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Water Management in Republic of Macedonia

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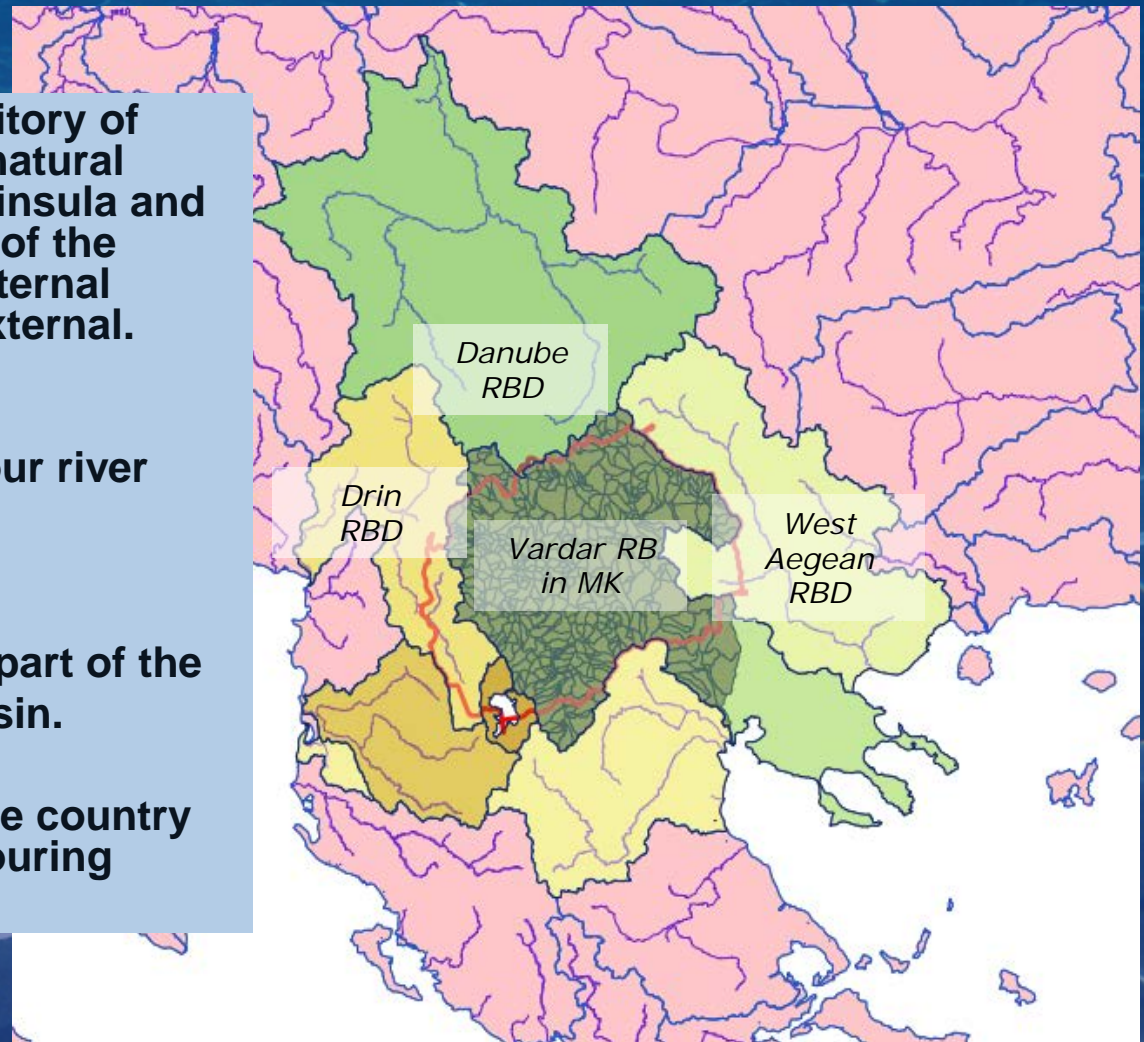
Main River Basins

The hydrographical territory of Macedonia is a unique natural basin in the Balkan Peninsula and wider area, due to 84 % of the available water being internal waters and only 16 % external.

The country is divided hydrographically into four river basins:

- Vardar
- Strumica
- Crni Drim and a small part of the
- South Morava river basin.

