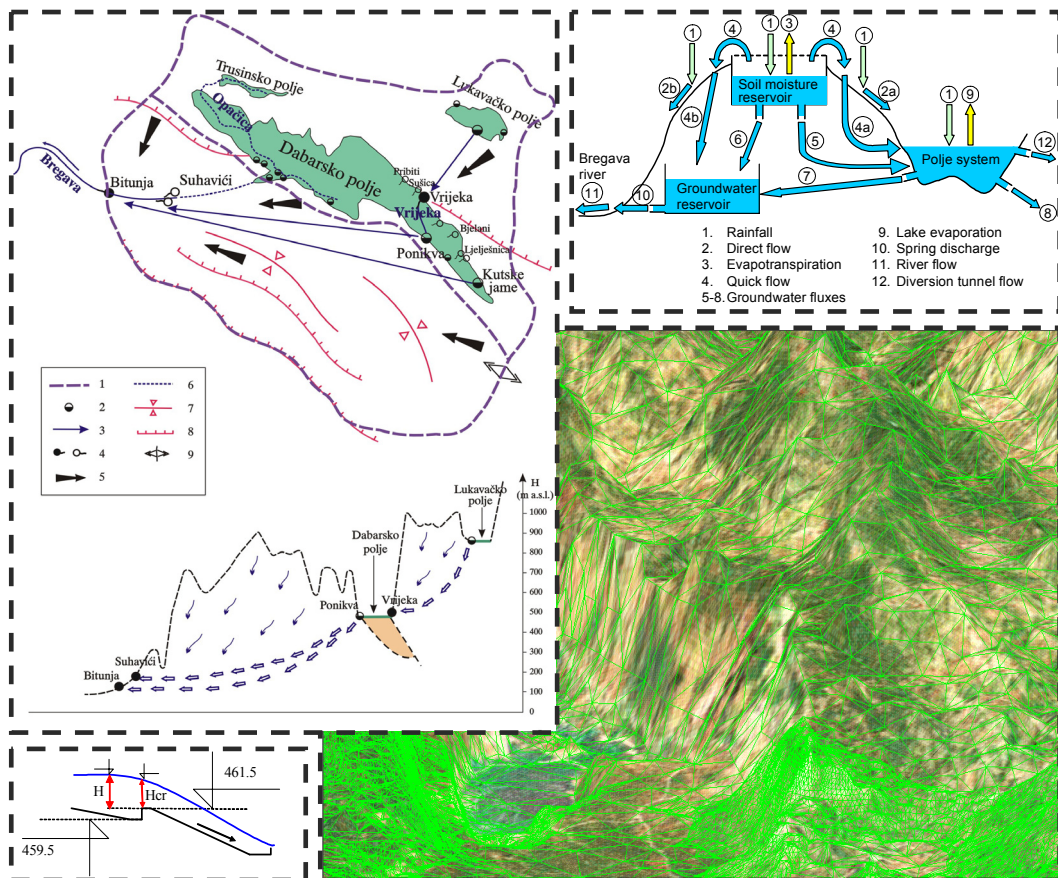


# Analysis of the effects of water transfer through the tunnel Fatničko Polje – Bileća reservoir

on the hydrologic regime of Bregava River in Bosnia and Herzegovina



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## Executive Summary

### Objectives

The objective of this study was the analysis of the possible effects of water transfer through the tunnel Fatničko Polje – Bileća reservoir on the hydrologic regime of the Bregava River under current and future hydrological and operational management conditions. The study describes in detail the hydrologic situation in the area of interest, discusses possible effects under a range of operational scenarios, identifies the sources of the associated uncertainties and critically presents the results obtained.

### Conclusions

In this report a state-of-the-art hydrological analysis of the effect of water transfer through the tunnel Fatničko Polje – Bileća reservoir on the hydrologic regime of Bregava River have been carried out by three independent institution and different methodologies. The study is based on the best available data sets and builds on information extracted from the technical documentation elaborated by the leading consulting companies and research institutions and experts in Former Yugoslavia (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia) in the periods related to planning, design, post construction evaluation and operational management of various elements of the Trebišnjica catchment multipurpose system.

A significant source of information was a set of proceedings of the USA-Yugoslav Symposium **Karst Hydrology and Water Resources**<sup>1</sup>, held in Dubrovnik in which the results of research carried out under partial NSF funding within a USA-YU project was presented. Most of the research was based on extensive field monitoring in Trebišnjica catchment.

Additionally, in order to set-up the rules for the future operational management of the system, use was made of the conditions set in the building permit (*Vodoprivredna saglasnost*) for water transfer from Dabarsko polje to Fatničko polje issued by Water Resources Authority of the Republic Bosnia and Herzegovina, (*Republička uprava za vodoprivredu, Sarajevo, 1996 Director Abdulah Huzbašić*, No UP-I-03-78-1/69) and the building permit (*Vodoprivredna saglasnost*) for tunnel Fatničko polje – Bileća reservoir, issued by the Committee of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Resources (*Republički Komitet za Poljoprivredu, Šumarstvo i Vodoprivredu, Pomoćnik predsjednika Božo Knežević*), Sarajevo, No. UP-I-06-337-180/86

Internal control and quality assurance (QA) of the study has been performed by leading British experts in Hydrology (Imperial College London) and Hydrogeology (BGS British Geological Survey).

The following conclusions can be drawn from the present study:

- a. The Trebišnjica catchment has already undergone partial development in accordance with projects and concepts subject to regular planning and approval procedures in force at their planning stage.
- b. In general the methodology applied in the assessment and planning of the multipurpose use of water resources in the area was sound and in accordance to the standards of the period and suitable data bases were created to support the planning process. These databases were at the time of a high standard.

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<sup>1</sup> Published by WRP – Water Resources Publication, 1976, Fort Collins, Colorado (LCCCN, 76-012972 )

