details:

Strategic Action Plan for the sustainable management of the Drin river basin adopted on 24.4. 2020

5. How is the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basins or group of basins protected, including the protection of ecosystems, in the context of sustainable and rational water use?

Regulation of urbanization, deforestation, and sand and gravel extraction.

Environmental flow norms, including consideration of levels and seasonality

Water quality protection, e.g. nitrates, pesticides, faecal coliforms, heavy metals

Water-related species and habitats protection

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

6. (a) Does your country regularly exchange information and data with other riparian States in the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes /No

(b) If yes, how often:

More than once per year

Once per year

Less than once per year

(c) Please describe how information is exchanged (e.g. in connection with meetings of joint bodies): **Mostly through electronic means**

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

Environmental conditions

Research activities and application of best available techniques

Emission monitoring data

Planned measures taken to prevent, control or reduce transboundary impacts

-
- Point source pollution sources
- Diffuse pollution sources
- Existing hydromorphological alterations (dams, etc.)
- Flows or water levels (including groundwater levels)
- Water abstractions
- Climatological information
- Future planned measures with transboundary impacts, such as infrastructure development
- Other subjects (*please list*): [fill in]
- Other comments, e.g. spatial coverage of data and information exchange: [fill in]
- (e) Is there a shared database or information platform?
Yes /No
- (f) Is the database publicly available?
Yes /No

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

- (g) What are the main difficulties and challenges to data exchange, if applicable?

- Frequency of exchanges
- Timing of exchanges
- Comparability of data and information
- Limited spatial coverage
- Inadequate resources (technical and/or financial)

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

Additional comments: [fill in]

- (h) What are the main benefits of data exchange on the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins? (*please describe*): **It facilitates the production of RBMPs**

7. Do the riparian States carry out joint monitoring in the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes /No

The joint monitoring is referred in article 3 , Law 4453/2017, but it has not been activated yet. The main target of joint monitoring is to observe, control and manage the environmental state of the Lakes and their watershed. However the riparian countries already exchange data.

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

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

	<i>Hydrological</i>	<i>Ecological</i>	<i>Chemical</i>
Surface waters on the main watercourse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surface waters in part of the basin please describe [fill in]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transboundary aquifer(s) (connected or unconnected)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquifer(s) in the territory of one riparian hydraulically connected to a transboundary river or lake	<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

Please describe: [fill in]

Joint and agreed methodologies

Please describe: [fill in]

Joint sampling

Please describe: [fill in]

Common monitoring network

Please describe: [fill in]

Common agreed parameters

Please describe: [fill in]

(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, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

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, and assessment methodology applied: [fill in]

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

Yes /No

If yes, what standards have been applied, e.g. international or regional standards (please specify which), or have national standards of the riparian States been applied? [fill in]

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

-
- Notification and communication
- Coordinated or joint early warning or 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 and climate change?
- 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?
Yes /No
- If yes, please provide a brief summary:* [fill in]
13. Are the public or relevant stakeholders involved in transboundary water management in the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?
Yes /No
- If yes, how? (please tick all applicable)*
- Stakeholders have observer status in a joint body or mechanism
- Stakeholders have an advisory role in the joint body
- Stakeholders have a decision-making role in the joint body
- If yes, please specify the stakeholders for the joint body or mechanism:* [fill in]
- Intergovernmental organizations
- Private sectors organizations or associations
- Water user groups or associations
- Academic or research institutions
- Other non-governmental organizations
- General public
- Other (please specify): [fill in]
- Availability of information to the public

Consultation on planned measures or river basin management plans⁵



Public involvement



Other (please specify):

See the Greek National Report available under the Aarhus Convention at link: <http://www.vpeka.gr/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=AmjIxxhhEE8w%3D&tabid=467&language=el-GR>

and

[http://www.vpeka.gr/Portals/0/Files/Perivallon/Perivallontiki%20Pliroforia/Aarhu s. original reportplan.pdf](http://www.vpeka.gr/Portals/0/Files/Perivallon/Perivallontiki%20Pliroforia/Aarhu%20s%20original%20reportplan.pdf)

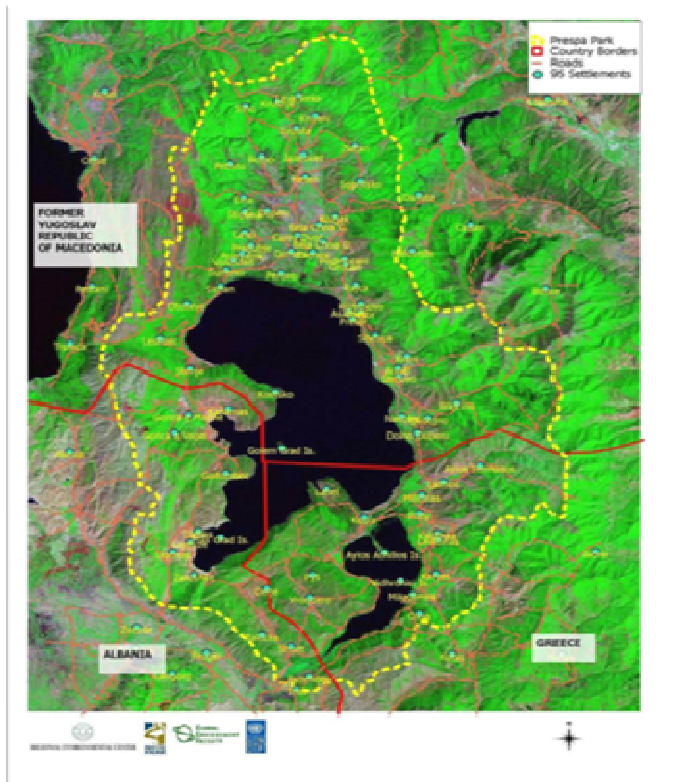


Fig. 1 Prespa Park Area

⁵ Or, where applicable, aquifer management plans.

**B. Name of the transboundary basin,-sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins:
EVROS RIVER**

List of the riparian States: **Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria**

In the case of an aquifer, what is the nature of the aquifer and its relation with the river or lake basin:

- Unconfined aquifer connected to a river or lake
- Unconfined aquifer with no or limited relation with surface water
- Confined aquifer connected to surface water
- Confined aquifer with no or limited relation with surface water
- Other
- Please describe: [fill in]
- Unknown

Percentage of your country's territory within the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins: Greece's portion share on the Evros River Basin is approximately 6.3%. Bulgaria has 66.2% and Turkey has 27.5%.

1. Is there one or more transboundary (bilateral or multilateral) agreement(s) or arrangement(s) on this basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

- 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(s) or arrangement(s)

- **Greek-Turkey Accord relative to the regulation of hydraulic works on both banks of the Maritza Evros River signed in Ankara on 20/06/1934 [Mandatory Law 225/1936 (Government Gazette 474/A/27-10-1936)].**
- **Accord between Greece and Bulgaria 'regarding the cooperation on the use of water from the rivers running the territories of the two countries' signed in Athens on 09/07/1964 [Legislative Decree 4393/1964 (Government Gazette 193/A/04-11-1964), regarding Strymonas, Evros, Ardas and Nestos Rivers].**
- **Accord between Greek Government and People's Republic of Bulgaria concerning the establishment of a Greco-Bulgarian Commission for cooperation between the two countries in the fields of electrical energy and the utilization of the waters of rivers crossing the territories of Greece and Bulgaria, signed in Sofia 12/07/1971 [Law 366/1976 (Government Gazette 160/A/25-06-1976)].**
- **Joint Declaration between the Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change of the Hellenic Republic and the Minister of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria on Understanding and Cooperation in the field of use of water resources on the respective territories of the shared river basins between the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria, signed in Sofia on 27/07/2010 regarding the Strymonas, Evros, Ardas and Nestos Rivers).**
- **Joint Declaration between the Minister for Environment, Energy and Climate Change of the Hellenic Republic and the Minister for Environment and**

Forestry of the Republic of Turkey, signed in Athens, on 14/05/2010 (regarding the Evros River).

Agreement or arrangement is under development

No agreement or arrangement

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 or mechanism for the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins then jump to question 4; if there is no agreement or arrangement, but a joint body or mechanism 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, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins.

Replies to questions 2 and 3 relate to the Joint Declaration between the Minister of Environment and Energy of the Hellenic Republic and the Minister of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria on Understanding and Cooperation in the field of use of water resources on the respective territories of the shared river basins between the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria, signed in Sofia on 27/07/2010 regarding the Strymonas, Evros, Ardas and Nestos Rivers).

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

Yes /No

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

Yes /No

Additional explanations? [fill in]

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

Yes /No

Additional explanations? [fill in]

Which States (including your own) are bound by the agreement or arrangement?
(Please list): **Greece and Bulgaria**

(b) If the agreement or arrangement relates to a river or lake basin or sub-basin, does it also cover aquifers?

Yes /No

If yes, please list the aquifers covered by the agreement or arrangement: [fill in]

(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	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transport (e.g., navigation)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Households	<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy: hydropower and other energy types	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fisheries	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nature protection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other (<i>please list</i>): Manufacturing	

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

Procedural and institutional issues

Dispute and conflict prevention and resolution	<input type="checkbox"/>
Institutional cooperation (joint bodies)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Consultation on planned measures	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mutual assistance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Topics of cooperation

Joint vision and management objectives	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joint significant water management issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Navigation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human health	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental protection (ecosystem)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water quality	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water quantity or allocation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cooperation in addressing floods	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cooperation in addressing droughts	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change adaptation	<input type="checkbox"/>

Monitoring and exchange

Joint assessments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Data collection and exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Joint monitoring	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maintenance of joint pollution inventories	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elaboration of joint water quality objectives	<input type="checkbox"/>
Common early warning and alarm procedures	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exchange of experience between riparian States	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exchange of information on planned measures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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?

Aligning implementation of agreement or arrangement with national laws, policies and programmes

Aligning implementation of agreement or arrangement with regional laws, policies and programmes

Lack of financial resources

Insufficient human capacity

Insufficient technical capacity

Tense diplomatic relations

Non-participation of certain riparian countries in the agreement

No significant difficulties

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

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

In most meetings, adoption of conclusions by consensus.