All the river basins in the country are shared with neighbouring countries



Vardar river basin

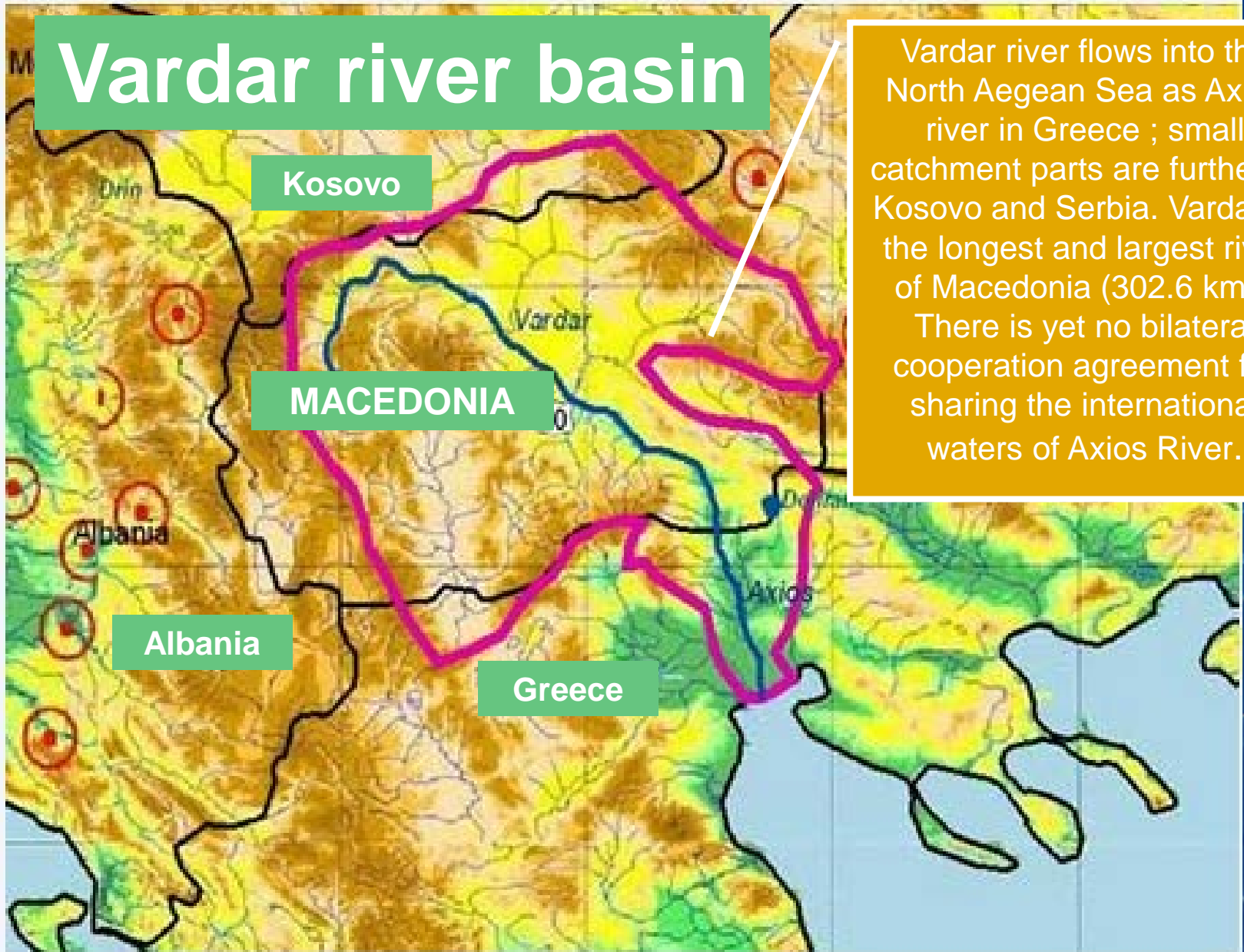
Kosovo

MACEDONIA

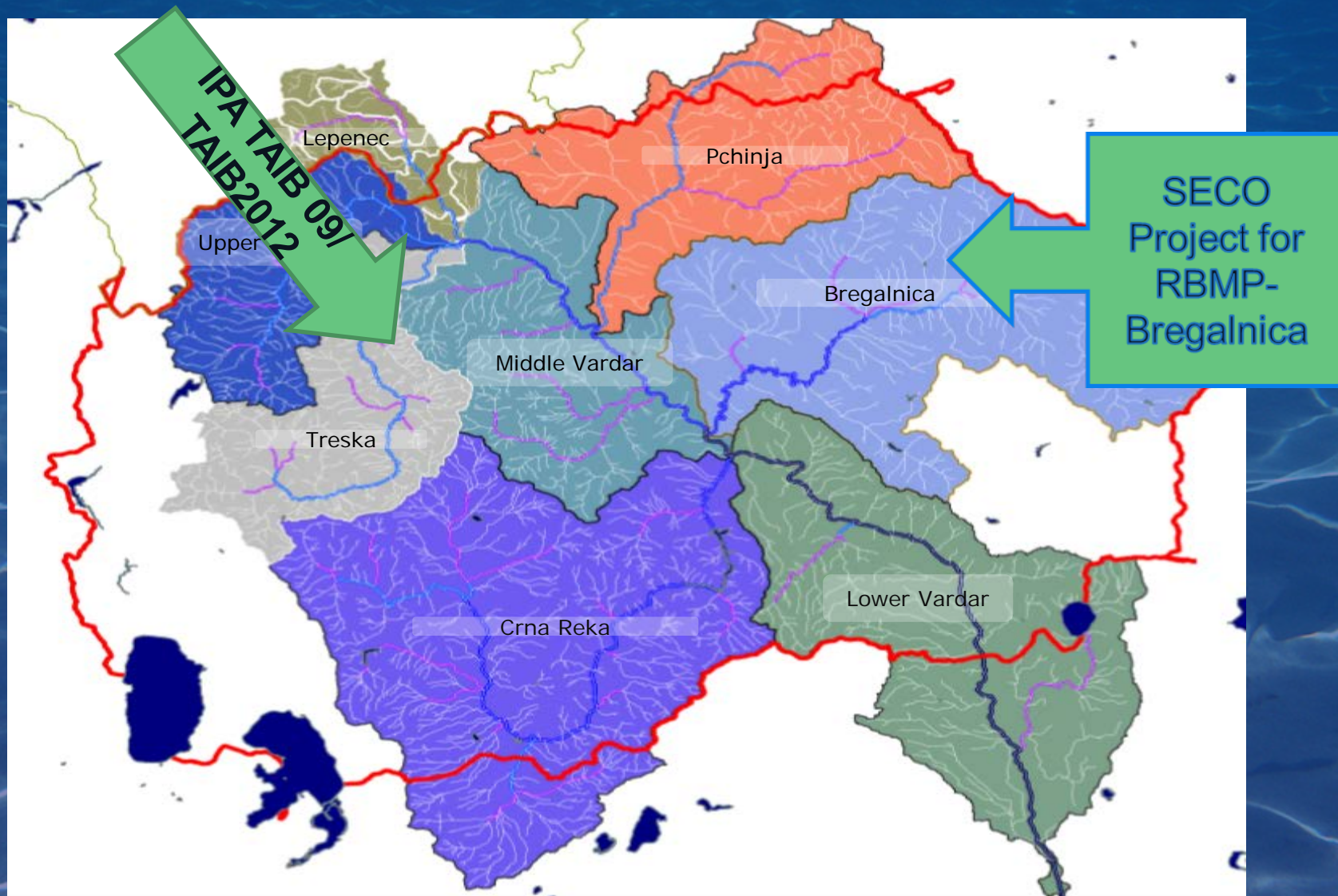
Albania

Greece

Vardar river flows into the North Aegean Sea as Axios river in Greece ; small catchment parts are further in Kosovo and Serbia. Vardar is the longest and largest river of Macedonia (302.6 km),. There is yet no bilateral cooperation agreement for sharing the international waters of Axios River.



Vardar River sub-basins



Vardar river basin / on-going projects

1. IPA project TAIB 2009

The overall objective of the project is to strengthening the administrative capacities in the field of water management.

Activities:

- 1: Development of priority implementing legislation in water management area**
- 2: Strengthening the administrative capacity on central level for implementation of water legislation with focus on WFD**
- 3: Development of the initial elements of the River Basin Management Plan of Vardar River:**
 - Characterization of the Vardar river basin;**
 - Identification of significant pressures and impact of human activity**
 - Identification and mapping of protected areas**
 - Development of monitoring programme.**

2. Bregalnica River Basin Project

The Bregalnica River Basin Management Project is a joint initiative by the Macedonian government, the Bregalnica municipalities, and SECO (Swiss Government). This is a four-year project with two main components:

- establishment and successful operations of the body for management of Bregalnica river basin and**
- implementation of small infrastructure water projects.**