- c. In its planning stage the whole system of the Trebišnjica catchment, of which the "Upper Horizons" are an integral part, was conceived as a multipurpose one, based on optimal water resources management principles for flood protection, irrigation, hydro-energy production, water supply and environmental mitigation under unfavourable karst conditions.
- d. During the past twelve years, due to conflict in the area, a lot of monitoring and data acquisition practice has deteriorated thus both quantity and quality of data for the most recent period has significantly degraded.
- e. Despite unfavourable conditions most of the vital physical assets have been preserved in good working condition and this is especially true for the hydro-energy sub-system.
- f. In the meantime several attempts have been made in order to assess the status of the environment and infrastructure and to revitalise other parts of the system and provide better conditions for revival of the economical activities in the area.
- g. One of the projects that preceded this study is the EU co-funded LIFE-INFRARED project in which assessment of the environmental pressures and impacts of various alternative activities was performed and innovative informatics techniques have been developed and have been used in the present study.
- h. The present study focused on the Bregava river catchment which shares resources with the Trebišnjica catchment depending on hydrological and meteorological conditions, **under the assumption that the whole system will be completed and that the provisions of the design conditions and permits will be strictly observed.**
- i. The results of the study supports the claim that the system of tunnels from Dabarsko polje to Fatničko polje and from Fatničko polje to Bileća reservoir has a favourable effect in reducing flood hazard (especially depth and duration) in these two poljes and thus liberating scarce land resources for agriculture.
- j. The study has taken into account the assumption that the outflow from Dabarsko polje to Bregava river will be regulated (a flow regulation gate-valve) to be built on to entrance to Ponikve ponor. The rules for operation of the flow regulation are taken from the above mentioned building permits.
- k. The study has quantified the effect of the diversion of a part of the flood water from Dabarsko polje to Fatničko polje and to Bileća reservoir on the hydrological regime of the Bregava River in the cross section of the hydrometric station Do, by performing three independent analyses. The results obtained by all three methods are similar: there seems to be little effect on extremely high flows (over 50m<sup>3</sup>/s), the most pronounced effect (reduction of flow) occurs in the range between 5 – 50 m<sup>3</sup>/s, and the effect is almost negligible for flows lower than 5 m<sup>3</sup>/s. **The study cannot therefore support the claim that the tunnel Fatničko Polje – Bileća reservoir will contribute to the drying up of the Bregava River basin, or to the 'desertification' of the area, under the assumptions of proper operation discussed above. In fact, our study suggests the reverse in the event that the "Upper Horizons" project is completed and flow regulation provisions are observed by the operators, allowing for augmentation of flows in the Bregava during dry periods (see also item m).**
- l. It should be noted that **this result is obtained without taking into account the ponor Kutske jame as well as several smaller ones on the southern rim of Dabarsko polje which leads us to believe that the effect on low flows could be even smaller than assessed.**
- m. This study has not discussed the conditions that will be in place after the construction of the reservoirs in Nevesinjsko polje on Zalomka River. According to the conditions imposed, after that construction, the low flows to the Bregava River will be additionally enriched for at least 1 m<sup>3</sup>/s. To quantify the effects of

the works planned in Nevesinjsko polje (Zalomka River) on both Bregava and on Buna and Bunica rivers, a separate study is recommended.

- n. **It is also strongly recommended that the crucial hydrometric stations be rehabilitated and equipped with modern and reliable sensors and to closely monitor the post construction performance of the system. Post project monitoring would decrease the uncertainty in the modelling results and predictions identified and discussed in the report and provide a means for tailoring the operational rules of the system to the actual conditions and needs of the area.**
- o. Since this study did not include water quality aspects it is suggested that this should be done in a next phase as a part of an overall environmental impact assessment in Trebišnjica and Neretva catchments which is planned to be performed in the near future. The methodology and informatics support developed in this project can be easily incorporated into a broader modelling framework.
- p. The authors hope that this study will be used for a broad awareness raising on the interdependencies of catchment processes and for building capacity for regional co-operation similar to the UNESCO endorsed **PCCP** (from **P**otential **C**onflict to **C**o-operating **P**artnership) principles.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>3</b>
Objectives	3
Conclusions	3
<b>Glossary of Key Terms</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Abbreviations</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>15</b>
1.1. Background	15
1.2. Purpose of the Study	15
1.3. Description of the area and hydro-system	16
1.4. Engineering work in Dabarsko and Fatničko poljes	22
1.4.1. Tunnel Dabarsko Polje and Fatničko polje (DP->FP).....	22
1.4.2. Tunnel Fatničko polje and Beleća reservoir (FP->BR) .....	25
1.5. Preceding studies and data sources relevant to this project	27
1.6. Water Management issues relevant to this project	28
1.7. Interactions with the Inter-Entity Committee	30
1.8. Structure of the Report	30
<b>2. Hydrogeology</b>	<b>32</b>
2.1. Overall assessment of the hydrogeological conditions	32
2.1.1. Basic lithostratigraphic and geostructural characteristics .....	33
2.1.2. The base of karstification and porosity .....	33
2.2. Trebišnjica River Catchment	35
2.2.1. Basic feature of the natural conditions .....	35
2.2.2. Basic characteristics of the aquifer regime .....	36
2.2.3. Water regime of Fatničko polje.....	38
2.2.4. The water regime under anthropogenic pressure .....	41
2.3. Bregava River Catchment	43
2.3.1. Spring zone data .....	43
2.3.2. Basic characteristics of the aquifer regime: evolution of karstification .....	45
2.3.3. The water regime of Dabarsko Polje and Bregava Springs.....	47
<b>3. Meteorology and Climatology</b>	<b>49</b>
3.1. Climate database construction	49
3.2. Rainfall data	52
3.3. Identification of trends	52
3.3.1. Global and hemispheric temperature and precipitation trends.....	52
3.3.2. Climate trends in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Trebišnjica catchment in the 20th century .....	53
3.3.3. Extreme climatic phenomena.....	55
3.4. Prediction of precipitation, evaporation and temperature under potential climate change till 2030	57
3.4.1. Future Climate Change .....	57
3.4.2. Local climate scenarios for Trebišnjica Catchment based on empirical downscaling.....	60
3.4.3. DataSets .....	61
<b>4. Topography and GIS Datasets</b>	<b>66</b>
4.1. Data Input	66
4.2. Developing the DEM	70
4.3. Catchment Delineation	73

<b>5.</b>	<b>Modelling</b>	<b>78</b>
5.1.	The J. Černi Hydrologic Model	78
5.1.1.	Model description .....	78
5.1.2.	Schematic representation of the system .....	81
5.1.3.	Mathematical (simulation) model components.....	82
5.1.4.	Use of data.....	94
5.1.5.	Calibration and validation.....	95
5.1.6.	Scenarios and uncertainty analysis.....	105
5.1.7.	Results and discussion .....	106
5.1.8.	Conclusions .....	109
5.2.	The K Sim <sup>2</sup> Hydrologic Model	110
5.2.1.	Model Description.....	110
5.2.2.	Model parameters and main assumptions .....	114
5.2.3.	Use of Data .....	116
5.2.4.	Calibration and Validation .....	121
5.2.5.	Scenarios and uncertainty analysis.....	128
5.2.6.	Results.....	131
5.2.7.	Discussion .....	134
5.3.	Physically-Based Modelling	136
5.3.1.	Introduction.....	136
5.3.2.	Description of models .....	136
5.3.3.	System decomposition .....	145
5.3.4.	Simulation results.....	148
5.3.5.	Uncertainty analysis .....	156
5.3.6.	Discussion .....	157
<b>6.</b>	<b>Results Discussion</b>	<b>158</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Conclusions</b>	<b>164</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>References</b>	<b>166</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Appendix</b>	<b>168</b>



