

Curriculum Vitae

Position : Team Leader
Name of Firm : Skat Consulting, St Gallen, Switzerland
Name of Staff : **Dimitrija SEKOVSKI**
Profession : Environmental Engineer
Date of Birth : 08.06.1980
Years with Firm : Since 01.05.2019
Nationality : Macedonian

KEY COMPETENCIES

High-performing project / programme management professional with extensive expertise in water resources / river basin management, infrastructure development, integrated flood risk management, ecological restoration, ecohydrology, disaster risk management, environmental monitoring, complex environmental and natural resources / protected areas management projects;

Skilled in conceptualizing, designing, appraising, fundraising for and leading / managing complex environmental investment, water, disaster risk management, flood risk and natural resources management programmes / projects with proven ability of coordinating the transformation of financial inputs from donors and other sources into multiple tangible socio-economic and environmental results, as well as long-term governance capacities.

EDUCATION

2011 – 2014 **Ph.D. Ecohydrology & Integrated River Basin Management**, Faculty of Civil Engineering, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje
2005 – 2010 **M.Sc. River Restoration**, Faculty of Civil Engineering, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje
2003 – 2008 **B.Sc. Environmental Engineering**, Interdisciplinary Studies of Environmental Engineering, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje

LANGUAGES:

	Speaking	Reading	Writing
English	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Macedonian	Mother tongue	Mother tongue	Mother tongue
Other Balkan languages (Serbian, Croatian, Bulgarian)	Very good	Very good	Very good

EMPLOYMENT RECORD AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Skat Consulting Ltd., IWRM-K Program

Team Leader

May 2019 - ongoing

- ◆ Hired by the consortium between Skat Consulting Ltd., Switzerland & Environment Agency Austria as a Team Leader of the Integrated Water Resources Management Programme in Kosovo (IWRM-K) – Inception Phase, funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC);
- ◆ Lead role in establishing a local Programme Facilitation Unit, and mobilizing multiple stakeholders for the subsequent long-term implementation phase of the Programme (app. 9 million CHF);
- ◆ Overall responsibility for coordinating the work of a team of nearly 20 international experts and supervising a local project implementation unit during the course of the inception phase of the IWRM-K Programme. Key role in conceptualizing numerous assessments, and combining expert and stakeholder inputs into a comprehensive Programme Document that will help guide multi-year, multi-million Swiss-funding toward introducing integrated water resources management in Kosovo, in line with contemporary approaches (e.g., EU Water Framework Directive).

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Aug. 2019 – ongoing

Chief Technical Adviser: River Basin & Flood Risk Management

- ◆ Provision of strategic level guidance, conceptual leadership and programme management support, mostly on the multi-year, multi-million Swiss-funded (SDC and SECO) programmes/projects (e.g., Improving Resilience to Floods in the Polog Region, Restoration of the Strumica River Basin);
- ◆ Drafting and reviewing concept papers, TORs, and reports produced by the management team and consultants on a wide range of issues (e.g., river basin management, flood risk management, DRR, nature-based solutions).
- ◆ Programme management support (e.g., result-based management, donor reporting, risk analysis), and drafting of proposals for new projects.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Feb. 2016 – June 2019

Programme Analyst/Manager

- ◆ Leader/manager of the fast growing multi-million water resources/river basin and flood risk management portfolio, and comprising the key following projects/programmes:

a) EU Flood Recovery Programme (~10 million EUR secured by the European Union):

Country-wide programme designed to assist the recovery efforts in the aftermath of the floods that occurred in early 2015 by reconstructing damaged transport infrastructure (roads, bridges, culverts and stabilization of landslides) and water/flood control infrastructure (dams, river channels and drainage networks) in line with the 'build back better' principles. The programme also included conducting basin-scale flood risk assessments for the affected regions and formulated mitigation actions.

b) Restoration of the Strumica River Basin (CHF ~3 million)

A six years project supporting comprehensive set of investments (derived from the Strumica River Basin and Flood Risk Management Plans) to: a) reduce point source pollution (from industrial facilities and untreated wastewaters); b) reduce diffuse source pollution (by introducing agro-ecological practices, climate-smart and precision agriculture); and c) address the hydromorphological modifications so as to restore, to the extent possible, ecological functions of water bodies and minimize the flooding risks.