(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]

a) Law 4393/1964:

http://www.et.gr/docs-nph/search/pdfViewerForm.html?args=5C7QrtC22wFtG1hLmXKMFHdtvSoClrL8u_IHzLbdDJF5MXD0LzQTLWPU9yLzB8V68knBzLCmTXKaO6fpVZ6Lx3UnKl3nP8NxdnJ5r9cmWvJWelDvWS_18kAEhATUkJb0x1LIIdQ163nV9K--td6SIuQJ5HoEVF- Ym67rqP3A48EoitLzNgFa2FGOOTUvFrIz

b) 2010 Joint Ministerial Declaration (Greece – Bulgaria)

<http://www.ypeka.gr/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=ERBCwBusdro%3d&tabid=406>

c) 2010 Joint Ministerial Declaration (Greece – Turkey)

<http://www.ypeka.gr/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=OTAH9XoBn88%3d&tabid=406&language=el-GR>

3. Is your country a member of any joint body or mechanism for this agreement or arrangement?

Yes /No

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

Where there is a joint body or mechanism

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

Plenipotentiaries

Bilateral commission

Basin or similar commission

Expert group meeting or meeting of national focal points

Other (please describe): [fill in]

- (b) Does the joint body or mechanism cover the entire transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes /No

- (c) Which States (including your own) are members of the joint body or mechanism? (Please list): **Greece, Bulgaria**

- (d) Are there any riparian States that are not members of the joint body or mechanism? (please list): **Turkey**

- (e) If not all riparian States are members of the joint body or mechanism how does the joint body or mechanism cooperate with them?

No cooperation

They have observer status

Other (please describe):

Joint Ministerial Declaration between Greece – Turkey signed in 14 May 2010 serves as pillar for the cooperation process with Turkey through the establishment of an ad hoc Joint Committee.

- (f) Does the joint body or mechanism 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 and Sub-working Groups

Other features (please list): [fill in]

(g) What are the tasks and activities of this joint body or mechanism?⁶

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Identification of pollution sources | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Data collection and exchange | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Joint monitoring | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Maintenance of joint pollution inventories | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Setting emission limits | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Elaboration of joint water quality objectives | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Management and prevention of flood or drought risks | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Preparedness for extreme events, e.g., common early warning and alarm procedures | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Surveillance and early warning of water related disease | <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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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] | |

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

⁶ 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.

-
- 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*):

Lack of coordination in the dissemination of information

- (i) Does the joint body or mechanism, or its subsidiary bodies meet regularly?

Yes /No

If yes, how frequently does it meet? **In principle, twice a year**

More than once per year

Once per year

Less than once per year

- (j) What are the main achievements with regards to the joint body or mechanism? **In most meetings, adoption of conclusions by consensus.**

- (k) Did the joint body or mechanism ever invite a non-riparian coastal State to cooperate?

Yes /No

If yes, please give details. If no, why not, e.g. are the relevant coastal States also riparian States and therefore already members of the joint body or mechanism? [fill in]

4. Have joint objectives, a common strategy, a joint or coordinated management plan or action plan been agreed for the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes /No

If yes, please provide further details:

There are joint objectives specifically on flood problem issues and against harmful water impacts, as well as monitorin and solving environmental problems, Minutes of the fourth Meeting of the Bulgarian-Greek Joint Expert

Working Group on Cooperation on Water and Environment held in Athens on the 8th of May 2014

5. How is the transboundary basin,–sub-basin, part of a basins or group of basins protected, including the protection of ecosystems, in the context of sustainable and rational water use?
- Regulation of urbanization, deforestation, and sand and gravel extraction.
- Environmental flow norms, including consideration of levels and seasonality
- Water quality protection, e.g. nitrates, pesticides, faecal coliforms, heavy metals
- Water-related species and habitats protection
- Other measures (*please describe*): **pollution prevention measures**
6. (a) Does your country regularly exchange information and data with other riparian States in the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?
Yes /No
- (b) If yes, how often:
- More than once per year
- Once per year
- Less than once per year
- (c) Please describe how information is exchanged (e.g. in connection with meetings of joint bodies): **In principle through electronic means**
- (d) If yes, on what subjects are information and data exchanged?
- Environmental conditions
- Research activities and application of best available techniques
- Emission monitoring data
- Planned measures taken to prevent, control or reduce transboundary impacts
- Point source pollution sources
- Diffuse pollution sources
- Existing hydromorphological alterations (dams, etc.)
- Flows or water levels (including groundwater levels)
- Water abstractions
- Climatological information
- Future planned measures with transboundary impacts, such as infrastructure development
- Other subjects (*please list*): **qualitative and quantitative data sharing on water, aquatic ecosystems**
- Other comments, e.g. spatial coverage of data and information exchange: [fill

in]

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

Yes /No

(f) Is the database publicly available?

Yes /No

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

(g) What are the main difficulties and challenges to data exchange, if applicable?

Frequency of exchanges

Timing of exchanges

Comparability of data and information

Limited spatial coverage

Inadequate resources (technical and/or financial)

Other (please describe): [fill in]

Additional comments: [fill in]

(h) What are the main benefits of data exchange on the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins? (please describe): **Facilitation of the production of RBMPs**

7. Do the riparian States carry out joint monitoring in the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes /No

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

	<i>Hydrological</i>	<i>Ecological</i>	<i>Chemical</i>
Border surface waters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surface waters in the entire basin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surface waters on the main watercourse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surface waters in part of the basin please describe [fill in]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transboundary aquifer(s) (connected or unconnected)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquifer(s) in the territory of one riparian hydraulically connected to a transboundary river or lake	<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

Please describe: [fill in]

Joint and agreed methodologies

-
- Please describe:* [fill in]
- Joint sampling
- Please describe:* [fill in]
- Common monitoring network
- Please describe:* [fill in]
- Common agreed parameters
- Please describe:* [fill in]
- (c) Please describe the main achievements regarding joint monitoring, if any: [fill in]
- (d) Please describe any difficulties experienced with joint monitoring: [fill in]
- in]
8. Do the riparian States carry out joint assessment of the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?
- 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, and assessment methodology applied:* [fill in]
9. Have the riparian States agreed to use joint water quality standards?
- Yes /No
- If yes, what standards have been applied, e.g. international or regional standards (please specify which), or have national standards of the riparian States been applied?* [fill in]
10. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of accidental pollution?
- Notification and communication
- Coordinated or joint early warning or 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 and climate change?
- 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?

Yes /No

If yes, please provide a brief summary: [fill in]

13. Are the public or relevant stakeholders involved in transboundary water management in the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes /No

*If yes, how? **Through the consultation process for the River Basin Management Plan regarding the Evros River***

Stakeholders have observer status in a joint body or mechanism

Stakeholders have an advisory role in the joint body

Stakeholders have a decision-making role in the joint body

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

Intergovernmental organizations

Private sectors organizations or associations

Water user groups or associations

Academic or research institutions

Other non-governmental organizations

General public

Other (please specify): [fill in]

Availability of information to the public

Consultation on planned measures or river basin management plans⁷

Public involvement

Other (please specify): [fill in]

⁷ Or, where applicable, aquifer management plans.



Fig. 2 Evros River Basin

**C. Name of the transboundary basin,-sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins:
NESTOS RIVER**

List of the riparian States: **Greece, Bulgaria**

In the case of an aquifer, what is the nature of the aquifer and its relation with the river or lake basin:

- Unconfined aquifer connected to a river or lake
- Unconfined aquifer with no or limited relation with surface water
- Confined aquifer connected to surface water
- Confined aquifer with no or limited relation with surface water
- Other

Please describe: [fill in]

Unknown

Percentage of your country's territory within the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins: Greece's portion share on the Nestos River Basin is approximately 42%. Bulgaria has 58%

1. Is there one or more transboundary (bilateral or multilateral) agreement(s) or arrangement(s) on this basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

- 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(s) or arrangement(s) [f

- **Accord between Greece and Bulgaria 'regarding the cooperation on the use of water from the rivers running the territories of the two countries' signed in Athens on 09/07/1964 [Legislative Decree 4393/1964 (Government Gazette 193/A/04-11-1964), regarding Strymonas, Evros, Ardas and Nestos Rivers].**

- **Agreement, between the Government of the Hellenic Republic and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria regarding waters of the Nestos River, signed in Sofia on 22/12/1995 [Law 2402/1996 (Government Gazette 98/A/04-06-1996)].**

- **Joint Declaration between the Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change of the Hellenic Republic and the Minister of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria on Understanding and Cooperation in the field of use of water resources on the respective territories of the shared river basins between the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria, signed in Sofia on 27/07/2010 regarding the Strymonas, Evros, Ardas and Nestos Rivers).**

- Agreement or arrangement is under development
- No agreement or arrangement

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 or mechanism for the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins then jump to

question 4; if there is no agreement or arrangement, but a joint body or mechanism 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, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins.

Reply to question 2 refers to the Agreement, between the Government of the Hellenic Republic and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria regarding waters of the Nestos River, signed in Sofia on 22/12/1995 [Law 2402/1996 (Government Gazette 98/A/04-06-1996)].

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

Yes /No

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

Yes /No

Additional explanations?

It covers allocation issues regarding water quantity subject matters (i.e. the percentage of water of the Nestos River that flows into Greek territory).

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

Yes /No

Additional explanations? [fill in]

Which States (including your own) are bound by the agreement or arrangement?
(Please list): **Greece and Bulgaria**

(b) If the agreement or arrangement relates to a river or lake basin or sub-basin, does it also cover aquifers?

Yes /No

If yes, please list the aquifers covered by the agreement or arrangement: [fill in]

(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

Fisheries

Tourism

Nature protection

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

There was no specification about the water sector. The two Parties have agreed to exchange information regarding the quality and quantity situation of the Nestos waters. The exploitation right of the transboundary inflow waters for Greece was fixed to 29%. In addition, the Joint Ministerial Declaration of 27/07/2010 takes into consideration issues focussing on water and environment.

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

Procedural and institutional issues

Dispute and conflict prevention and resolution

Institutional cooperation (joint bodies)

Consultation on planned measures

Mutual assistance

Topics of cooperation

Joint vision and management objectives

Joint significant water management issues

Navigation

Human health

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

Joint monitoring

Maintenance of joint pollution inventories

Elaboration of joint water quality objectives

Common early warning and alarm procedures

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?