## List of Figures

Figure 1. Karstic landscape .....	16
Figure 2. Trebišnjica and Bregava catchments and their interactions under natural conditions (Position of Bileća reservoir indicated) .....	18
Figure 3. Longitudinal section though the key elements of the Trebišnjica system as planned .....	19
Figure 4. The "Upper Horizons" system includes three new dams, two reservoirs, flood alleviation schemes for Nevesinjsko, Dabarsko and Fatničko Polje, irrigation scheme for Dubrave, Nevesinjsko, Dabarsko and Fatničko Polje, low flow augmentation for Buna Bunica and Bregava rivers and three hydroelectric power plants. ....	20
Figure 5. Current level of development of the whole Trebišnjica system.....	21
Figure 6. Longitudinal section and plan view of the tunnel Dabarsko polje - Fatničko polje .....	23
Figure 7. Capacity of the tunnel between Dabarsko Polje and Fatničko polje.....	24
Figure 8. Longitudinal section of the tunnel between Fatničko polje and Beleća reservoir .....	25
Figure 9. Capacity of the tunnel between Fatničko polje and Bileća reservoir.....	26
Figure 10. Conditions for flow regulation - operation of the tunnel .....	29
Figure 11. Layout of the catchment areas of Bregava and Trebišnjica springs .....	32
Figure 12. Base of karstification as underground watershed (Milanović, 1986).....	34
Figure 13. Area of broad background of Trebišnjica spring (Milanović, 1986).....	35
Figure 14. Simplified hydrogeological profile of Gatačko Polje - Trebišnjica spring (Milanović, 1972/1973).....	37
Figure 15. Hysteresis effect: Study of the period 14/11/87—28/12/87 .....	38
Figure 16. Fatničko Polje .....	39
Figure 17. The estimated relationship of flood level (H) and the cumulative swallow capacity (Q) for Fatničko Polje.....	40
Figure 18. The annual flood duration curve of in Fatničko Polje under natural conditions in the zone of the Pasimca gauging station (Paviša, 1983) .....	41
Figure 19. Water table recession curve in borehole PB-1 .....	42
Figure 20. Simplified hydrogeological map of Bregava source spring drainage area.....	44
Figure 21. Break-up of surface river network of the Bregava River basin as a result of the evolution of processes (Milanović, 1981) .....	46
Figure 22. The relationship of flood level (H) and the cumulative swallow capacity (Q) for Dabarsko Polje.....	47
Figure 23. Duration diagram of annual flood in Dabar Polje in the zone of gauge station Ponikva, under natural conditions (Paviša, 1983) .....	48
Figure 24. Location of meteorological stations in Trebišnjica catchment.....	50
Figure 25. A sample of daily meteorological values for Trebinje- Trebišnjica catchment area .....	51
Figure 26. Daily precipitation time series for Trebinje station-Trebišnjica catchments area .....	52
Figure 27. Mean temperature trend in northern hemisphere, 1000-2000 (From Mann et al., 1999) .....	53
Figure 28. The monthly values of SPI on 12-month time scale for Nevesinje for the period 1925-2003.....	56
Figure 29. Extreme precipitations trend for Odžak and Lastva meteorological stations in the Trebišnjica catchment, period 1961-2003.....	57
Figure 30. Projection of the annual air trend temperature for 21 <sup>st</sup> century (After HADCM3 IS92a).....	58
Figure 31. Changes in average annual temperature (°C) 2000-2100. ....	59
Figure 32. Changes (in per cent) in winter and summer precipitation, 2000-2100 .....	60

Figure 33. Spatial distribution of mean annual air temperature for the Trebinje-Trebišnjica catchment area .....	63
Figure 34. Spatial distribution of mean annual air temperature for Trebinje- Trebišnjica catchment area, period 2001-2030 .....	63
Figure 35. Spatial distribution of mean annual precipitation for Trebinje- Trebišnjica catchment area, period 1961-1990 .....	65
Figure 36. Annual precipitation changes up to 2030 for Trebinje- Trebišnjica catchment area .....	65
Figure 37. The broader area of Trebišnjica system with tiled maps of 1:25000 scale. ....	66
Figure 38. The coordinates of bottom left and top right corners, for each 1:25000 map	67
Figure 39. Comparison of two maps, with different scales but with the same content (Left: Colour coded scanned map of 1:25000 scale, Right: B&W map of 1:10000 scale but with the same content (10 m equidistance line) as the 1:25000 map .....	68
Figure 40. Satellite image (256 colours, 15 m resolution) from GlobeExplorer, Earth Satellite Corp. with overlaid boundaries of Lukovačko, Dabarsko and Fatničko polje	69
Figure 41. Large number of points digitised along the contour line does not necessarily mean better DEM: on the left figure the artificial flat areas as a result of an automatic triangulation procedure are shown with wide white line, while on the right figure, the same area is digitised with fewer points and with inclusion of break line along the ridge .....	70
Figure 42. On screen digitised catchment area, with 73000 points and 2000 break lines	71
Figure 43. Side view on Fatničko polje with the SouthEast part of Dabarsko polje.....	72
Figure 44. Regular grid DEM with 30 m resolution, heights are from 48 m to 1750 m ...	73
Figure 45. DEM can be used to plot the profiles along selected lines: the first image is the cut along the Dabarsko and Fatničko polje, the second one is the cut along the Bregava river .....	73
Figure 46. Digital Elevation Model (DEM) of Dabarsko polje, 20 m grid size.....	74
Figure 47. Stage-Volume curve and data for Stage-Area curve of Dabarsko polje .....	74
Figure 48. Digital Elevation Model (DEM) of Fatničko polje, 20 m grid size .....	75
Figure 49. Stage-Volume curve and data for Stage-Area curve of Fatničko polje.....	76
Figure 50. Contributing areas with added one indirect (16) and one direct contributing area (17), with mean terrain slope.....	77
Figure 51. Decomposition of the area. ....	81
Figure 52. Overview of meteorological data (precipitation) .....	95
Figure 53. Overview of meteorological data (Temperature; Wind speed; Humidity) .....	95
Figure 54. Overview of hydrological data .....	95
Figure 55. The Bregava River hydrograph for Do gauging station.....	96
Figure 56. The Bregava River discharge duration curve for Do gauging station.....	97
Figure 57. Water stage diagram of Dabarsko Polje.....	98
Figure 58. Water stage duration curve for Dabarsko Polje .....	98
Figure 59. Water stage diagram of Fatničko Polje .....	99
Figure 60. Water stage duration curve for Fatničko Polje.....	99
Figure 61. Headwater stage diagram of Bileća reservoir .....	100
Figure 62. Headwater stage duration curve for Bileća reservoir .....	100
Figure 63. The Bregava River hydrograph of Do gauging station .....	101
Figure 64. The Bregava River discharge duration curve for Do gauging station.....	102
Figure 65. Water stage diagram of Dabarsko Polje plain.....	102
Figure 66. Water stage duration curve for Dabarsko Polje .....	103
Figure 67. Water stage diagram of Fatničko Polje .....	103
Figure 68. Water stage duration curve for Fatničko Polje.....	104
Figure 69. Headwater stage diagram of Bileća reservoir .....	104
Figure 70. Headwater stage duration curve for Bileća.....	105
Figure 71. The discharge duration curves for Bregava River under natural and managed conditions.....	107

