



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS  
CONVENTION SUR LES ZONES HUMIDES  
CONVENCIÓN SOBRE LOS HUMEDALES  
(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Ms Marina Misković-Spahić  
Directorate of Nature Protection  
Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism  
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Gland, 27 June 2016

Dear Ms Misković-Spahić

**Possible change in the ecological character of Ramsar Site N°784 Skadarsko Jezero**

I hope this finds you well. I am writing to you because we have received information concerning the a development project that might affect the ecological character of Skadarsko Jezero Ramsar Site (N° 784): the housing project known as “Porto Skadar Lake”. The concerns raised indicate potential threats to the ecological character of the lake and make reference to one of the recommendations of in the [report of the 56th Ramsar Advisory Mission](#) (conducted in 2005) with regards to unregulated developments within the National Park:

*“National Park authorities can promote and implement a coherent land use policy according to the agreed Physical Plan for the area and the Park's conservation and development program 2005-2010. The important tourist development of Motel Plavnica currently under construction, with a marina and special boat access to the lake, established with the Ministry of Environment's approval inside the core area of the National Park, should not be allowed to become a precedent for further unregulated developments (eventually to be legalized after their establishment inside the Park). Further such developments could seriously jeopardize the recognition of the National Park and Ramsar Site status at international level.”*

The information we received also raise concerns with regards to the Spatial Plan being developed for the Skadar Lake National Park. At this stage, we would appreciate if you could inform us whether a Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment is being undertaken for the Spatial Plan of Skadar Lake National Park? We would also like to know whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is being carried out for the “Porto Skadar Lake” development project?

Furthermore, back in 2008 we received information regarding the foreseen construction of four dams along the Moraca River, which could unfavorably influence the lake water level fluctuations and deteriorate its biodiversity. Following previous exchanges in 2010, we understood that a Strategic Environmental Assessment for the construction of a number of dams was on-going?

We would be grateful if you could share with us the conclusions of this Assessment, indicating if the threat to the ecological character of the Site has been removed in the meantime? Please find attached the latest correspondence on this matter.

We look forward to hearing from you and remain at your disposal should you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,



Tobias Salathe,  
Senior Regional Advisor for Europe

cc. Milan Knezevic, Virpazar Citizens Group  
Jovana Janjušević, Center for Protection and Research of Birds of Montenegro