- Aligning implementation of agreement or arrangement with national laws, policies and programmes
- Aligning implementation of agreement or arrangement with regional laws, policies and programmes
- Lack of financial resources
- Insufficient human capacity
- Insufficient technical capacity
- Tense diplomatic relations
- Non-participation of certain riparian countries in the agreement
- No significant difficulties

Other (*please describe*): **The 1995 Agreement provides for the regular updating of the average water flow.**

(f) What are the main achievements in implementing the agreement or arrangement and what were the keys to achieving such success? **There is collaboration between the riparian countries on the protection against harmful water impacts.**

(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*):

Law 2402/1996:

http://www.et.gr/idocs-nph/search/pdfViewerForm.html?args=5C7QrtC22wGW8w3YEhDyt3dtvSoClrL8qch8ztD7IMbtII9LGdkF53UIxx942CdvqxSOYNuqAGCF0IfB9HI6qSYtMQEkEHLwnFqmgJSA5WIsluV-nRwOIoKqSe4BIOTSpEWYhszF8P8UqWb_zFijIEhewbH0Ny2-65N3TLlaXrlvIYoIH5CzXvl7dRIEzHp

3. Is your country a member of any joint body or mechanism for this agreement or arrangement?

Yes /No

Actually, there are two joint bodies and replies provided under question 3 refer to the second one;

- **the Permanent Greek – Bulgarian Hydroeconomy Commission established by Law 2402/1996 (Government Gazette 98/A/04-06-1996): Ratification of Agreement, between the Government of the Hellenic Republic and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria regarding waters of the Nestos River,**

- the Joint Expert Working Group established by the 2010 Joint Declaration between the Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change of the Hellenic Republic and the Minister of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria on Understanding and Cooperation in the field of use of water resources on the respective territories of the shared river basins between the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria (signed in Sofia, in 27 July 2010 regarding the Strymonas, Evros, Ardas and Nestos Rivers).

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

Where there is a joint body or mechanism

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

Plenipotentiaries

Bilateral commission under 1995 **Agreement between the Government of the Hellenic Republic and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria regarding waters of the Nestos River**

Basin or similar commission

Expert group meeting or meeting of national focal points

Other (please describe): **Joint Expert Working Group established by the 2010 Joint Declaration**

- (b) Does the joint body or mechanism cover the entire transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes /No

- (c) Which States (including your own) are members of the joint body or mechanism? **Greece and Bulgaria**

- (d) Are there any riparian States that are not members of the joint body or mechanism? (please list): **No**

- (e) If not all riparian States are members of the joint body or mechanism how does the joint body or mechanism cooperate with them?

No cooperation

They have observer status

Other (please describe): [fill in]

- (f) Does the joint body or mechanism 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]

-
- (g) What are the tasks and activities of this joint body or mechanism?⁸
- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Identification of pollution sources | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Data collection and exchange | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Joint monitoring | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Maintenance of joint pollution inventories | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Setting emission limits | <input checked="" 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"/> |
| Surveillance and early warning of water related disease | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Water allocation and/or flow regulation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Policy development | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Control of implementation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Exchange of experience between riparian States | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Exchange of information on existing and planned uses of water and related installations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Settling of differences and conflicts | <input checked="" 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>): Cost allocation regarding monitoring expenses (efficiency improvement, construction, maintenance) | |

⁸ 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.

a) To establish the basis for a commonly agreed method of obtaining, assessing and exchanging information concerning qualitative and quantitative data of water resources and experience and know-how in the implementation of international agreements, EU legislation and pertinent national legal framework. In addition, exchange of information on the possible effects, including the extraction of inert material from river beds and river deposits, in accordance to the UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context.

b) To coordinate river basin management plans, in accordance with the principles and recommendations set by EU Directive 2000/60/EC. In addition, to collaborate on the protection against harmful water impacts and on monitoring and addressing environmental problems in the field of water, according to EU law.

c) To coordinate and cooperate for the implementation of a single joint flood risk management plan or separate but coordinated management plans for each of the shared river basins. The focus shall be on protection and preparedness, according to the principles and recommendations set by EU Directive 2007/60/EC.

(h) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the operation of the joint body or mechanism, 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]

(i) Does the joint body or mechanism, or its subsidiary bodies meet regularly?

Yes /No

If yes, how frequently does it meet? **Normally, twice a year. Intermediate meeting at a short notice may also be arranged when the need arises.**

More than once per year

Once per year

Less than once per year

(j) What are the main achievements with regards to the joint body or mechanism? **Exchange of information with regard to the production fo RBMPs**

(k) Did the joint body or mechanism ever invite a non-riparian coastal State to cooperate?

Yes /No

If yes, please give details. If no, why not, e.g. are the relevant coastal States also riparian States and therefore already members of the joint body or mechanism?

The relevant coastal State, Greece, is also a riparian state

4. Have joint objectives, a common strategy, a joint or coordinated management plan or action plan been agreed for the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes /No

If yes, please provide further details: There are joint objectives specifically on flood problem issues and against harmful water impacts, as well as monitoring and solving environmental problems in the field of water, Minutes of the fourth Meeting of the Bulgarian-Greek Joint Expert Working Group on Cooperation on Water and Environment held in Athens on the 8th of May 2014

5. How is the transboundary basin,-sub-basin, part of a basins or group of basins protected, including the protection of ecosystems, in the context of sustainable and rational water use?

Regulation of urbanization, deforestation, and sand and gravel extraction.

Environmental flow norms, including consideration of levels and seasonality

Water quality protection, e.g. nitrates, pesticides, faecal coliforms, heavy metals

Water-related species and habitats protection

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

6. (a) Does your country regularly exchange information and data with other riparian States in the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes /No

(b) If yes, how often:

More than once per year

Once per year

Less than once per year

(c) Please describe how information is exchanged (e.g. in connection with meetings of joint bodies): **In principle through electronic means**

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

Environmental conditions

Research activities and application of best available techniques

-
- Emission monitoring data
- Planned measures taken to prevent, control or reduce transboundary impacts
- Point source pollution sources
- Diffuse pollution sources
- Existing hydromorphological alterations (dams, etc.)
- Flows or water levels (including groundwater levels)
- Water abstractions
- Climatological information
- Future planned measures with transboundary impacts, such as infrastructure development

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

Other comments, e.g. spatial coverage of data and information exchange: [fill in]

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

Yes /No

(f) Is the database publicly available?

Yes /No

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

(g) What are the main difficulties and challenges to data exchange, if applicable?

- Frequency of exchanges
- Timing of exchanges
- Comparability of data and information
- Limited spatial coverage
- Inadequate resources (technical and/or financial)

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

Additional comments: [fill in]

(h) What are the main benefits of data exchange on the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins? (*please describe*): [fill in]

7. Do the riparian States carry out joint monitoring in the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes /No

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

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

	<i>Hydrological</i>	<i>Ecological</i>	<i>Chemical</i>
Surface waters on the main watercourse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surface waters in part of the basin please describe [fill in]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transboundary aquifer(s) (connected or unconnected)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquifer(s) in the territory of one riparian hydraulically connected to a transboundary river or lake	<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

Please describe: [fill in]

Joint and agreed methodologies

Please describe: [fill in]

Joint sampling

Please describe: [fill in]

Common monitoring network

Please describe: [fill in]

Common agreed parameters

Please describe: [fill in]

(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, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

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, and assessment methodology applied: [fill in]

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

Yes /No

If yes, what standards have been applied, e.g. international or regional standards (please specify which), or have national standards of the riparian States been applied? [fill in]

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

-
- Notification and communication
- Coordinated or joint early warning or 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 and climate change?
- 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?
Yes /No
- If yes, please provide a brief summary:* [fill in]
13. Are the public or relevant stakeholders involved in transboundary water management in the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?
Yes /No
- If yes, how? **Through the consultation processes for the River Basin Management Plan***
- Stakeholders have observer status in a joint body or mechanism
- Stakeholders have an advisory role in the joint body
- Stakeholders have a decision-making role in the joint body
- If yes, please specify the stakeholders for the joint body or mechanism:* [fill in]
- Intergovernmental organizations
- Private sectors organizations or associations
- Water user groups or associations
- Academic or research institutions
- Other non-governmental organizations
- General public
- Other (please specify): [fill in]

Availability of information to the public



Consultation on planned measures or river basin management plans⁹



Public involvement



Other (please specify): [fill in]



Fig. 3 Nestos River Basin

⁹ Or, where applicable, aquifer management plans.

D. Name of the transboundary basin,-sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins:
AXIOS RIVER

List of the riparian States: **Greece, North Macedonia, Bulgaria, and Serbia,**
Greece shares flow water with North Macedonia.

In the case of an aquifer, what is the nature of the aquifer and its relation with the river or lake basin:

- Unconfined aquifer connected to a river or lake
- Unconfined aquifer with no or limited relation with surface water
- Confined aquifer connected to surface water
- Confined aquifer with no or limited relation with surface water
- Other
- Please describe: [fill in]
- Unknown

Percentage of your country's territory within the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins: Greece's portion share on the Axios River Basin is approximately 11.3% . The rest portion is shared among Bulgaria, Serbia and North Macedonia.

Doirani Lake belongs to the Axios River basin. Greece's portion share on the Lake is approximately 69%. North Macedonia has 31%.

1. Is there one or more transboundary (bilateral or multilateral) agreement(s) or arrangement(s) on this basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

- 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(s) or arrangement(s) **Accord between the Kingdom of Greece and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on hydroeconomy issues signed in Athens on 18/09/1959 [Legislative Decree 4012/1959 (Government Gazette 232/A/31-10-1959), regarding Axios River**

- Agreement or arrangement is under development
- No agreement or arrangement

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 or mechanism for the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins then jump to question 4; if there is no agreement or arrangement, but a joint body or mechanism 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, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins.

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

Yes /No

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

Yes /No

Additional explanations? [fill in]

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

Yes /No

Additional explanations? [fill in]

Which States (including your own) are bound by the agreement or arrangement?
(Please list): **There has been a bilateral agreement between the Kingdom of Greece and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (1959). The States bound by the agreement are Greece and North Macedonia.**

(b) If the agreement or arrangement relates to a river or lake basin or sub-basin, does it also cover aquifers?

Yes /No

If yes, please list the aquifers covered by the agreement or arrangement: [fill in]

(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

Fisheries

Tourism

Nature protection

Other (please list): [fill in]

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

Procedural and institutional issues

Dispute and conflict prevention and resolution

Institutional cooperation (joint bodies)

Consultation on planned measures

Mutual assistance

Topics of cooperation

- Joint vision and management objectives
- Joint significant water management issues
- Navigation
- Human health
- 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
- Joint monitoring
- Maintenance of joint pollution inventories
- Elaboration of joint water quality objectives
- Common early warning and alarm procedures
- 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?