Figure 72. The discharge duration curves for Bregava River under natural and managed condition s- flow under 5 m <sup>3</sup> /s .....	107
Figure 73. The hydrograph of Bregava River for Do gauging station under natural and managed conditions, for the period 1962-1986 .....	108
Figure 74. The Bregava River hydrograph of the Do gauging station for natural and managed conditions, for the period 1986-2003 .....	108
Figure 75. Schematic of the hydrosystem of Trebišnjica and Bregava river catchments with the karstic fields (poljes), the natural hypothetical karstic connections and the artificial tunnels constructed (DP-FP) or under construction (FP-BR). .....	110
Figure 76. General layout of the hydrosystem of Trebišnjica and Bregava river catchments with the karstic fields, the natural hypothetical connections, the artificial tunnels and the locations of meteorological and hydrometrical stations. ....	111
Figure 77. Schematic of the K Sim <sup>2</sup> model. ....	112
Figure 78. Used data series and data availability: the white boxes correspond to years with complete absence of measurements whereas the remaining boxes correspond to years with complete or incomplete series of measurements. ....	116
Figure 79 Comparison of simultaneous daily water level measurements at Kuti and Bjeljani in Dabarsko polje. ....	117
Figure 80. Comparison of simultaneous daily water level measurements at Ponikva and Kuti in Dabarsko polje. ....	118
Figure 81. Comparison of simultaneous daily water level measurements at Ponikva and Bjeljani in Dabarsko polje. ....	118
Figure 82. Comparison of simultaneous daily water level measurements at Pasmica-Padeni and Obod-Fatnica in Fatničko polje. ....	119
Figure 83. Daily water level in Fatničko polje vs. simultaneous water level at Dabarsko polje. ....	120
Figure 84. Daily discharge of Bregava river at Do vs. simultaneous daily water level at Dabarsko polje. ....	120
Figure 85. Daily discharge of Bregava River at Do vs. simultaneous average daily rainfall at wider area. ....	121
Figure 86. Comparison of historical and simulated series for hydrological year 1964-65: (up) water level in polje; (down) discharge of Bregava River at Do. ....	125
Figure 87. Comparison of historical and simulated duration curves of the daily water level at Dabarsko polje for periods A (1/1/1961-31/10/1986) and B (1/11/1986-31/12/2000): (up) Cartesian plot with water level expressed in meters above sea level; (down) semi-logarithmic plot with water level expressed in meters above a datum equal to 471.5 meters above sea level. ....	126
Figure 88. Comparison of historical and simulated duration curves of the daily discharge of Bregava River at Do for periods A (1/1/1961-31/10/1986) and B (1/11/1986-31/12/2000): (up) Cartesian plot; (down) semi-logarithmic plot. ....	127
Figure 89 Comparison of historical and simulated duration curves of the mean monthly discharge of Bregava River at Do for periods A (1/1/1961-31/10/1986) and B (1/11/1986-31/12/2000): (up) Cartesian plot; (down) semi-logarithmic plot. ....	128
Figure 90. Breakdown of the water balance by origin of water discharged at Bregava River at Do during period A (1/1/1961-31/10/1986) as predicted by the three alternative model fits. ....	131
Figure 91. Estimated duration curves of the daily water level at Dabarsko polje under regulated conditions (RC), in comparison with historical and modelled duration curves under natural conditions (NC) (data for period A; 1/1/1961-31/10/1986): (up) Cartesian plot with water level expressed in meters asl; (down) semi-logarithmic plot with water level expressed in meters above a datum equal to 471.5 meters asl. ..	132
Figure 92. Estimated duration curves of the daily discharge of Bregava River at Do under regulated conditions (RC), in comparison with historical and modelled duration	

curves under natural conditions (NC) (data for period A; 1/1/1961-31/10/1986): (up) Cartesian plot; (down) semi-logarithmic plot.....	133
Figure 93. Estimated duration curves of the mean monthly discharge of Bregava River at Do under regulated conditions (RC), in comparison with historical and modelled duration curves under natural conditions (NC) (data for period A; 1/1/1961-31/10/1986): (up) Cartesian plot; (down) semi-logarithmic plot. ....	134
Figure 94. Typical shape of soil characteristics.....	137
Figure 95. Scheme of computational grid and the data necessary for solving Richards' equation.....	139
Figure 96. Scheme of node "i" connected with neighbour nodes and inflow and outflows from that node.....	140
Figure 97. Scheme of reservoir "i" and water balance for that node.....	141
Figure 98. System decomposition in space .....	147
Figure 99. Results of UNSAT model for period: 1st September 1977 to 1st September 1978. Light blue histogram indicates measured precipitation and dark blue line is simulated Leakage. ....	149
Figure 100. Cumulative results of UNSAT model for period: 1 <sup>st</sup> September 1976 to 1st September 1986.....	149
Figure 101. Simulation results of the <i>simple model</i> for period: 1st September 1977 to 1st September 1978 (without tunnels). Solid lines - simulated results, Dashed lines – measurements. Discharge is calculated for station Do on Bregava stream. ....	151
Figure 102. Simulation results of the <i>simple model</i> for period: 1st September 1977 to 1st September 1978. (with tunnel Dabarsko polje – Fatničko polje). Solid lines - simulated results, Dashed lines – measurements. Discharge is calculated for station Do on Bregava stream. ....	151
Figure 103. Simulation results of a Simple model for future period with historical data: 1st September 1977 to 1st September 1978 (with tunnels Dabarsko- Fatničko and Fatničko -Bileća reservoir). Solid lines - simulated results, Dashed lines – measurements. Discharge is calculated for station Do on Bregava stream. ....	152
Figure 104. Simulation results of the <i>simple model</i> presented in the form of duration curves for discharges in Bregava. The simulation is performed with historical data: 1 <sup>st</sup> September 1976 to 1st September 1986 without the tunnels and with both tunnels Dabarsko-Fatničko and Fatničko -Bileća reservoir. Solid lines - simulated results, Red Dashed line: measurements. Duration curves are presented in linear and logarithmic scale. ....	153
Figure 105. Simulation results of the <i>detailed model</i> for period: 1st September 1977 to 1st September 1978 (without tunnels). Solid lines - simulated results, Dashed lines – measurements. Discharge is calculated for station Do on Bregava stream. ....	154
Figure 106. Simulation results of the <i>detailed model</i> for future period with historical data: 1st September 1977 to 1st September 1978 (with both tunnels: DP-FP and FP-BR). Discharge is calculated for the Do station on Bregava River. ....	155
Figure 107. Simulation results of the <i>detailed model</i> presented in the form of duration curves for discharges in Bregava. The simulation is performed with historical data for one year (1977-1978) without the tunnels and with both tunnels Dabarsko-Fatničko and Fatničko -Bileća reservoir. Solid lines - simulated results, Red Dashed line: measurements for the overall period 1976-1986. Duration curves are presented in linear and logarithmic scale. ....	156
Figure 108. Average of ratio between measured and simulated discharge for different flow ranges.....	157
Figure 109. Combined results (duration curves at Do station) from the three modelling approaches.....	160
Figure 110. Comparison of simulated natural (unmanaged) conditions in the three models .....	160
Figure 111. Comparison of simulated managed conditions in the three models.....	161

Figure 112. Difference in duration time between natural and managed conditions in the three models and associated envelop of uncertainty (red lines) ..... 162

Figure 113. A comparison of predicted changes in the reduction of duration of flows between the different models. The dotted black line represents the combined general trend for the three result sets. .... 163