The project supported the operationalization of a basin-scale monitoring system (hydro-meteorological, and water quality), introducing additional capacities for the long-term integrated river basin management and flood risk management (including floods early

warning system), by supporting a new organizational / institutional setup, and creating cross-sectoral participatory mechanisms.

c) Restoration of the Prespa Lake Basin (CHF ~6.3 million)

A long-term, transformative program comprising complex set of measures aiming at significantly reducing human pressures to the lake ecosystem, strengthen its resilience, and ensure control of the eutrophication processes. The programme helped achieve a broad set of objectives including strengthening the regulatory and planning base, developing scientific datasets for decision-making, prototyping new management and restoration strategies, and sharing lessons learned. Emphasis on cross-sectoral participatory engagement built strong support for a common vision and helped change a centralized system of water management into a decentralized system of governance. The programme resulted in a measurable improvement of ecological health parameters of the lake and its tributaries.

d) Reducing Flood Risk in the Polog Region (expected budget of CHF ~15 million)

This multi-donor flood mitigation/DRR basin-scale programme's ambitious goal is to instigate transformational change in managing flood risk in the sensitive Polog Region (Upper Vardar River Basin), accelerating the shift from purely reactive responses to floods to integrated systems to manage hazards, vulnerabilities and exposure of communities and assets in order to prevent/mitigate losses and alleviate the impact of future floods.

The program includes building comprehensive, long-term flood risk mitigation/DRR planning base, and financing strategically-selected state-of-the-art infrastructure projects; improving the legal, regulatory and financing environments, improving flood preparedness, and introducing innovative technologies to early warning systems and nature-based solutions for flood control, through the application of the principles of Eco-DRR and EbA. The programme is aligned with the priorities of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the objectives of the EU Floods Directive.

Funding is provided by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) (app. CHF 3 million) and the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) (app. CHF 7 million). Government co-funding is expected to exceed another CHF 5 million.

e) Reducing Flood Risk in Kumanovo Municipality (~900,000 USD)

The goal of this project, co-funded by the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, the Municipality of Kumanovo and the Government of Japan, is to significantly reduce flood risk in communities along Lipkovska River in the city of Kumanovo. Project activities include basin-scale flood risk modeling, formulation of an optimized river regulation design, followed up by realization of the flood control measures.

f) Emergency Floods Coordination Support (USD ~100,000)

Strengthening coordination mechanisms on national and local level for flood response and early recovery. As part of the project flood risk assessment and management studies have been developed for country's river basins most sensitive to floods (e.g., Pelagonija, and Polog) in line with the EU Floods Directive and the Integrated Flood Risk Management principles.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Feb. 2005 – Feb. 2016

Project Manager

◆ Manager of a few multi-million water resources/river basin and flood risk management projects/programmes funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and UNDP. The main projects include:

1. Restoration of the Strumica River Basin (CFH 3.3. million) (funded by SDC)
2. Lake Prespa Restoration Programme: a flagship programme comprising the following interrelated projects implemented over a period of 15 years (app. USD 15. million) (funded by SDC and GEF):
 - 2.1. Restoration of the Prespa Lake Ecosystem (SDC)

- 2.2. Integrated Ecosystem Management in the Prespa Lakes Basin of Albania, Macedonia and Greece (GEF)
- 2.3. Restoration of Golema Reka River (SDC)
- 2.4. Reducing Environmental Impacts of Agriculture in the Prespa Region (UNDP)