Drin river basin

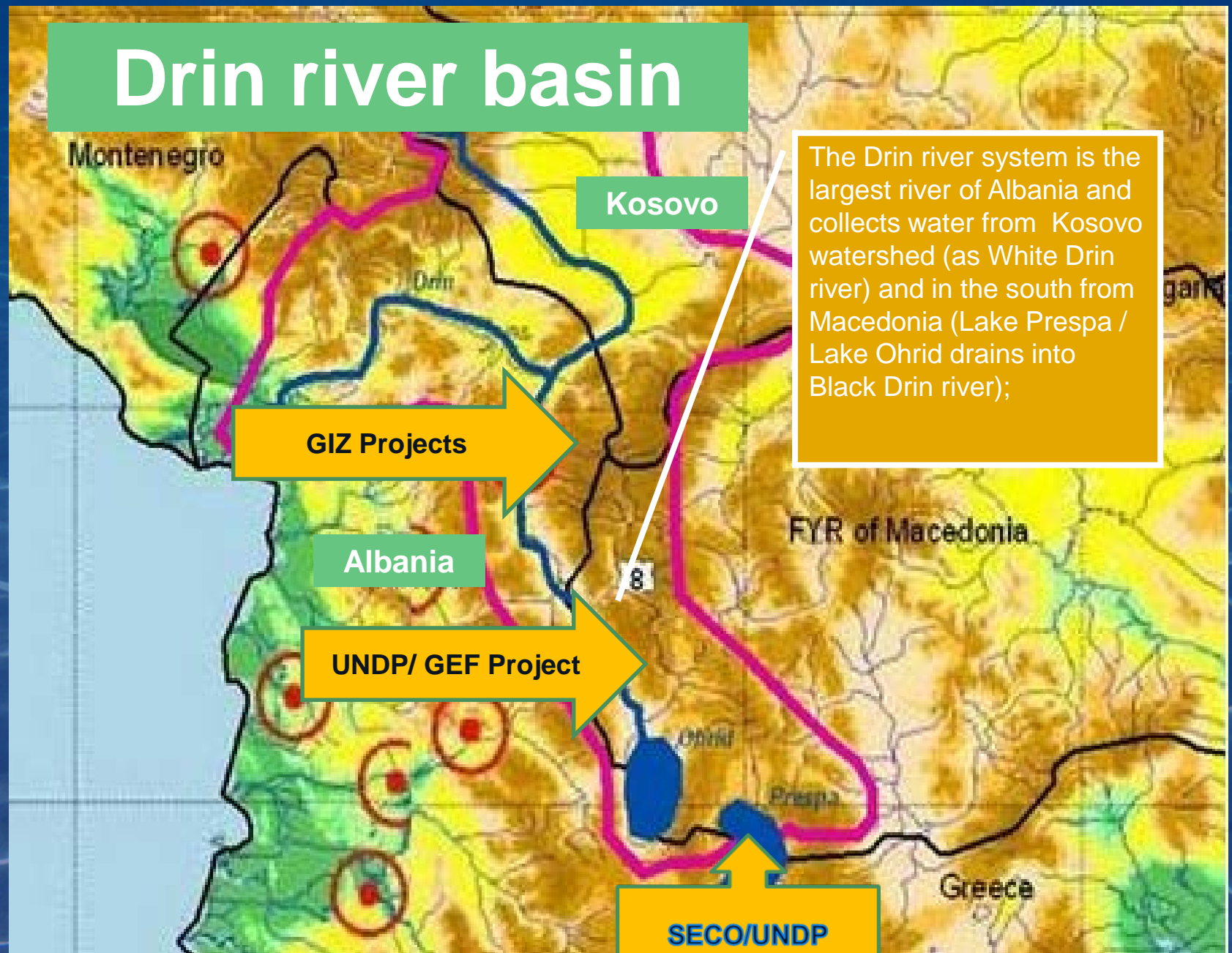
The Drin river system is the largest river of Albania and collects water from Kosovo watershed (as White Drin river) and in the south from Macedonia (Lake Prespa / Lake Ohrid drains into Black Drin river);