- Aligning implementation of agreement or arrangement with national laws, policies and programmes
- Aligning implementation of agreement or arrangement with regional laws, policies and programmes
- Lack of financial resources
- Insufficient human capacity
- Insufficient technical capacity
- Tense diplomatic relations

Non-participation of certain riparian countries in the agreement

No significant difficulties

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

(f) What are the main achievements in implementing the agreement or arrangement and what were the keys to achieving such success? **The ad hoc meetings were conducted in a spirit of cooperation**

(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*):

Legislative Decree 4012/1959

[http://www.et.gr/idos-](http://www.et.gr/idos-nph/search/pdfViewerForm.html?args=5C7OrtC22wEWSKScVwAPsHdtvSoC)

[nph/search/pdfViewerForm.html?args=5C7OrtC22wEWSKScVwAPsHdtvSoC](http://www.et.gr/idos-nph/search/pdfViewerForm.html?args=5C7OrtC22wEWSKScVwAPsHdtvSoC)
[lrL8noyF6ARJ3CN5MXD0LzQTLWPU9yLzB8V68knBzLCmTXKaO6fpVZ6](http://www.et.gr/idos-nph/search/pdfViewerForm.html?args=5C7OrtC22wEWSKScVwAPsHdtvSoC)
[Lx3UnKl3nP8NxdnJ5r9cmWvJWelDvWS_18kAEhATUkJb0x1LIdQ163nV9K](http://www.et.gr/idos-nph/search/pdfViewerForm.html?args=5C7OrtC22wEWSKScVwAPsHdtvSoC)
[--td6SluarorJJUGG_ythzg_AUdYPTzt5NARxtrGf_pvpctWfu2](http://www.et.gr/idos-nph/search/pdfViewerForm.html?args=5C7OrtC22wEWSKScVwAPsHdtvSoC)

3. Is your country a member of any joint body or mechanism for this agreement or arrangement?

Yes /No

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

Where there is a joint body or mechanism

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

Plenipotentiaries

Bilateral commission

Basin or similar commission

Expert group meeting or meeting of national focal points

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

(b) Does the joint body or mechanism cover the entire transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes /No

(c) Which States (including your own) are members of the joint body or mechanism? **Greece, North Macedonia**

(d) Are there any riparian States that are not members of the joint body or mechanism? (please list): **No**

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

No cooperation

They have observer status

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

(f) Does the joint body or mechanism 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]
- (g) What are the tasks and activities of this joint body or mechanism?¹⁰
- 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
- Surveillance and early warning of water related disease
- 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,

¹⁰ 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*):

- a) examination of the information communicated by the Contracting States concerning the measures to be taken and the proposed hydroeconomic works
- b) preparation and submission of proposals on the measures to be taken and the work to be carried out including their technical and economic study
- c) assessment of projects submitted, both on their effectiveness and expediency, technical and economic life, as well as consultation on their implementation
- d) control and taking up of common works
- f) exchange of experience in the field of hydroeconomics and hydrometeorological data
- g) submission of proposals for friendly settlement of disputes

(h) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the operation of the joint body or mechanism, 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]

(i) Does the joint body or mechanism, or its subsidiary bodies meet regularly?

Yes /No

If yes, how frequently does it meet?

- More than once per year
- Once per year

Less than once per year

(j) What are the main achievements with regards to the joint body or mechanism? [fill in]

(k) Did the joint body or mechanism ever invite a non-riparian coastal State to cooperate?

Yes /No

If yes, please give details. If no, why not, e.g. are the relevant coastal States also riparian States and therefore already members of the joint body or mechanism?

Greece is both the relevant coastal State and a riparian State

4. Have joint objectives, a common strategy, a joint or coordinated management plan or action plan been agreed for the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes /No

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

5. How is the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basins or group of basins protected, including the protection of ecosystems, in the context of sustainable and rational water use?

Regulation of urbanization, deforestation, and sand and gravel extraction.

Environmental flow norms, including consideration of levels and seasonality

Water quality protection, e.g. nitrates, pesticides, faecal coliforms, heavy metals

Water-related species and habitats protection

Other measures (*please describe*): **pollution prevention measures**

6. (a) Does your country regularly exchange information and data with other riparian States in the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes /No

(b) If yes, how often:

More than once per year

Once per year

Less than once per year

(c) Please describe how information is exchanged (e.g. in connection with meetings of joint bodies): **In principle through electronic means**

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

Environmental conditions

Research activities and application of best available techniques

Emission monitoring data

Planned measures taken to prevent, control or reduce

transboundary impacts

- Point source pollution sources
- Diffuse pollution sources
- Existing hydromorphological alterations (dams, etc.)
- Flows or water levels (including groundwater levels)
- Water abstractions
- Climatological information
- Future planned measures with transboundary impacts, such as infrastructure development

Other subjects (*please list*): **qualitative and quantitative data sharing on water, aquatic ecosystems**

Other comments, e.g. spatial coverage of data and information exchange: [fill in]

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

Yes /No

(f) Is the database publicly available?

Yes /No

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

(g) What are the main difficulties and challenges to data exchange, if applicable?

- Frequency of exchanges
- Timing of exchanges
- Comparability of data and information
- Limited spatial coverage
- Inadequate resources (technical and/or financial)

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

Additional comments: [fill in]

(h) What are the main benefits of data exchange on the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins? (*please describe*): **Facilitates the production of RBMPs**

7. Do the riparian States carry out joint monitoring in the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes /No

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

	<i>Hydrological</i>	<i>Ecological</i>	<i>Chemical</i>
Border surface waters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surface waters in the entire basin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surface waters on the main watercourse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surface waters in part of the basin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Hydrological	Ecological	Chemical
please describe [fill in]			
Transboundary aquifer(s) (connected or unconnected)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquifer(s) in the territory of one riparian hydraulically connected to a transboundary river or lake	<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			<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please describe:</i> [fill in]			
Joint and agreed methodologies			<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please describe:</i> [fill in]			
Joint sampling			<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please describe:</i> [fill in]			
Common monitoring network			<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please describe:</i> [fill in]			
Common agreed parameters			<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please describe:</i> [fill in]			
(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, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?			
Yes <input type="checkbox"/> /No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
<i>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, and assessment methodology applied:</i> [fill in]			
9. Have the riparian States agreed to use joint water quality standards?			
Yes <input type="checkbox"/> /No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
<i>If yes, what standards have been applied, e.g. international or regional standards (please specify which), or have national standards of the riparian States been applied?</i> [fill in]			
10. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of accidental pollution?			
Notification and communication			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Coordinated or joint early warning or alarm system for accidental water pollution			<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (<i>please list</i>): [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 and climate change?
- 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?
- Yes /No
- If yes, please provide a brief summary: [fill in]*
13. Are the public or relevant stakeholders involved in transboundary water management in the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?
- Yes /No
- If yes, how? **Through the consultation process for the River Basin Management Plan***
- Stakeholders have observer status in a joint body or mechanism
- Stakeholders have an advisory role in the joint body
- Stakeholders have a decision-making role in the joint body
- If yes, please specify the stakeholders for the joint body or mechanism: [fill in]*
- Intergovernmental organizations
- Private sectors organizations or associations
- Water user groups or associations
- Academic or research institutions
- Other non-governmental organizations
- General public
- Other (please specify): [fill in]
- Availability of information to the public
- Consultation on planned measures or river basin

management plans¹¹



Public involvement



Other (please specify): [fill in]

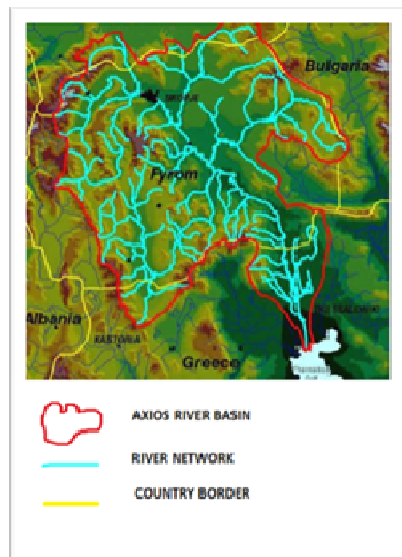


Fig. 4 Axios River Basin

¹¹ Or, where applicable, aquifer management plans.

E. Name of the transboundary basin,-sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins:
AOOS RIVER

List of the riparian States: **Greece and Albania**

In the case of an aquifer, what is the nature of the aquifer and its relation with the river or lake basin:

- Unconfined aquifer connected to a river or lake
- Unconfined aquifer with no or limited relation with surface water
- Confined aquifer connected to surface water
- Confined aquifer with no or limited relation with surface water
- Other
- Please describe: [fill in]
- Unknown

Percentage of your country's territory within the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins: Greece's basin area extends to 2361 Km². The whole basin area is 6519 Km² So Greece's percentage is 36%

1. Is there one or more transboundary (bilateral or multilateral) agreement(s) or arrangement(s) on this basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

- 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(s) or arrangement(s) **Agreement between the Government of the Hellenic Republic and the Government of the Republic of Albania on the establishment of the permanent Greek-Albanian Commission on transboundary freshwater issues, signed in Athens on 03/04/2003 [Law 3405/2005 (Government Gazette 264/A/25-10-2005)].**

- Agreement or arrangement is under development
- No agreement or arrangement

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 or mechanism for the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins then jump to question 4; if there is no agreement or arrangement, but a joint body or mechanism 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, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins.

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

Yes /No

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

Yes /No

Additional explanations? **It covers cooperation issues between Greece and Albania for the protection of their transboundary watercourses and lakes, i.e. Aaos river, the Drinos river and the Prespa**

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

Yes /No

Additional explanations? [fill in]

Which States (including your own) are bound by the agreement or arrangement?
(Please list): **Greece and Albania**

(b) If the agreement or arrangement relates to a river or lake basin or sub-basin, does it also cover aquifers?

