



Enabling  
& Transboundary Cooperation  
& Integrated Water Resources Management  
in the extended **DRIN RIVER BASIN**



**Terms of reference:**  
***Technical assistance to the Project  
Coordination Unit for the implementation  
of the Lake Ohrid Watershed  
Management Plan Pilot Project***

In the framework of:

GEF Project “Enabling Transboundary Cooperation and Integrated Water Resources Management in the Extended Drin River Basin”

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## Introduction

### The Drin Memorandum of Understanding

1. Coordinated action at the Drin Basin level has been absent until the development of the Shared Vision for the sustainable management of the Drin Basin and the signing of a related Memorandum of Understanding (Tirana, 25 November 2011) by the Ministers of the water and environment management competent ministries of the Drin Riparians i.e. Albania, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Kosovo and Montenegro. This was the outcome of the Drin Dialogue coordinated by the Global Water Partnership Mediterranean (GWP-Med) and UNECE.
2. The main objective of the Drin MoU is the attainment of the Shared Vision: *“Promote joint action for the coordinated integrated management of the shared water resources in the Drin Basin, as a means to safeguard and restore, to the extent possible, the ecosystems and the services they provide, and to promote sustainable development across the Drin Basin”*.

### The Drin Coordinated Action

3. A process called the “Drin CORDA”, Drin Coordinated Action for the implementation of the Drin MoU, was put in place after the signing of the latter.
4. Following the provisions of the MoU an institutional structure was established in 2012. It includes:
  - The **Meeting of the Parties**.
  - The **Drin Core Group** (DCG). This body is given the mandate to coordinate actions for the implementation of the MoU.
  - Three **Expert Working Groups** (EWG) to assist the DCG in its work:
    - Water Framework Directive implementation EWG.
    - Monitoring and Information exchange EWG.
    - Biodiversity and Ecosystem EWG.

The **DCG Secretariat** provides technical and administrative support to the DCG; Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med) serves by appointment of the Parties through the MoU as the Secretariat.

5. An Action Plan was prepared to operationalize the Drin CORDA. This has been subject to updates and amendments in accordance with the decisions of the Meeting of the Parties to the Drin MoU and the DCG. The DCG and its Secretariat guides the implementation of the action plan while its implementation is currently being supported by the Global Environment Facility<sup>1</sup> (GEF); see below.

### The GEF Drin Project

6. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) supported Project “Enabling transboundary cooperation and integrated water resources management in the extended Drin River Basin” (GEF Drin Project) is aligned in content, aims and objectives with the Action Plan and the activities under the Drin CORDA .
7. The objective of the project is to *promote joint management of the shared water resources of the transboundary Drin River Basin, including coordination mechanisms among the various sub-basin*

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<sup>1</sup> [www.thegef.org](http://www.thegef.org)

*joint commissions and committees.* Albania, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro are the Project beneficiaries.

8. The GEF Drin project is structured around five components:
  - a. Component 1: Consolidating a common knowledge base
  - b. Component 2: Building the foundation for multi-country cooperation
  - c. Component 3: Institutional strengthening for Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM)
  - d. Component 4: Demonstration of technologies and practices for IWRM and ecosystem management
  - e. Component 5: Stakeholder Involvement, Gender Mainstreaming and Communication Strategies
9. The Project is implemented by UNDP and executed by the Global Water Partnership (GWP) through GWP-Mediterranean (GWP-Med) in cooperation with UNECE; GWP-Med is responsible for the realization of the Project. The Drin Core Group is the Steering Committee (SC) of the Project.
10. It is managed by a Project Coordination Unit (PCU), based in Tirana, Albania; staff is stationed also in Podgorica, Ohrid, Pristina, and Athens. The duration of the Project is four years.

