

## Some thoughts on donor coordination for environment



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### The point..

- *Development effectiveness* –ownership, leadership & alignment, coordination, mutual accountability
- *Acquis Communautaire* provides an essential and critical agenda
- ...but *critical local needs* and *other international commitments/ issues* are also important
- ... and environment is *cross-cutting/ cross sectoral*
- ...so the field is wide and resources limited,
- ...making strong coordination an urgent imperative

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## The way...

- Project level coordination is a first step but requires progress on **harmonization of procedures**
- Program coordination requires stronger progress on **govt leadership and alignment**
- Other types of coordination
  - **intra-governmental** coordination that comes with capacity building
  - intergration of **local government**
  - integration of **civil society** as donor, recipient or implementing agencies into coordination framework
  - Engagement with **private sector**
  - Regional integration of **environment professionals**

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## ...so far in Albania

- €54 million: 14 donors, 64 projects, €900K per project
- **Proactive GoA** role on coordination through SWG
- a subgroup of Natural Resources & Rural Devt group
- supported by **Netherlands as donor sector focal point** and WB as thematic leader
- met rather regularly: 3 times since Sept 2008
- discussed GoA's Environment Strategy (subset of National Strategy- NSDI) and Action Plan
- What next?

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## Some pragmatic problems, so far..

- Limited local capacity
- Information overflow and streamlining communications
- Programming cycles – flexibility for joint programming
- Levels of donor participation - decision makers & problem solvers?
- Mutual accountability
- How to keep the meetings impactful?
- How to connect with other related sector working groups – water, solid waste management, energy, ect

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## Good practices #1

- **Albania Wastewater Treatment in sensitive areas (GoA Public Works & Env ministries, EIB, WB-GEF, EU)**
  - EIB financing very needed sewerage treatment plant planned for Durres, Lezhe and Saranda cities
  - ...but close to important wetlands and sensitive environmental areas
  - Coordination between MPWTT & MEFW to find a solution
  - WB-GEF support for additional treatment through constructed treatment wetlands to mitigate environmental impact
  - Later EU support for sewerage connection lines, when treatment plants encountered cost overruns.
- **Lessons: responsiveness, flexibility**

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## Good practices #2

- **Albania Natural Resources Development Project** (GoA MoEFWA, WB-IDA, BioC, GEF, Sida, SNV)
  - Project supports preparation of community forest & pasture mgmt plans and investments in conservation
  - Modeled innovative Carbon Finance for assisted natural regeneration (methodology awaiting approval)
  - Capacity building of Forest and Pasture Users Associations
  
- **Petersberg/Athens Process** (GEF\_IW Learn, GWPMed, Germany, WB)
  - Focus on transboundary cooperation in SE Europe
  - Recently supported multistakeholder dialogue on the Drin River and climate change adaptation.

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## Some possible steps..

- Use *European Principles for Environment* as a unifying theme for raise awareness across sectors and stakeholders
- Coordinate around *Transposition Sequencing Strategy*
- Start *program coordination* with first set of donors whose programming cycles are cotemporeneous, and add others in phases.
- Map out *practical synergies across donors* in advance of programming
- Move on harmonizing *project Env procedures* with country systems and country systems with acquis
- Assign individual *cross sectoral responsibilities* among devt partners.

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