Yes /No

If yes, please list the aquifers covered by the agreement or arrangement: [fill in]

(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

Fisheries

Tourism

Nature protection

Other (please list): [fill in]

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

Procedural and institutional issues

Dispute and conflict prevention and resolution

Institutional cooperation (joint bodies)

Consultation on planned measures

Mutual assistance

Topics of cooperation

Joint vision and management objectives

Joint significant water management issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Navigation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human health	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental protection (ecosystem)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Water quantity or allocation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cooperation in addressing floods	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cooperation in addressing droughts	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change adaptation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring and exchange	
Joint assessments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Data collection and exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Joint monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintenance of joint pollution inventories	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elaboration of joint water quality objectives	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Common early warning and alarm procedures	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exchange of experience between riparian States	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exchange of information on planned measures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Joint planning and management	
Development of joint regulations on specific topics	<input type="checkbox"/>
Development of international or joint river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans	<input type="checkbox"/>
Management of shared infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>
Development of shared infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (<i>please list</i>): [fill in]	

- a) **To collect, compile and evaluate data provided by the parties, in order to identify pollution sources**
- b) **To draw up inventories and to exchange information on the pollution sources mentioned in point 1 of this article**
- c) **To define joint quality objectives and criteria and to propose relevant measures in order to achieve these objectives concerning the water quality**
- d) **To serve as a forum for the exchange of information on existing and planned uses of water and related installations that are likely to have a transboundary impact or to have an adverse effect on the quality of freshwaters**
- e) **To discuss and evaluate proposals relating to the hydraulic works the Parties might decide to carry out in collaboration with each other and supervise their application**
- f) **To organise the cooperation and promote the establishment of national networks for monitoring of the water quality**

- g) To serve as an instance for exchange of information between the Parties on water policy issues
- h) To study proposals for the exchange of practical experience and technical knowledge in the field of freshwater, including exchange of hydrological and meteorological data and transfer of experience on water monitoring
- i) To promote collaboration between the competent national authorities of the Parties

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

- Aligning implementation of agreement or arrangement with national laws, policies and programmes
- Aligning implementation of agreement or arrangement with regional laws, policies and programmes
- Lack of financial resources
- Insufficient human capacity
- Insufficient technical capacity
- Tense diplomatic relations
- Non-participation of certain riparian countries in the agreement
- No significant difficulties

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

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

Both delegations agreed to create a sub commission aiming at their coordination, for the production of a single management plan related to the whole river basin district of the Aaos river.

(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*):

Law 3405/2005

<http://www.et.gr/idos->

[nph/search/pdfViewerForm.html?args=5C7QrtC22wHrZvzjsKBkq3dtvSoClrL8WEzaAz7B3iF5MXD0LzQTLWPU9vLzB8V68knBzLCmTXKaO6fpVZ6Lx3UnKl3nP8NxdnJ5r9cmWvJWelDvWS_18kAEhATUkJb0x1LIdQ163nV9K--td6SIuc3PWa8Qym-cSBvaJH2rQnr71UHt_vpSHP0gwr2C_viu](http://www.et.gr/idos-nph/search/pdfViewerForm.html?args=5C7QrtC22wHrZvzjsKBkq3dtvSoClrL8WEzaAz7B3iF5MXD0LzQTLWPU9vLzB8V68knBzLCmTXKaO6fpVZ6Lx3UnKl3nP8NxdnJ5r9cmWvJWelDvWS_18kAEhATUkJb0x1LIdQ163nV9K--td6SIuc3PWa8Qym-cSBvaJH2rQnr71UHt_vpSHP0gwr2C_viu)

3. Is your country a member of any joint body or mechanism for this agreement or arrangement?

Yes /No

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

Where there is a joint body or mechanism

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

Plenipotentiaries

-
- Bilateral commission
- Basin or similar commission
- Expert group meeting or meeting of national focal points
- Other (*please describe*): **Permanant Greek – Albanian Commission**
- (b) Does the joint body or mechanism cover the entire transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?
Yes /No
- (c) Which States (including your own) are members of the joint body or mechanism? (*Please list*): **Greece, Albania**
- (d) Are there any riparian States that are not members of the joint body or mechanism? (*please list*): **No**
- (e) If not all riparian States are members of the joint body or mechanism how does the joint body or mechanism cooperate with them?
- No cooperation
- They have observer status
- Other (*please describe*): [fill in]
- (f) Does the joint body or mechanism 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]
- (g) What are the tasks and activities of this joint body or mechanism?¹²
- 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
- Surveillance and early warning of water related disease

¹² 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.

Water allocation and/or flow regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Policy development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Control of implementation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exchange of experience between riparian States	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Exchange of information on existing and planned uses of water and related installations	<input checked="" 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]	

- a) **To collect, compile and evaluate data provided by the parties, in order to identify pollution sources**
- b) **To draw up inventories and to exchange information on the pollution sources mentioned in point 1 of this article**
- c) **To define joint quality objectives and criteria and to propose relevant measures in order to achieve these objectives concerning the water quality**
- d) **To serve as a forum for the exchange of information on existing and planned uses of water and related installations that are likely to have a transboundary impact or to have an adverse effect on the quality of freshwaters**
- e) **To discuss and evaluate proposals relating to the hydraulic works the Parties might decide to carry out in collaboration with each other and supervise their application**
- f) **To organise the cooperation and promote the establishment of national networks for monitoring of the water quality**
- g) **To serve as an instance for exchange of information between the Parties on water policy issues**
- h) **To study proposals for the exchange of practical experience and technical knowledge in the field of freshwater, including exchange of hydrological and meteorological data and transfer of experience on water monitoring**

i) **To promote collaboration between the competent national authorities of the Parties**

(h) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the operation of the joint body or mechanism, 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:

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]

(i) Does the joint body or mechanism, or its subsidiary bodies meet regularly?

Yes /No

If yes, how frequently does it meet? **In principle, once a year**

More than once per year

Once per year

Less than once per year

(j) What are the main achievements with regards to the joint body or mechanism? **The two riparian states work together in the spirit of cooperation and exchange of data and information.**

(k) Did the joint body or mechanism ever invite a non-riparian coastal State to cooperate?

Yes /No

If yes, please give details. If no, why not, e.g. are the relevant coastal States also riparian States and therefore already members of the joint body or mechanism? [fill in]

4. Have joint objectives, a common strategy, a joint or coordinated management plan or action plan been agreed for the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes /No

However, the 2003 Agreement signed in Athens provides in its Article 2 that the joint body (i.e. the Permanent Greek – Albanian Commission) shall, inter alia, define joint water quality objectives and criteria and propose relevant measures in order to achieve these objectives concerning the water quality.

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

5. How is the transboundary basin,–sub-basin, part of a basins or group of basins protected, including the protection of ecosystems, in the context of sustainable and rational water use?
- Regulation of urbanization, deforestation, and sand and gravel extraction.
- Environmental flow norms, including consideration of levels and seasonality
- Water quality protection, e.g. nitrates, pesticides, faecal coliforms, heavy metals
- Water-related species and habitats protection
- Other measures (*please describe*): [fill in]
6. (a) Does your country regularly exchange information and data with other riparian States in the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?
Yes /No
- (b) If yes, how often:
- More than once per year
- Once per year
- Less than once per year
- (c) Please describe how information is exchanged (e.g. in connection with meetings of joint bodies): **In principle through electronic means**
- (d) If yes, on what subjects are information and data exchanged?
- Environmental conditions
- Research activities and application of best available techniques
- Emission monitoring data
- Planned measures taken to prevent, control or reduce transboundary impacts
- Point source pollution sources
- Diffuse pollution sources
- Existing hydromorphological alterations (dams, etc.)
- Flows or water levels (including groundwater levels)
- Water abstractions
- Climatological information
- Future planned measures with transboundary impacts, such as infrastructure development
- Other subjects (*please list*): [fill in]

Other comments, e.g. spatial coverage of data and information exchange: [fill in]

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

Yes /No

(f) Is the database publicly available?

Yes /No

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

(g) What are the main difficulties and challenges to data exchange, if applicable?

Frequency of exchanges

Timing of exchanges

Comparability of data and information

Limited spatial coverage

Inadequate resources (technical and/or financial)

Other (please describe): [fill in]

Additional comments: [fill in]

(h) What are the main benefits of data exchange on the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins? (please describe): **Facilitates the production of RBMPs**

7. Do the riparian States carry out joint monitoring in the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes /No

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

	<i>Hydrological</i>	<i>Ecological</i>	<i>Chemical</i>
Border surface waters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surface waters in the entire basin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surface waters on the main watercourse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surface waters in part of the basin please describe [fill in]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transboundary aquifer(s) (connected or unconnected)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquifer(s) in the territory of one riparian hydraulically connected to a transboundary river or lake	<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

Please describe: [fill in]

-
- Joint and agreed methodologies
Please describe: [fill in]
- Joint sampling
Please describe: [fill in]
- Common monitoring network
Please describe: [fill in]
- Common agreed parameters
Please describe: [fill in]
- (c) Please describe the main achievements regarding joint monitoring, if any: [fill in]
- (d) Please describe any difficulties experienced with joint monitoring: [fill in]
- in]
8. Do the riparian States carry out joint assessment of the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?
 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, and assessment methodology applied: [fill in]
9. Have the riparian States agreed to use joint water quality standards?
 Yes /No
If yes, what standards have been applied, e.g. international or regional standards (please specify which), or have national standards of the riparian States been applied? [fill in]
10. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of accidental pollution?
- Notification and communication
- Coordinated or joint early warning or 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 and climate change?
- 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?
 Yes /No
If yes, please provide a brief summary: [fill in]
13. Are the public or relevant stakeholders involved in transboundary water management in the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?
 Yes /No
If yes, how? Through the consultation process for the River Basin Management Plan
- Stakeholders have observer status in a joint body or mechanism
- Stakeholders have an advisory role in the joint body
- Stakeholders have a decision-making role in the joint body
- If yes, please specify the stakeholders for the joint body or mechanism: [fill in]*
- Intergovernmental organizations
- Private sectors organizations or associations
- Water user groups or associations
- Academic or research institutions
- Other non-governmental organizations
- General public
- Other (please specify): [fill in]
- Availability of information to the public
- Consultation on planned measures or river basin management plans¹³
- Public involvement
- Other (please specify): [fill in]

¹³ Or, where applicable, aquifer management plans.



Fig. 5 Aaos River Basin

**F. Name of the transboundary basin,-sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins:
STRYMONAS RIVER**

List of the riparian States: **Greece, Bulgaria and North Macedonia.**

Greece shares flow water with Bulgaria

In the case of an aquifer, what is the nature of the aquifer and its relation with the river or lake basin:

- Unconfined aquifer connected to a river or lake
- Unconfined aquifer with no or limited relation with surface water
- Confined aquifer connected to surface water
- Confined aquifer with no or limited relation with surface water
- Other
- Please describe: [fill in]
- Unknown

Percentage of your country's territory within the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins **Greece's portion share is approximately 35%. Bulgaria has 51 % and the rest belongs to North Macedonia (14%)**

1. Is there one or more transboundary (bilateral or multilateral) agreement(s) or arrangement(s) on this basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

- 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(s) or arrangement(s)

- **Accord between Greece and Bulgaria 'regarding the cooperation on the use of water from the rivers running the territories of the two countries' signed in Athens on 09/07/1964 [Legislative Decree 4393/1964 (Government Gazette 193/A/04-11-1964), regarding Strymonas, Evros, Ardas and Nestos Rivers].**

- **Joint Declaration between the Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change of the Hellenic Republic and the Minister of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria on Understanding and Cooperation in the field of use of water resources on the respective territories of the shared river basins between the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria, signed in Sofia on 27/07/2010 regarding the Strymonas, Evros, Ardas and Nestos Rivers).]**

- Agreement or arrangement is under development
- No agreement or arrangement

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 or mechanism for the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins then jump to question 4; if there is no agreement or arrangement, but a joint body or mechanism 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, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins.