## List of Tables

Table 1. Observed changes in the Temperature in Northern Hemisphere, Europe, the Mediterranean, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Trebišnjica catchment during the 20th century.....	54
Table 2. Observed changes in the Precipitation in Northern Hemisphere, Europe, the Mediterranean, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Trebišnjica catchment during the 20th century.....	55
Table 3. Standardised Precipitation Index (SPI) classification.....	55
Table 4. Mean values of annual and seasonal temperature (°C) during the "normal period" 1961-90 (observations) and during the period 1991-2030 (scenarios based on empirical downscaling from the AOGSM/JMA-integration). "Diff" indicates the difference between the two periods. ....	62
Table 5. Mean values of annual and seasonal precipitation (0.1mm) during the "normal period" 1961-90 (observations) and during the period 1991-2030 (scenarios based on empirical downscaling from the AOGSM/JMA-integration).....	64
Table 6. Values of monthly evaporation coefficients $C_m$ .....	94
Table 7. List of K Sim <sup>2</sup> model parameters.....	115
Table 8. Fitted values of K Sim <sup>2</sup> model parameters. ....	122
Table 9. Indices of K Sim <sup>2</sup> model performance (model fit 1). ....	124
Table 10. Performance indices for K Sim <sup>2</sup> model fit 2. ....	129
Table 11. Performance indices for K Sim <sup>2</sup> model fit 3. ....	130
Table 12. Qualitative comparison of structural features of the three models.....	159

## Glossary of Key Terms

Calibrated Parameter Models (Hydrological Models)	A calibrated parameter model is one which has one or more parameters that can be evaluated only by fitting computed hydrographs to the observed hydrographs. Calibrated parameters are usually necessary if the watershed component has any conceptual component models, which is true for most presently used watershed models. Thus, with a calibrated parameter model, a period of recorded flow is needed, usually several years, for determining the parameter values for a particular watershed.
Karst	Karst is a geological phenomenon, first described in Slovenia. The basic aspects of karst areas are soluble bedrock, cracks and water. Rain and groundwater dissolves the rock and forms caves and caverns. Common rocks for karst areas are: Limestone (calcium carbonate $\text{CaCO}_3$ ) Dolomite (magnesium calcium carbonate $\text{CaMg}_2\text{CO}_6$ ) Gypsum ( $\text{CaSO}_4 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$ )
Measured Parameter Models (Physical Models)	A measured parameter model is one for which all the parameters can be determined satisfactorily from known watershed characteristics, either by measurement or by estimation. For example, watershed area and channel length can be determined from existing maps, channel cross sections can be measured in the field. Soil characteristics can be determined in a lab but not at the scale of model application. Characteristics like channel roughness are often estimated. A measured parameter model can, in principle, be applied to totally ungauged watersheds and is therefore highly desirable. However, the development of such a model that is continuous, acceptably accurate, and generally applicable is a goal that has not yet been fully attained, mainly due to the problems of characterising soil and groundwater properties.
Polje	Large closed depression draining underground, with a flat floor across which there may be an intermittent or perennial stream and which may be liable to flood and become a lake. The floor makes a sharp break with parts of surrounding slopes
Ponor	Swallow hole of karstic origin
Aquitard	A layer of rock having low permeability that stores groundwater but delays its flow.

## Abbreviations

ASL	Above sea level
DEM	Digital Elevation Model
GIS	Geographic Information System
SLP	Sea level pressure

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Background

This report is the final deliverable of the project: Analysis of the effects of the water transfer through the tunnel Fatničko Polje – Bileća reservoir on the hydrologic regime of the Bregava River in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This was undertaken by a multidisciplinary team composed of experts from:

- ICCI LTD
- CUW-UK (Centre for Urban Water), London, UK
- BGS (British Geological Survey)
- Imperial College Consultants, London, UK
- University of Exeter, UK
- National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), Greece
- Institute of Hydraulic and Environmental Engineering, University of Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro
- Institute for Water Resources Jaroslav Černi, Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro
- Urban Planning Institute of Banjaluka, RS – Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Data needed for the study has been provided by the client (EFT GmbH) mostly based on the HIS-HET data base originating from HET Trebinje.

The principal activity in the study was hydrologic – hydrodynamic modelling performed independently by three teams using three different methodologies. Although the experts from all three teams involved in the modelling exercise had some models developed beforehand, all three groups had to make significant updates and additional model development in order to be able to cope with the unique karstic features of the Trebišnjica and Bregava catchments.

The key results, demonstrating the effects of water diversion through the tunnel Fatničko polje – Bileća reservoir, **are presented in the form of duration curves for flows (discharges) at the hydrometric station "Do"**.

An important work, by the same authors, that acts as background to this study is the EU funded LIFE-Third Countries INFRARED project, which places emphasis on the identification and assessment of environmental pressures and management options on a catchment level and deals specifically with the Trebišnjica catchment. The EU study's background together with the tools developed within this work can serve as a springboard for comprehensive environmental impact studies not only for the whole of the Trebišnjica and Neretva catchments, but also for other catchments of a karstic nature.

## 1.2. Purpose of the Study

According to the ToR (Terms of Reference) the Study had to perform the following tasks:

1. Analysis of rainfall and runoff (flow) data and selection of the relevant time series for further processing
2. Analysis and critical evaluation of the previous studies and methods of analysis which are pertinent to the analysis of the effect of water transfer through the tunnel



3. Selection (or development) of the appropriate data processing model, of its structure and parameters
4. Definition of the model application and verification
5. Analysis of the results obtained by modelling
6. Numerical and graphical presentation of the results
7. Assessment of the effects of water transfer with regards to the balance and
8. Recommendations and conclusions.

The analysis had to be performed by making use of the data of the previous studies that were made available to CUW-UK. Additionally, use was made of any data that were obtained in the recent years, although due to recent conflict in the region most of the monitoring equipment has been damaged and measurements discontinued.

The study includes (as suggested in the ToR) several innovative methodologies compliant with current international practice, including:

1. Updated analysis of the pluviometric regime including data obtained in the past decade and assessment of the potential effect of the climate changes based on the internationally accepted criteria and models.
2. Development, to the extent data and time availability permit, of a physically based model of the system consisting of Dabarsko Polje, Fatničko Polje, the underground karstic aquifer, Bregava river springs and the upstream part of Bregava river – between the springs and the hydrometric station Do.
3. GIS based representation of the physical features of the catchment and of the results of the analysis where appropriate.

It should be clearly stated that this is a karstic catchment and aquifer with a limited amount of monitoring sites and data series, the quality of which is to a large extent uncertain, thus the result of analysis will always involve certain degree of uncertainty. Efforts have been made to identify the sources and to quantify the uncertainty whenever possible.

### **1.3. Description of the area and hydro-system**

The area which is subject of this study is located in the broader region of East Herzegovina characterised by a predominantly karstic terrain. Fertile soil is found only in polje (karstic fields) while the rest is bare rock (Figure 1).