GIZ Projects

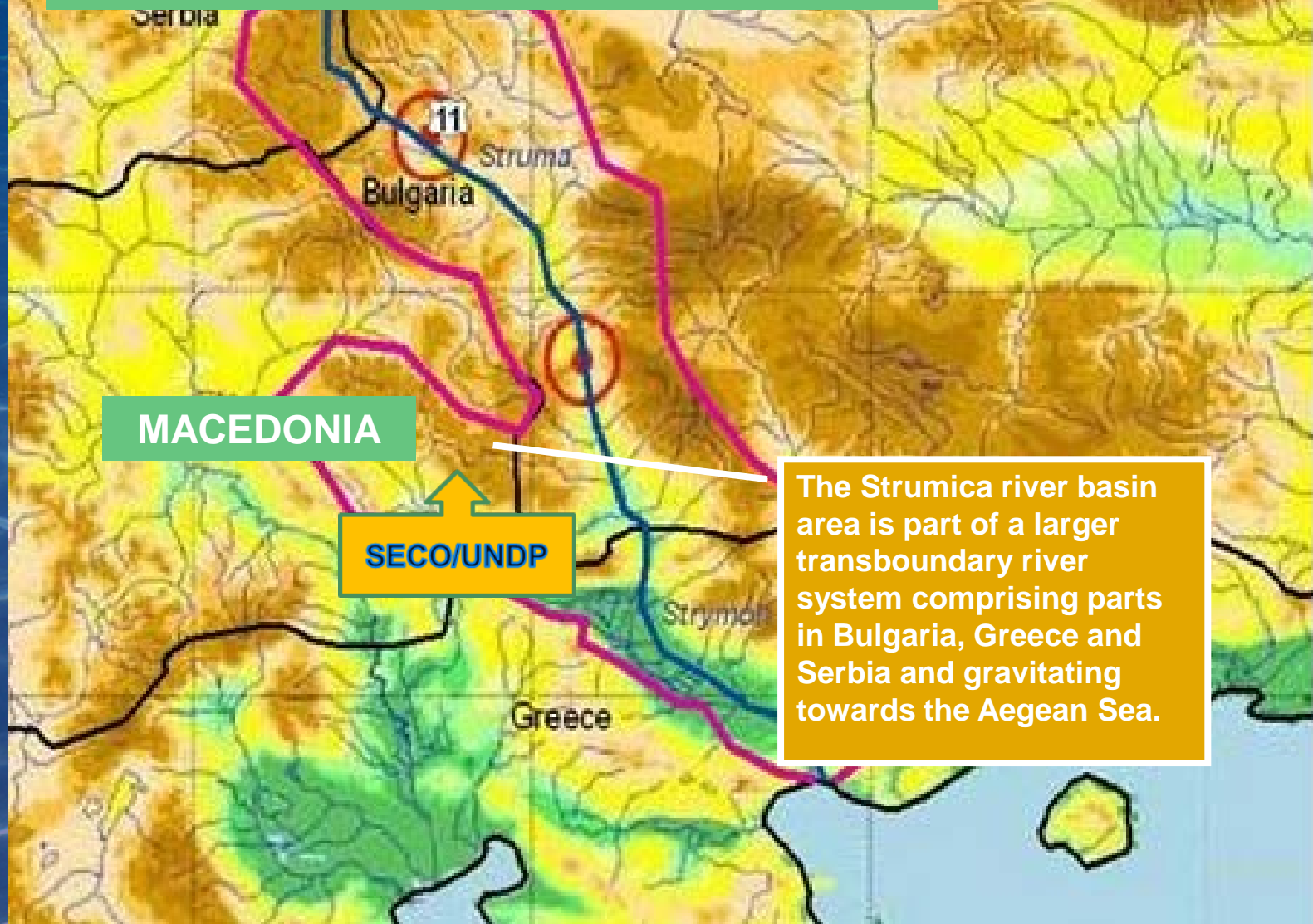
Albania

UNDP/ GEF Project

SECO/UNDP



Strumica river basin



MACEDONIA

SECO/UNDP

The Strumica river basin area is part of a larger transboundary river system comprising parts in Bulgaria, Greece and Serbia and gravitating towards the Aegean Sea.

Bilateral and trilateral cooperation

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

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

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

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

Challenges

Key challenges in Transboundary water cooperation still exist, including the management of the main river basins (with Albania, Greece, and Bulgaria).

In this regard, initial meeting for transboundary water cooperations have been organized with:

- Greece, regarding Vardar/Axios river;**
- Bulgaria, regarding Strumica river and**
- Kosovo, regarding Lepenec river (tributary of Vardar river)**

Driving force relevant for bilateral cooperation regarding transboundary waters is the EU WFD, as well as the UNECE Water Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Helsinki Convention)

In march 2015, we started the procedure for ratification and implementation of the Helsinki Water Convention

The background of the slide is an underwater scene. It features a deep blue color palette with intricate, wavy patterns of light and shadow that resemble ripples on the surface of water. Several small, dark silhouettes of fish are scattered throughout the scene, adding a sense of depth and movement. The overall effect is serene and visually appealing.

**Thank you
for your attention!**