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

Yes /No

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

Yes /No

Additional explanations? [fill in]

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

Yes /No

Additional explanations? [fill in]

Which States (including your own) are bound by the agreement or arrangement?

(Please list): **Greece, Bulgaria**

(b) If the agreement or arrangement relates to a river or lake basin or sub-basin, does it also cover aquifers?

Yes /No

If yes, please list the aquifers covered by the agreement or arrangement: [fill in]

(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

Fisheries

Tourism

Nature protection

Other (please list):

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

Procedural and institutional issues

Dispute and conflict prevention and resolution

Institutional cooperation (joint bodies)

-
- Consultation on planned measures
 - Mutual assistance

Topics of cooperation

- Joint vision and management objectives
- Joint significant water management issues
- Navigation
- Human health
- 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
- Joint monitoring
- Maintenance of joint pollution inventories
- Elaboration of joint water quality objectives
- Common early warning and alarm procedures
- 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?

- Aligning implementation of agreement or arrangement with national laws, policies and programmes
- Aligning implementation of agreement or arrangement with regional laws, policies and programmes
- Lack of financial resources
- Insufficient human capacity

- Insufficient technical capacity
- Tense diplomatic relations
- Non-participation of certain riparian countries in the agreement
- No significant difficulties
- Other (*please describe*): [fill in]

(f) What are the main achievements in implementing the agreement or arrangement and what were the keys to achieving such success? **In most meetings a consensus was reached.**

(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*):

a) Law 4393/1964:

http://www.et.gr/ids-nph/search/pdfViewerForm.html?args=5C7OrtC22wFtG1hLmXKMFHdtvSoClrL8u_IHlzLbdDJF5MXD0LzQTLWPU9yLzB8V68knBzLCmTXKaO6fpVZ6Lx3UnKl3nP8NxdnJ5r9cmWvJWelDvWS_18kAEhATUkJb0x1LIdQ163nV9K--td6SIuOJ5HoEVF- Ym67rqP3A48EoitLzNgFa2FGOOTUyFrIz

b) 2010 Joint Ministerial Declaration (Greece – Bulgaria) which is attached to this report.

Διαγράφηκε: ¶

3. Is your country a member of any joint body or mechanism for this agreement or arrangement?

Yes /No

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

Where there is a joint body or mechanism

The Joint Expert Working Group established by the 2010 Joint Declaration between the Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change of the Hellenic Republic and the Minister of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria).

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

- Plenipotentiaries
- Bilateral commission
- Basin or similar commission
- Expert group meeting or meeting of national focal points
- Other (*please describe*): **Joint Expert Working Group**

(b) Does the joint body or mechanism cover the entire transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes /No

(c) Which States (including your own) are members of the joint body or mechanism? (*Please list*): **Greece and Bulgaria**

(d) Are there any riparian States that are not members of the joint body or mechanism? (please list): **No**

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

No cooperation

They have observer status

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

(f) Does the joint body or mechanism 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*): **Working Group and sub-Working Groups**

(g) What are the tasks and activities of this joint body or mechanism?¹⁴

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

Surveillance and early warning of water related disease

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

¹⁴ 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.

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 (*please list*): [fill in]

a) To establish the basis for a commonly agreed method of obtaining, assessing and exchanging information concerning qualitative and quantitative data of water resources and experience and know-how in the implementation of international agreements, EU legislation and pertinent national legal framework. In addition, exchange of information on the possible effects, including the extraction of inert material from river beds and river deposits, in accordance to the UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context.

b) To coordinate river basin management plans, in accordance with the principles and recommendations set by EU Directive 2000/60/EC. In addition, to collaborate on the protection against harmful water impacts and on monitoring and addressing environmental problems in the field of water, according to EU law.

c) To coordinate and cooperate for the implementation of a single joint flood risk management plan or separate but coordinated management plans for each of the shared river basins. The focus shall be on protection and preparedness, according to the principles and recommendations set by EU Directive 2007/60/EC.

(h) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the operation of the joint body or mechanism, 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"/>

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]

(i) Does the joint body or mechanism, or its subsidiary bodies meet regularly?

Yes /No

If yes, how frequently does it meet? **In principle, twice a year. Intermediate meetings at a short notice may also be arranged when the need arises.**

More than once per year

Once per year

Less than once per year

(j) What are the main achievements with regards to the joint body or mechanism? **Facilitation in the production of RBMPs**

(k) Did the joint body or mechanism ever invite a non-riparian coastal State to cooperate?

Yes /No

If yes, please give details. If no, why not, e.g. are the relevant coastal States also riparian States and therefore already members of the joint body or mechanism? [fill in]

4. Have joint objectives, a common strategy, a joint or coordinated management plan or action plan been agreed for the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes /No

If yes, please provide further details: **There are joint objectives specifically on flood problem issues and against harmful water impacts, as well as monitoring and solving environmental problems in the field of water, Minutes of the fourth Meeting of the Bulgarian-Greek Joint Expert Working Group on Cooperation on Water and Environment held in Athens on the 8th of May 2014**

5. How is the transboundary basin,–sub-basin, part of a basins or group of basins protected, including the protection of ecosystems, in the context of sustainable and rational water use?

Regulation of urbanization, deforestation, and sand and gravel extraction.

Environmental flow norms, including consideration of levels and seasonality

Water quality protection, e.g. nitrates, pesticides, faecal coliforms, heavy metals

Water-related species and habitats protection

Other measures (*please describe*): **pollution prevention measures**

6. (a) Does your country regularly exchange information and data with other riparian States in the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes /No

- (b) If yes, how often:

More than once per year

Once per year

Less than once per year

- (c) Please describe how information is exchanged (e.g. in connection with meetings of joint bodies): **In principle through electronic means**

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

Environmental conditions

Research activities and application of best available techniques

Emission monitoring data

Planned measures taken to prevent, control or reduce transboundary impacts

Point source pollution sources

Diffuse pollution sources

Existing hydromorphological alterations (dams, etc.)

Flows or water levels (including groundwater levels)

Water abstractions

Climatological information

Future planned measures with transboundary impacts, such as infrastructure development

Other subjects (*please list*): **Hydrological and hydrotechnical data sharing**

Other comments, e.g. spatial coverage of data and information exchange: [fill in]

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

Yes /No

- (f) Is the database publicly available?

Yes /No

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

- (g) What are the main difficulties and challenges to data exchange, if applicable?

Frequency of exchanges

Timing of exchanges

Comparability of data and information

Limited spatial coverage

Inadequate resources (technical and/or financial)

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

Additional comments: [fill in]

(h) What are the main benefits of data exchange on the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins? (*please describe*): **Facilitation in the production of RBMPs**

7. Do the riparian States carry out joint monitoring in the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes /No

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

	<i>Hydrological</i>	<i>Ecological</i>	<i>Chemical</i>
Border surface waters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surface waters in the entire basin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surface waters on the main watercourse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surface waters in part of the basin please describe [fill in]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transboundary aquifer(s) (connected or unconnected)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquifer(s) in the territory of one riparian hydraulically connected to a transboundary river or lake	<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

Please describe: [fill in]

Joint and agreed methodologies

Please describe: [fill in]

Joint sampling

Please describe: [fill in]

Common monitoring network

Please describe: [fill in]

Common agreed parameters

Please describe: [fill in]

(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, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?
 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, and assessment methodology applied: [fill in]
9. Have the riparian States agreed to use joint water quality standards?
 Yes /No
If yes, what standards have been applied, e.g. international or regional standards (please specify which), or have national standards of the riparian States been applied? [fill in]
10. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of accidental pollution?
 Notification and communication
 Coordinated or joint early warning or 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 and climate change?
 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?
 Yes /No
If yes, please provide a brief summary: [fill in]
13. Are the public or relevant stakeholders involved in transboundary water management in the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?
 Yes /No
If yes, how? Through the consultation process for the River Basin Management Plan regarding the Strymonas River
 Stakeholders have observer status in a joint body or mechanism

-
- Stakeholders have an advisory role in the joint body
- Stakeholders have a decision-making role in the joint body
- If yes, please specify the stakeholders for the joint body or mechanism:*
[fill in]
- Intergovernmental organizations
- Private sectors organizations or associations
- Water user groups or associations
- Academic or research institutions
- Other non-governmental organizations
- General public
- Other (please specify): [fill in]
- Availability of information to the public
- Consultation on planned measures or river basin management plans¹⁵
- Public involvement
- Other (please specify): [fill in]

¹⁵ Or, where applicable, aquifer management plans.



Fig. 6 Strymonas River Basin

Please remember to complete section II for each of the transboundary basins, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins. Please also remember to attach copies of agreements or arrangements, if any.

III. Water management at the national level

In this section, you are requested to provide general information on water management at the national level as it relates to transboundary waters. Information on specific transboundary basins, sub-basins, part of basins and groups of basins, should be presented in section II and not repeated here.

1. (a) Does your country's national legislation, policies, action plans and strategies refer to measures to prevent, control and reduce any transboundary impact?

Yes /No

If yes, please briefly describe the main national laws, policies, action plans and strategies [

- UN Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes done at Helsinki on 17/03/1992 [Law 2425/1996 (Government Gazette 148/A/04-07-1997), as amended by Law 4137/2013 (Government Gazette 71/A/19-03-2013)]
- UN Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context done at Espoo on 25/02/1991 [Law 2540/1997 (Government Gazette 249/A/15-12-1997)]
- UN Convention on Access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters done at Aarhus on 25/06/1998 [Law 3422/2005 (Government Gazette 303/A/13-12-2005)]
- UN Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational uses of International Watercourses done at New York on 21/05/1997 [Law 3876/2010 (Government Gazette 159/A/20-09-2010)]
- Amendments to articles 25 and 26 of the UN Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, done at Madrid on 28/11/2003 [Law 4137/2013 (Government Gazette 71/A/19-03-2013)]
- UN Convention on the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution done at Barcelona on 16/02/1976 [Law 855/1978 (Government Gazette 235/A/23-12-1978), as amended by Law 3022/2002 (Government Gazette 144/A/19-06-2002)]
- Protocol to the Barcelona Convention of 16/02/1976 for the Protection of the
- Mediterranean Sea against pollution from land-based sources done at Athens on 14/05/1980 [Law 1634/1986 (Government Gazette 235/A/23-12-1986), as amended by Law 3022/2002 (Government Gazette 144/A/19-06-2002)].