**Figure 1.** Karstic landscape

The Bregava River is a tributary of Neretva River, which has passed through several phases of development in its hydrogeological history as will be described in Chapter 2. In addition its direct catchment is mainly fed through the Hrgud spring which originates from the Dabarsko polje. In its most upstream part it shares water resources with a part of the Trebišnjica catchment: Fatničko polje. It benefits from the existence of a "bottleneck" in the karstic barrier downstream from Dabarsko polje which acts as "low pass filter" limiting the peak flows to the capacity of an underground system of fissures and larger karstic conduits (fed by Ponikve and Kutske jame ponors).

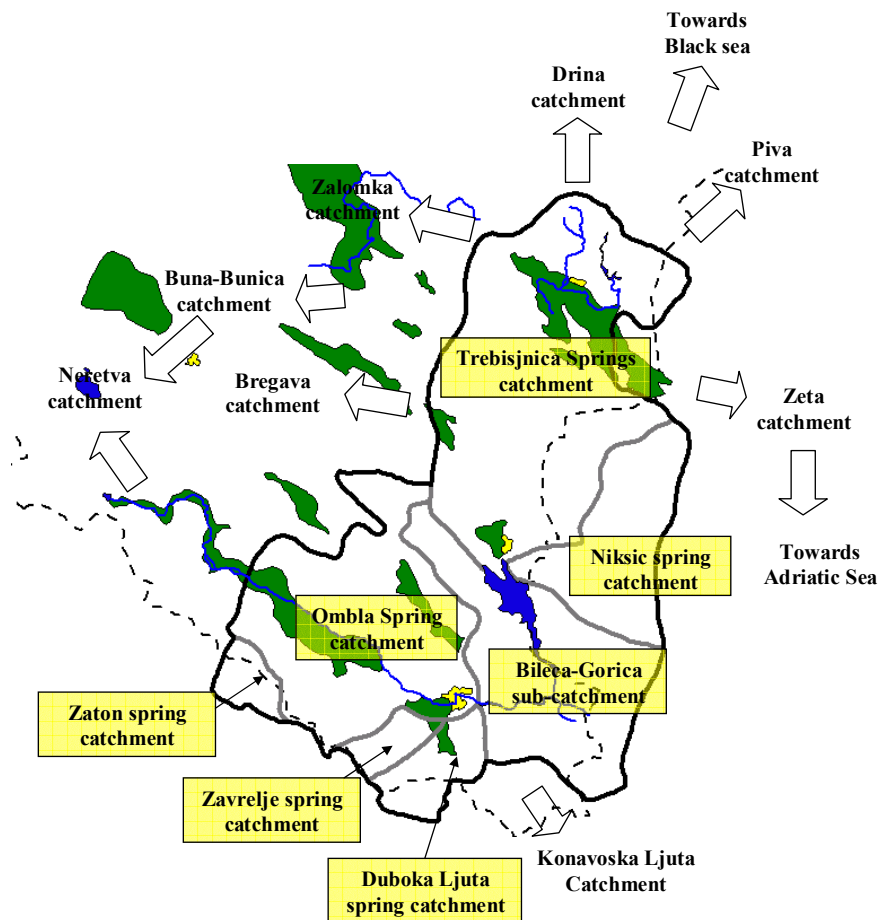
The present study dealt with the part of Bregava catchment upstream from the hydrometric station Do. In its reach downstream from Stolac, low discharges percolate (flow) through the alluvial sediment and the river flows mostly underground.

In its upstream part the catchment underwent water resources development in view of the broader concept of management of the Trebišnjica and Zalomka catchments. The following phases can be identified in this system's development:

**a. Natural conditions**

Before the development of the first phase of the Trebišnjica multipurpose system in its natural conditions (Figure 2) the system was characterised by the following features:

- Trebišnjica, as the biggest sinking river in Europe, flooded regularly the Popovo polje rendering it unsuitable for human settlements
- A high level of vulnerability to natural disasters was observed.
- The "flood free" period lasted about 100 days thus limiting agricultural production (Film *Vode Trebišnjice*, directed by Hajrudin Krvavec, available from HET, Trebinje)
- There was a low level of water use although it was the most precious resource in the region
- There was low level of economical activity thus encouraging the local population to immigrate to the other parts of the world.



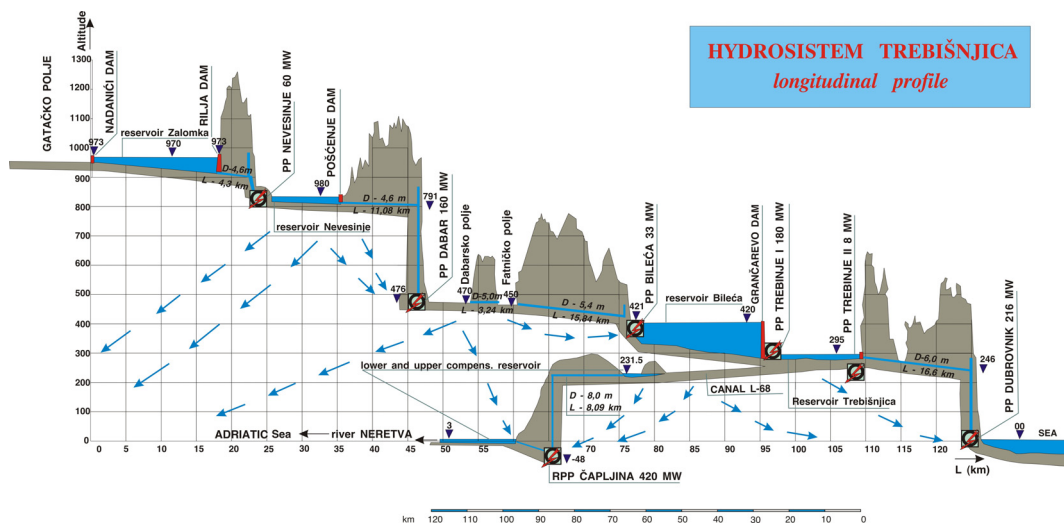
**Figure 2.** Trebišnjica and Bregava catchments and their interactions under natural conditions (Position of Bileća reservoir indicated)

### **b. Planning of water resources development (late 50-s)**

Planning of water resources development in this period was based on the following principles for the karstic environment:

- Capture and store water on the surface in wet periods and use it in dry periods
- While using its hydro potential for energy production enable spatial diversification of the resources so that all parts of the catchment can benefit from the scheme
- Multipurpose water use: drinking, flood protection, irrigation, hydro-energy production, low flow augmentation (special conditions for Bregava), amenity, water sports and recreation,
- Some (simple) forms of protection of natural resources and environmental values.

The longitudinal section through the major elements of the system is shown in Figure 3. These principles were applied in the implementation phase that followed.