REPORTS, PUBLICATIONS, CONFERENCE PAPERS

1. Popovska, C., Jovanovski, M., **Sekovski, D.** (2019), *Build Back Better Approach to Recovery of Flood-Damaged Transport and Water Infrastructure*, Sixteenth International Symposium on Water management and Hydraulic Engineering (WMHE 2019), Skopje
2. **Sekovski, D.**, Popovska, C. (2019), *Enhancing Resilience through Recovery of Flood-damaged Infrastructure in Macedonia: An Overview of Lessons and Challenges*, Sixteenth International Symposium on Water management and Hydraulic Engineering (WMHE 2019), Skopje
3. Popovska, C., **Sekovski, D.**, Barbalic, D. (2019), *Flood Risk Management: An Institutional Development Perspective*, Sixteenth International Symposium on Water management and Hydraulic Engineering (WMHE 2019), Skopje
4. Popovska, C., **Sekovski, D.**, Barbalic, D., Blinkov, I. (2017), *Flood Risk Management: Case Study on Institutional Models*, Journal of Advanced Engineering (Vol. 1, Issue 1), IGRPS
5. Popovska, C., Panov, A., **Sekovski, D.** (2017), *Flood Modeling of Wetland Restoration in the Ezerani Nature Park, Prespa Lake Watershed*, Fifteenth International Symposium on Water Management and Hydraulic Engineering (WHME 2017), Primosten, Croatia
6. Popovska, C., **Sekovski, D.**, Barbalic, D., Blinkov, I. (2016), *Introducing Flood Risk Management*, Scientific Journal of Civil Engineering, Vol. 5, No. 2, ISSN 1857 – 839X, Faculty of Civil Engineering, Skopje
7. **Sekovski, D.**, Popovska, C. (2013), *Ecohydrological Solutions to River Corridor and Wetlands Restoration – The Concept for the Golema Reka River in the Prespa Lakes Basin*, Twelfth International Symposium on Water Management and Hydraulic Engineering (WMHE 2013), Bratislava, Slovakia
8. Popovska, C., **Sekovski, D.** (2012), *Hydrology of Prespa Lakes*, Scientific Journal of Civil Engineering, Vol. 1, No. 1., ISSN 1875 – 839X, Faculty of Civil Engineering, Skopje
9. **Sekovski, D.** (2012), *Restoring Wetland Ecosystems through Effective Protected Areas Management – Experiences from the Prespa Lake Basin*, International Wetland Symposium – 2012, Nepal
10. **Sekovski, D.** (2012), *Is the Balance between Agricultural Development and Environmental Protection Possible?* Porta 3 (specialized magazine on Civil Engineering, Architecture and Environment) (invited article)
11. **Sekovski, D.** (2012), *River Restoration – A Paradigm Shift in Managing River Ecosystems*, Porta 3 (invited article)
12. **Sekovski, D.**, (2012), *Introducing Agricultural Waste Management Systems in the Prespa Region*, Porta 3 (invited article)
13. **Sekovski, D.**, (2012), *The Prespa Lake Basin – Key Features, Ecological Status, Project Results and Management Challenges*, Porta 3 (invited article)
14. **Sekovski, D.**, Popovska, C., Zdraveski, N. (2012), *Applying the Ecohydrological Approach at Watershed-scale to Restore Freshwater Ecosystems*, Conference on Water Observation and Information System for Decision Support (BALWOIS 2012), Ohrid
15. **Sekovski, D.**, Ismanovski, S. (2012), *Use of Economic Tools for Effective Protection of Watersheds – The Case of the Prespa Lake Watershed*, Conference on Water Observation and Information System for Decision Support (BALWOIS 2012), Ohrid
16. Popovska, C., **Sekovski, D.** (2011), *Hydrological Sub-watershed Analysis of Prespa Lake*, VODOPRIVREDA Journal, No 0350-0519, 43 (2011) 249-251 p, Belgrade, Serbia
17. **Sekovski, D.** (2011), *The Riparian Corridor Concept – A Valuable Alternative to Traditional Riverbank Stabilization Techniques*, Eleventh International Symposium on Water

- Management and Hydraulic Engineering (WMHE 2011), Gdansk, Poland (published in the 'Current Events in Hydraulic Engineering' book by the Gdansk University of Technology)
18. Popovska, C., Stavric, V., **Sekovski, D.** (2011), *Hydrology and Hydraulic Structures in Environmental Engineering* (student textbook), Faculty of Civil Engineering, Skopje
 19. Popovska, C., **Sekovski, D.** (2011), *Hydrological Sub-watershed Analysis of the Prespa Region*, International Conference 'Earth on the Edge: Science for a Sustainable Planet', International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), Melbourne, Australia (poster presentation)
 20. Popovska, C., **Sekovski, D.**, Stavrić, V. (2010): *Problem Identification and Strategic Planning of River Restoration Projects*, Conference on Water Observation and Information System for Decision Support (BALWOIS 2010), Ohrid
 21. Puleska, B., **Sekovski, D.**, Zdraveski, N. (2010), *Towards Integrated Management of the Prespa Lake Watershed – Models for Stakeholder Involvement in the Decision-making Process*, Conference on Water Observation and Information System for Decision Support (BALWOIS 2010), Ohrid
 22. **Sekovski, D.**, Popovska C. (2009), *Restoration Measures and Practices in the Prespa Region*, Eleventh International Symposium on Water Management and Hydraulic Engineering (WMHE 2009), Ohrid
 23. **Sekovski, D.** (2009), *Environmental Impacts of Dams and Mitigation Options*, Second Congress on Large Dams, Macedonian Committee on Large Dams, Struga
 24. **Sekovski, D.**, Zdraveski, N. (2009), *Efforts for Introducing Transboundary Fish and Fisheries Management in the Prespa Region*, First Conference on Conservation and Management of Balkan Freshwater Fish (COMBAFF), Ohrid
 25. **Sekovski, D.** (2009), *The Perspectives of Hydropower Development considering the Environmental Effects*, Energija magazine, ELEM – Macedonian Power Plants JSC (invited article)