- International Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat done at Ramsar on 02/02/1971 [Legislative Decree 191/1974 (Government Gazette 350/A/20-11-1974)].
- Amendments to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal [Law 3835/2010 (Government Gazette 43/A/16-03-2010)]
- Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy [Law 3199/2003 (Government Gazette 280/A/09-12-2003) and Presidential Decree 51/2007 (Government Gazette 54/A/08-03-2007)]
- Directive 2007/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 on the assessment and management of flood risks [Joint Ministerial Decision 31822/1542/E103/2010 (Government Gazette 1108/B/21-07-2010)]
- Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration [Joint Ministerial Decision 39626/2208/E130/2009 (Government Gazette 2075/B/25-09-2009)].
- Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and the Council on 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment [Joint Ministerial Decision 107017/2006 (Government Gazette 1225/B/05-09-2006)].
- Joint Ministerial Decision 1649/45/2014 (Government Gazette 45/B/15-01-2014):Specialization on opinion procedures, public information and public participation during public consultations regarding environmental licensing projects and activities classified in Category A of the Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change No. 1958/2012 (Government Gazette A 21), in accordance with the provisions of Article 19, paragraph 9 of Law 4014/2011 (Government Gazette A 209) and any other relevant details

(b) Does your country's legislation provide for the following principles?

Precautionary principle Yes /No

Polluter pays principle Yes /No

Sustainable development Yes /No

User pays principle Yes /No

If yes, please briefly describe how these principles are implemented at the national level:

Via River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs), via Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs), via Strategic Environmental Assessments according to article 8 of Joint Ministerial Decision 107017/2006 (Gov. Gaz. 1225/B/05-09-2006,) via Environmental Impact Assessment Documents and Post Project Analysis according to Law 2540/1997 and via provisions of article 8 of Joint Ministerial Decision 1649/45/2014 (Gov. Gaz. 45/B/15-01-2014), via programs-action plans, OECD, MEDPol, INTERREG III, etc.

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

Yes /No

If yes, for which sectors?

Industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mining	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Energy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Municipal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Livestock raising	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquaculture	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other (please list): [fill in]

Please briefly describe the licensing or permitting system, indicating whether the system provides for setting emission limits based on best available technology?

If yes, for which sectors? (please list): **The permitting system provides for setting emission limits based on BAT for industry, municipal use and agricultural use.**

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]

(d) Are the authorized discharges monitored and controlled?

Yes /No

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

Monitoring of discharges	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring of physical and chemical impacts on water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring of ecological impacts on water	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conditions on permits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Inspectorate	<input type="checkbox"/>

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]

(e) What are the main measures which your country takes to reduce diffuse sources of water pollution on transboundary waters (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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Norms for uses of manure	<input type="checkbox"/>
Permitting system	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bans on or norms for use of pesticides	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Others (please list):

Norms for uses of plant protection products

(Presidential Decree 115/97 (Gov. Gazette 104 A): Authorization, placing on the market and control measures for plant protection products in compliance with Council Directive 91/414/EEC as it has been amended.

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*):

Norms for wise agricultural practices given by Joint Ministerial Decision 1420/82031/2015 (Government Gazette 1709 B): Code of Good Agricultural Practices for water resources protection from nitrates of agriculture origin

Other types of measures

If yes, please list: [fill in]

(f) What are the main measures which your country takes to enhance water resources allocation and use efficiency?

Please tick as appropriate (not all might be relevant)

A regulatory system regarding water abstraction

Monitoring and control of abstractions

Water rights are defined

Water allocation priorities are listed

Water-saving technologies

Advanced irrigation techniques

Demand management activities

Other means (please list)

(g) Does your country apply the ecosystems approach?

Yes /No

If yes, please describe how: **Through legislation, RBMPs, and EIA & SEA**

(h) Does your country take specific measures to prevent the pollution of groundwaters?

Yes /No

If yes, please briefly describe the most important measures:

a) through standards in chemical status of water discharges affecting groundwater according to Joint Ministerial Decision 39626/2208/E130/2009 (Government Gazette 2075/B/25-09-2009): Definition of measures for the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration in compliance with the provisions of Directive 2006/118/EC “on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration” of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2007, and

b) via technical measures described in Joint Ministerial Decision 1420/82031/2015 (Government Gazette 1709 B): Code of Good Agricultural Practices for water resources protection from nitrates of agricultural origin.

2. Do your national laws require transboundary environmental impact assessment (EIA)?

Yes /No

If yes, please briefly describe the legislative basis, and any related implementing procedures.

Via ESPOO Convention that was ratified by Law 2540/1997 (Government Gazette 249/A/15-12-1997): Ratification of Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context –Espoo Convention, and via procedures specified by the Joint Ministerial Decision 1649/45/2014 (Government Gazette 45/B/15-01-2014): Specialization on opinion procedures, public information and public participation during public consultations regarding environmental licensing projects and activities classified in Category A of the Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change No. 1958/2012 (Government Gazette A 21), in accordance with the provisions of Article 19, paragraph 9 of Law 4014/2011 (Government Gazette A 209) and any other relevant details.

If not, do other measures provide for transboundary EIA? [fill in]

IV. Final questions

1. What are the main challenges your country faces in cooperating on transboundary waters?

Differences between national administrative and legal frameworks

Lack of relevant data and information

Difficulties in data and information exchange

Sectoral fragmentation at the national level

Language barrier

-
- | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| | Resource constraints | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | Environmental pressures, e.g. extreme events | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | Sovereignty concerns | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Please list other challenges and/or provide further details: [fill in] | |
2. What have been the main achievements in-cooperating on transboundary waters?
- | | | |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| | Improved water management | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Enhanced regional integration, i.e. beyond water | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Adoption of cooperative arrangements | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Adoption of joint plans and programmes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Long-lasting and sustained cooperation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Financial support for joint activities | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Stronger political will for transboundary water cooperation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Better knowledge and understanding | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | Dispute avoidance | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Stakeholder engagement | <input type="checkbox"/> |
- Please list other achievements, keys to achieving success, and/or provide concrete examples: [fill in]
3. Please indicate which institutions were consulted during the completion of the questionnaire
- | | | |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| | Joint body or mechanism | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Other riparian or aquifer countries | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | National water management authority | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | Environment agency/ authority | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Basin authority (national) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Local or provincial government | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Geological survey (national) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Non-water specific ministries, e.g. foreign affairs, finance, forestry and energy | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Civil society organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Water user associations | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Private sector | <input type="checkbox"/> |
- Other (please list): [fill in]
- Please briefly describe the process by which the questionnaire was completed:
4. If you have any other comments please add them here (*insert comments*): [fill in]
5. Name and contact details of the person(s) who filled out the questionnaire (*please insert*): [fill in]

Date: **15/07/2020 (initial submission)** ; 5/02/2021 (**revised submission**)

Signature:

A handwritten signature in purple ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and lines, is centered on a light beige rectangular background.

Ms Maria Gkini, Director for the Protection and Management of the Aquatic Environment, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this report.

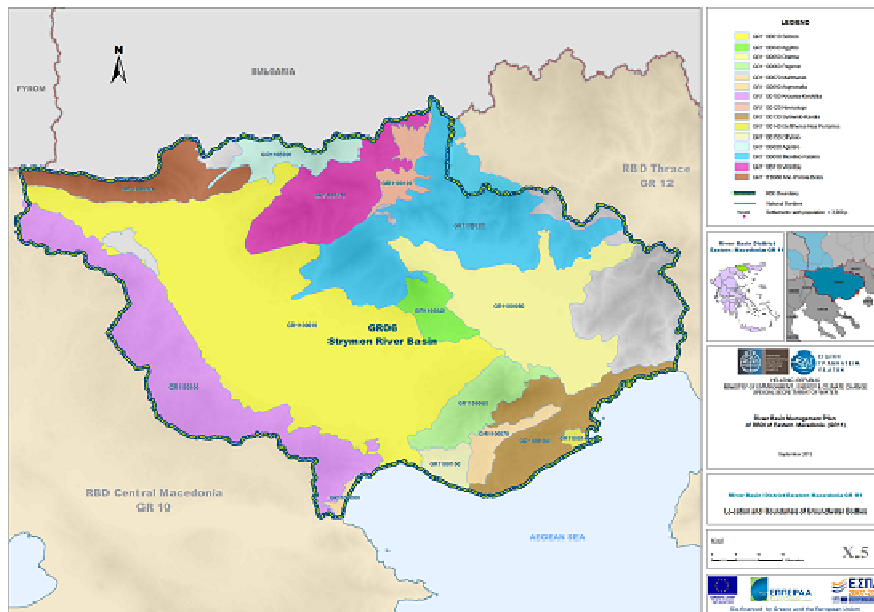


Fig. 8: Location and boundaries of groundwater bodies in Water Basin District 11 (East Macedonia)

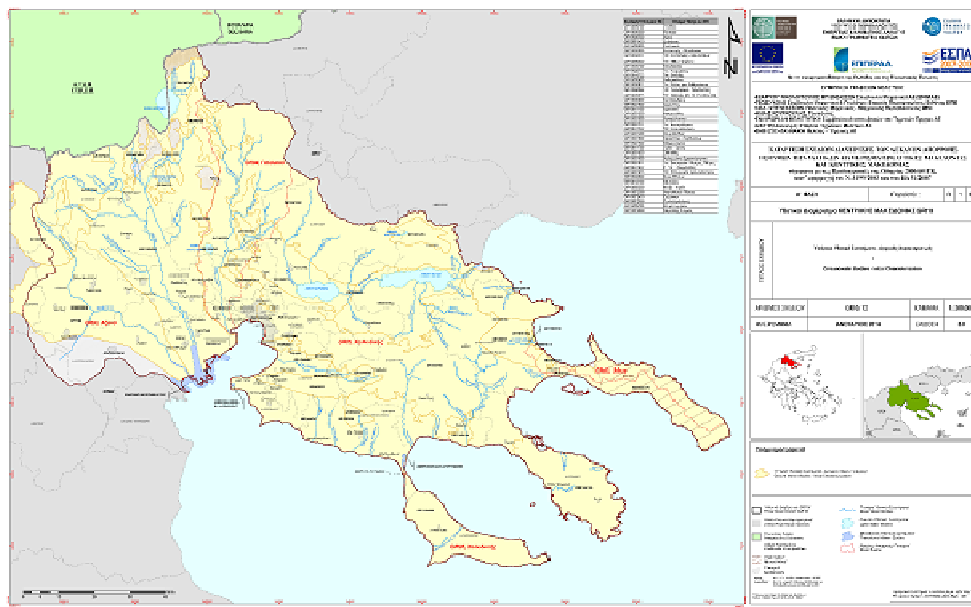


Fig. 9: Location and boundaries of groundwater bodies in Water Basin District 10 (Central Macedonia)