**Figure 3.** Longitudinal section through the key elements of the Trebišnjica system as planned

### c. The first phase of the system's development

In the first phase of the system's development the following subsystems have been developed:

- The Grančarevo arch dam (height 123 m) with the Bileća reservoir (total volume  $1.28 \times 10^9 \text{ m}^3$ ) and the Trebinje I hydroelectric power plant (180 MW installed capacity)
- The Gorica gravity dam (height 33.5m) with upstream reservoir (total volume  $15,9 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3$ ) Trebinje II hydropower plant (8 MW)
- Tunnel (16.5 km long) and hydropower plant of Dubrovnik (210 MW, head 270 m).
- A flood alleviation scheme and a channel through Popovo polje (68 km) and the pump storage hydropower station Čapljinja (429 MW)
- Water supply systems for Herceg Novi and Konavli and an irrigation scheme for Konavsko polje
- Improvement of the water supply for Bileća and Trebinje and wastewater treatment plants for Bileća and Trebinje

### d. The "Upper horizons" upgrade scheme

The scheme is named "Upper" because it is aimed at development of water resources schemes in the karstic poljes which are at elevations higher than Bileća reservoir (upper elevations between 400 and 1100 m a.s.l.). In this next phase it was planned to build (develop) the following:

- Three dams (Nadanići, Rilja and Pošćenje and the adjacent reservoirs on the Zalomka river (reservoir Zalomka and "compensation" reservoir in Nevesinjsko polje)
- Two tunnels from Nevesinjsko polje (for the Dubrave plateau – for irrigation and tunnel to Dabar Hydropower plant) with a diversion of additional water quantity for augmentation of Bregava river low flows
- Flood alleviation schemes for Dabarsko polje (Tunnel Dabarsko polje – Fatničko polje – built in 1986) and assurance – management of low flows for Bregava river) (see Figure 10)
- An irrigation scheme in Nevesinjsko polje (Zlatac) Dabarsko polje and Fatničko polje

- Flood alleviation scheme for Fatničko polje (Tunnel Fatničko polje - Bileća reservoir) which had been planned to be also used for energy production (HE Bileća). Construction of the tunnel started in 1986, discontinued during the war and resumed in 2002. The construction of HE Bileća has been postponed for a later stage.
- Agricultural improvement in the Fatničko polje
- Low flow augmentation for Buna, Bunica and Bregava rivers.

During the planning phase the effect of the flood water transfer to Bileća reservoir has been analysed by Milićević and Zotović. A brief description of this model is given in the Appendix.

The development planned in the Upper Horizons scheme can be seen in Figure 4.



**Figure 4.** The “Upper Horizons” system includes three new dams, two reservoirs, flood alleviation schemes for Nevesinjsko, Dabarsko and Fatničko Polje, irrigation scheme for Dubrave, Nevesinjsko, Dabarsko and Fatničko Polje, low flow augmentation for Buna Bunica and Bregava rivers and three hydroelectric power plants.

The current status of the development of the whole Trebišnjica system is presented in Figure 5. From that figure it can be seen that while the part of the system downstream from Bileća reservoir is in an advanced stage of development, in the Upper horizons part of the system, besides the Zlatac irrigation system (Nevesinjsko polje), only the tunnel DP-> FP has been constructed while the FP->BR tunnel is about to be constructed within the coming months. This leaves the area vulnerable to natural disasters (floods and droughts) and the natural resources (water, solar energy, and fertile soil) in the karstic poljes remain to a large extent unused. This is the case, for example, in agricultural production, where BiH struggles to reduce its dependence on import of food.



**Figure 5.** Current level of development of the whole Trebišnjica system

**e. Future**

The plan of the Trebišnjica Multipurpose System was conceptualised in the 1950-s and 60-s and the system was developed following the general concept with timely modifications. In the mean time following disintegration of the Former Yugoslavia, former republics act as independent states which are preparing for integration into the EU, thus embracing the principles of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD). The Directive puts emphasis on environmental issues within the context of water resources management. The karstic region under investigation has its unique features to which the appropriate tools will have to be developed in order to implement WFD principles. The *implementability* of WFD under karstic conditions has been examined in an ongoing EU LIFE Third Countries project: INFRARED. A number of relevant reports have been produced so far by *Imperial College London*. Based on the results of the above studies and of other analyses performed in this project, some general conclusions about the future trends can be deducted:

- The general concept of the multipurpose system development in the Trebišnjica, Zalomka and Bregava catchments is viable and can serve as a basis for the further upgrade providing that all current environmental concerns and environmental management principles are taken into account
- The system is attractive because it can provide conditions for sustainable economical development (agriculture based on additional land vacated with reduced flood risk, tourism, flood protection) and at the same time it can generate additional amount of renewable energy without increasing atmospheric pollution (no greenhouse gases emission)

- Some elements of the system can be upgraded with relatively low investment costs
- In the future planning of the system's upgrade, environmental pressures and impacts have to be analysed in a way similar to Vukadinović (2003).
- *The existing system of monitoring is degraded and needs a significant overhaul.* This includes selection of a smaller number of representative sites for monitoring of flows, surface and groundwater level, water quality indicators and replacement of the mechanical sensors and data acquisition systems with more robust ones preferably based on wireless communications.
- In all schemes the sustainability of the proposed solutions has to be analysed and built in the concept.
- The system even provides space for some new lucrative initiatives to be implemented, for example transfer of high quality water to the arid regions in the Southern Italy.
- Advanced schemes for day-to-day management of all components of the system have to be implemented.
- There is a need for more activities in awareness raising and involvement of key stakeholders in consultation process
- There is a possibility to facilitate the, sometimes, "overheated" disputes by promoting discussions based on sound arguments. However, a prerequisite for forming such arguments is professional analyses similar to this study. The UNESCO's PCCP (From Potential Conflicts to Co-operation Partnership) concept can serve as an attractive template.
- **It is strongly recommended to perform an analysis similar to the analysis performed here, for two different cases:** (i) The Nevesinjsko polje and the interaction between Buna, Bunica and Bregava with Trebišnjica and (ii) the integration both models and additional features thus producing the model for the whole catchment.
- A reactivation of the Institute for Karst Research in Trebinje would be useful, in order to safeguard the longevity of the results achieved so far and to act as a catalyst for future research.

The above conclusions and recommendations are seen as added value results from the study which became apparent during our work.

#### **1.4. Engineering work in Dabarsko and Fatničko poljes**

In this section we shall present only those works which are directly relevant to the results of this study i.e. work in Dabarsko and Fatničko polje.

##### **1.4.1. Tunnel Dabarsko Polje and Fatničko polje (DP->FP)**

The tunnel was constructed in 1986 according to a detailed design (*Glavni projekat*) performed by Energoinvest, Sarajevo (February, 1985). A plan view and cross section of the tunnel are shown in Figure 6. The flow through the tunnel is regulated at the downstream end of the tunnel by vertical sluice gate, which is operational. At the moment (before the construction of the tunnel between Fatničko polje and Beleča reservoir (FP->BR) is commissioned) the operational rule requests only that the gate should be closed when the water level in Fatničko polje is higher than in Dabarsko polje. In the future (after the FP->BR tunnel becomes operational) the new phase in the project development requires specific conditions set-up in the building permit (see section 1.6).