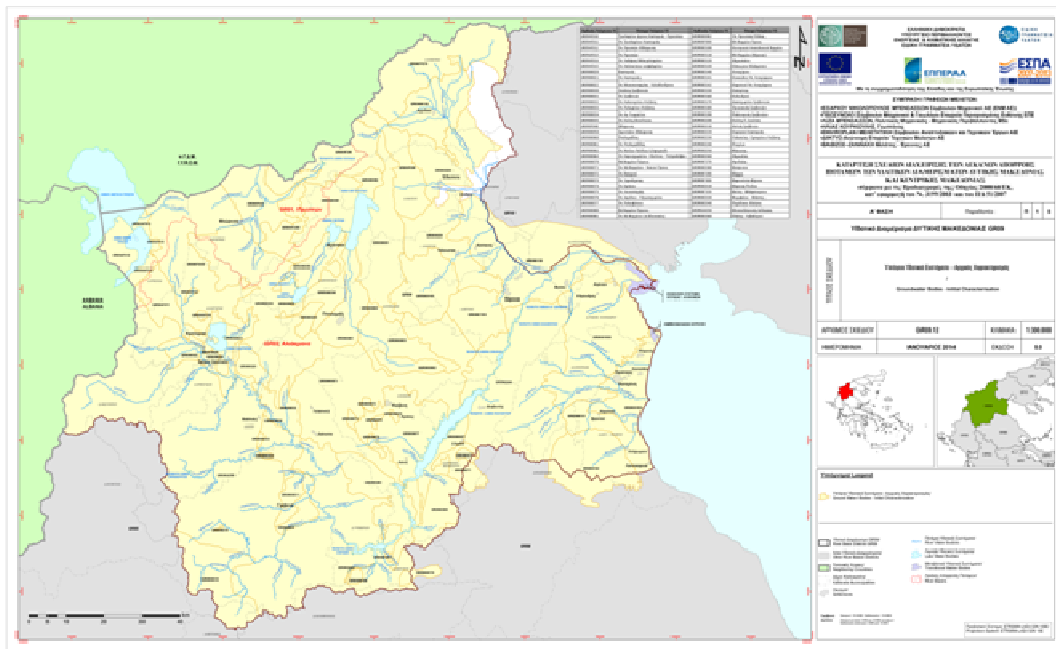


Fig. 10: Location and boundaries of groundwater bodies in Water Basin District 09 (West Macedonia)

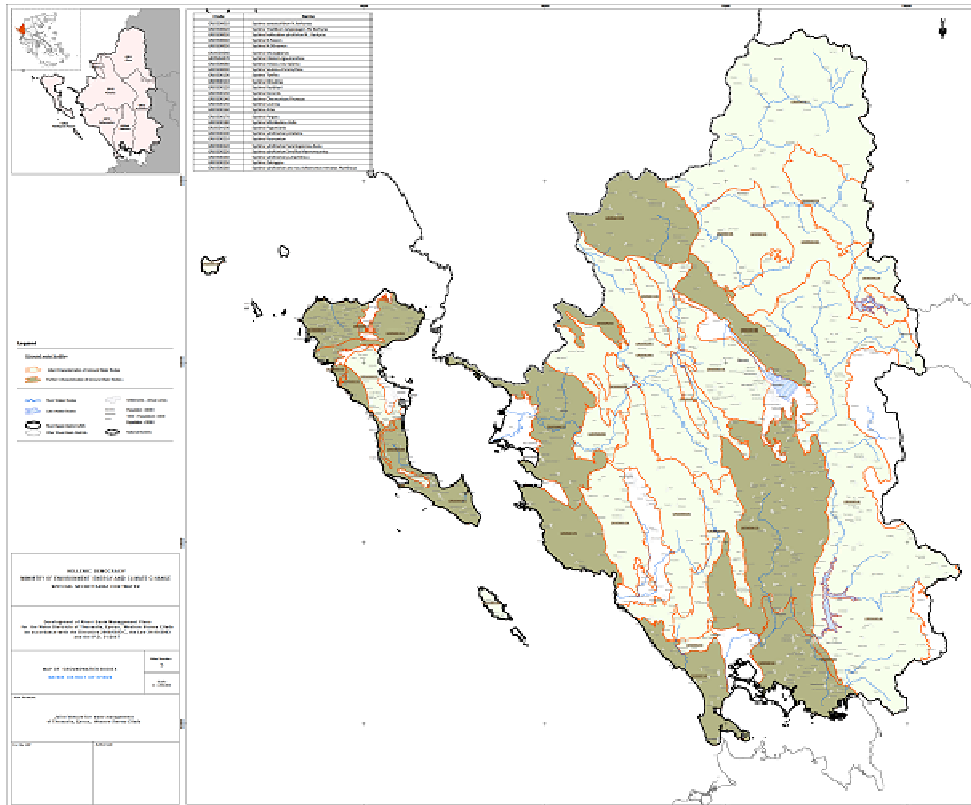


Fig. 11: Location and boundaries of groundwater bodies in Water Basin District 05 (Epirus)

**JOINT DECLARATION OF
THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND CLIMATE
CHANGE OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC AND
THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND WATER OF THE
REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
ON UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION
IN THE FIELD OF USE OF WATER RESOURCES ON THE
RESPECTIVE TERRITORIES OF THE SHARED RIVER
BASINS BETWEEN THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC
AND THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA**

The Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change of the Hellenic Republic, Ms Tina Birbili and the Minister of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria, Ms Nona Karadjova, hereinafter referred as "the Parties",

After taking into account that Water is not just a commercial product but, rather, a natural heritage which must be protected, defended and treated as such,

Recognising the need for action to avoid long term deterioration of freshwater status,

Expressing the desire to strengthen the friendly relations between the Greek and Bulgarian people and to encourage the cooperation between the two Parties in order to preserve and protect the water resources of the shared river basins,

Confirming the readiness of both Parties to recognize and when necessary update all existing bilateral agreements and accords between the countries on the use and protection of waters of rivers flowing through the territories of both countries, in order to bring the bilateral relations in this field in a qualitatively higher level, on the principles of mutual interest, mutual benefit, respect of sovereignty of each country and the relevant obligations stemming from International Conventions and EU legislation ,

Considering that the two countries are member states of the European Union and are committed to implement EU legislation concerning policies related to nature and water resources and more specifically the provision of Directives 2000/60 EC and 2007/60/EC,

Aiming to increase, enhance and develop the cooperation in the field of water management and protection of the transboundary river basins shared between the two countries,

The Ministers of both countries declare full understanding and readiness of cooperation and collaboration by signing the present Joint Declaration, by which:

1. The Parties declare their readiness and understanding for continuous dialogue and cooperation in the field of water and environmental protection at all relevant levels between institutions and administrations of both countries, as a form of promotion and development of their bilateral relations.
2. The Parties express their readiness to exchange all relevant information in their own judgement in the field of water under a reciprocal operative or periodic exchange to the extent it is expressly set in international instruments, EU legal acts and relevant updated bilateral agreements and accords.
3. The main direction of bilateral cooperation between the Parties shall be coordinated and implemented on the basis and within the framework of the relevant national legislation of both countries in accordance with EU Directives on water and through dialogue, negotiations and seeking of equal and mutual understanding of all common issues on coordination and cooperation in the field of water and environment, in the light also of the Common Implementation Strategy, set up by the EU.
4. In order to manage in a sustainable manner and preserve water resources on the respective territories of shared river basins, the Parties shall cooperate through regular exchange of information, concerning qualitative and quantitative data of water resources, experience and know-how in the implementation of international agreements, EU legislation and the relevant national legal framework in the field of water management and use. Moreover, each Party shall inform the other on the possible effects, including of the extraction of inert material from the rivers, in accordance with the UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context.
5. Taking into account the goal of sustainable management of water resources on the respective territories of the shared river basins, the Parties shall coordinate the river basin management plans, in accordance

with the principles and recommendations set by the Directive 2000/60/EC.

6. In order to prevent floods and harmful water impact, the Parties shall coordinate and cooperate to implement a single joint flood risk management plan or separate but coordinated plans for each of the shared river basins, focusing on protection and preparedness, in accordance with the principles and recommendations set by the Directive 2007/60 EC. Flood risk management plans shall address all aspects of flood risk management, focusing on prevention, protection, preparedness, including flood forecast and early warning systems and taking into account the characteristics of the river basins, in accordance with the principles and recommendation set by the Directive 2007/60 EC.

7. Use and provision of water for purposes such as drinking, industrial, hydropower, agricultural and ecosystem protection shall be organized on the principles of the EU Water Framework Directive, mutual benefit, required reciprocity and state sovereignty.

8. The Parties confirm their common desire to further develop bilateral relations between Greece and Bulgaria in the field of water by, in particular, the establishment and maintenance of early warning systems for floods on the Strymon/Struma, Nestos/Mesta, Ardas/Arda and Evros/Maritsa rivers on each of the respective territories under the criteria and in accordance with the requirements of the EU flood directive, the protection against harmful water impacts, as well as monitoring and solving environmental problems in the field of water in accordance with relevant EU legislation.

9. To ensure the expert and institutional collaboration on the implementation of the present Declaration, the Parties shall establish a Joint Expert Working Group on cooperation on water and environment as follows:

a) Within 3 (three) months following the signing of the Declaration each Party shall designate a National Representative to be responsible for the management of cooperation activities under this Declaration from the side of each party.

b) Each Party shall inform the other Party regarding the names of the National Representative and the alternate National Representative.


c) The Joint Expert Working Group upon its first official meeting shall agree on its rules of procedure and shall adopt a joint Working Programme containing specific cooperation activities.

d) National Representatives shall co-chair the meetings of Joint Expert Working Group to be convened twice a year in order to discuss the activities under the present Declaration.

10. The Parties commit to use all forms of cooperation in the field of water and environmental protection which can further develop in favorable direction the bilateral relations between the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria.

Upon mutual consent the Parties may share the results of their cooperation with third Parties in conformity with their national legislation and with international law.

Signed in Sofia, on 27th July, 2010 in 2 (two) original copies in Greek, Bulgarian and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.



Tina Birbili

Minister of Environment, Energy
and Climate Change
of the Hellenic Republic



Nona Karadjova

Minister of Environment and Water
of the Republic of Bulgaria
of the Hellenic Republic