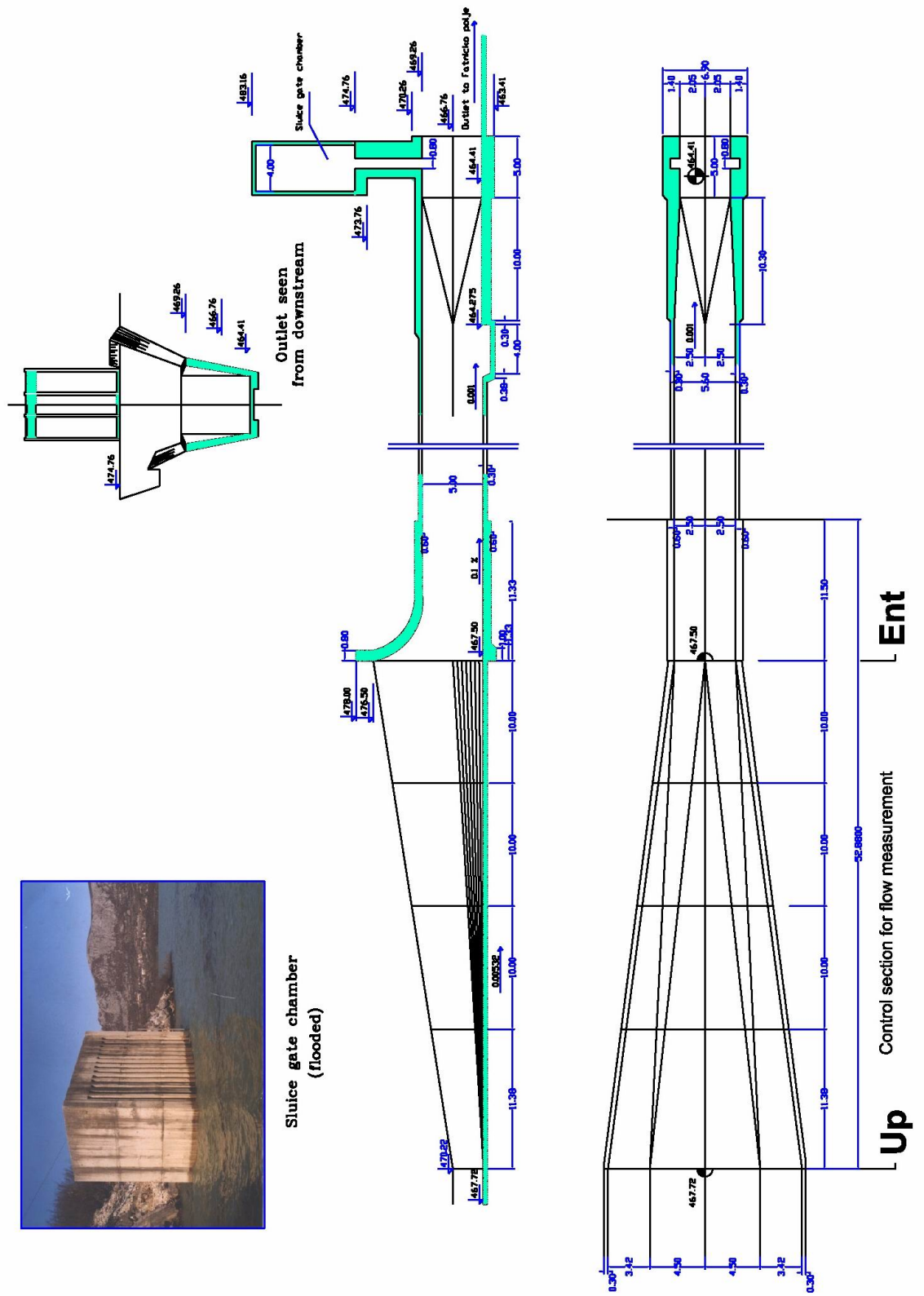
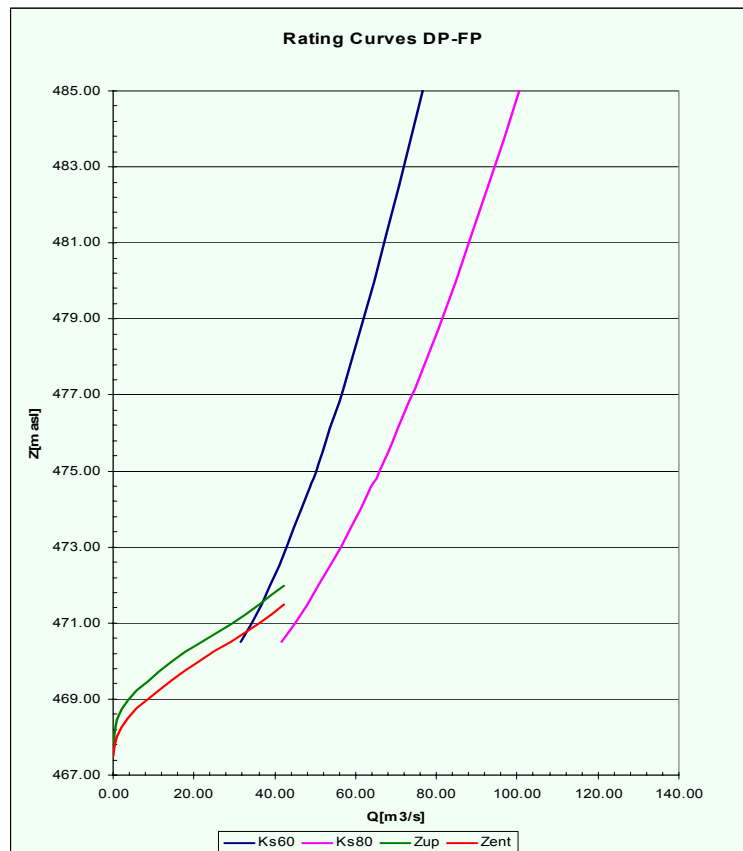


Figure 6. Longitudinal section and plan view of the tunnel Dabrsko polje - Fatničko polje



For operational purposes and to assist the correct calibration of models run in this study it was necessary to know the discharge capacity of the tunnel. The capacity function is determined by hydraulic conditions under two distinct regimes:

1. **Free surface flow in the tunnel:** When the flow in the tunnel is free surface, the flow regime in the tunnel is sub-critical (FROUDE Number smaller than 1) and the slope of the approaching channel is low, at the entrance to the tunnel the normal depth in the tunnel interacts with the water level in the approaching channel (transition from the trapezoidal to rectangular cross section - Figure 6). The lower portion of the flow – discharge curve is calculated by taking into account the gradually varied flow in the inlet channel with the normal depth in the tunnel as the downstream boundary condition (two different values for the friction factor in the tunnel are taken).
2. **Tunnel surcharged:** When the tunnel is surcharged its capacity is determined by its friction losses and it depends on the water level in Dabarsko polje. As far as the authors of this chapter are aware there were attempts to measure the friction of the tunnel (by compressed air flow), but this report was not available to the team. Therefore the analysis has been done with two hypothetical Manning roughness factors ( $n = 1/60 \text{ m}^{-1/3}\text{s}$  and  $n = 1/80 \text{ m}^{-1/3}\text{s}$ , whereas  $K = 1/n$ ). The results are shown in Figure 7. These results have been used by all modelling groups.



**Figure 7.** Capacity of the tunnel between Dabarsko Polje and Fatničko polje