### Demonstration Activities under the GEF Drin Project

11. Within the context of the project Pilot Demonstrations are intended to provide multiple benefits to allow countries to (i) accrue direct experience on approaches, technologies, practices and organizational settings novel to the region and test their cost effectiveness and feasibility in the regional context, (ii) test cooperative arrangements, (iii) feed into the SAP formulation process.
12. The Pilot Project "*Lake Ohrid Watershed Management Plan*" is one of the six Demonstration activities of the GEF Drin Project. The objectives of this Pilot are to:
  - Develop the Lake Ohrid Watershed Management Plan in accordance with the pertaining EU regulations -especially EU Water Framework Directive- and national laws;
  - Test and establish an **Approach** (in the form of ToR for the Extended Drin Basin) for the preparation of transboundary management plans in the rivers and lakes of the Drin basin and to develop ToR for the development of the Extended Drin Basin Management Plan.
13. A Consultant Company (hereinafter "the Consultant") will be hired to implement the Pilot Project "*Lake Ohrid Watershed Management Plan*". A "Call for offers for the preparation of a Lake Ohrid Watershed Management Plan" was published on 1 August 2017 (see Annex 2; <http://www.gwp.org/en/GWP-Mediterranean/WE-ACT/News-List-Page/call-for-offers-for-the-preparation-of-a-lake-ohrid-watershed-management-plan/>). **The ToR for the implementation of LOWMP is attached as Annex 2 and constitute integral part of this ToR.**
14. GWP-Med seeks to hire an International Expert (hereinafter "the Expert") to support the PCU in the oversight of the Consultant.

## The Assignment: *Technical assistance to the Project Coordination Unit for the implementation of the Lake Ohrid Management Plan Pilot Project*

### Objective of the assignment

15. The objective of this assignment is to scientifically and technically support the PCU to oversee the implementation of the Pilot Project “*Lake Ohrid Basin Watershed Plan*” (hereinafter LOWMP) including reviewing and performing quality control of the Outputs/Deliverables of the Consultant.
16. In this framework, the Expert will oversee the implementation of the Tasks described in the Terms of Reference for the Pilot Project: “*Lake Ohrid Watershed Management Plan*” (see Annex 2) that constitutes part of the current Terms of Reference, and provide appropriate and timely advice for the successful implementation of the Pilot Project. The Expert will (the list is not exhaustive):
  - a. Assist in the selection of the Consultant.
  - b. Review all milestone Outputs/Deliverables of the Consultant as well as Draft Final Reports as described in the Consultant’s ToR (Annex 2) and propose comments/recommendations for amendments in the approach, activities and documents to:
    - i. enable improved quality.
    - ii. secure that these are in accordance to the provisions of the EU WFD.
17. The expected duration of this assignment is 1.5 years.

### Approach and Tasks

18. As part of the current assignment, the Expert will assess the quality of the work and deliverables of the Consultant to make sure that the following are taken into consideration and/or used:
  - a. all water needs, both consumptive and non-consumptive e.g. for the generation of hydroelectricity by the electricity companies as per existing plans.
  - b. the relevant international agreements between the two Lake Ohrid Riparian countries regarding the management of basins and allocation of water.
  - c. requirements of the environment as an important water user.
  - d. appropriate hydrological and land use models to identify -under different scenarios- the most appropriate interventions/measures in terms of environmental conservation and economic and social development.
19. The table below summarises the tasks of the Expert, indicating the tasks of the Consultant with which they are linked with. The tasks are further explained in the text that follows the table.

**Table 1 Tasks of the Expert**

<b>TASKS OF THE CONSULTANT (IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TOR FOR LOWMP)</b>	<b>TASKS OF THE EXPERT UNDER THIS ASSIGNMENT</b>
	➤ <b>Support the PCU in selecting the Consultant</b>
TASK I: DEVELOPMENT OF THE LAKE OHRID WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN (LOWMP)	
<u>Phase 1. Inception phase</u>	➤ <b>Review the Inception Report</b>
<u>Phase 2. Data Collection and Analysis of Existing Conditions</u>	

<b>TASKS OF THE CONSULTANT (IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TOR FOR LOWMP)</b>	<b>TASKS OF THE EXPERT UNDER THIS ASSIGNMENT</b>
- Data collection based on review of existing (historical) documents and field visits, and a possible supplementary monitoring expedition(s)	➤ <b><u>Review outputs and reports to be produced through the Data Collection and Analysis of Existing Conditions</u></b>
- Analysis of existing conditions	
- Proposal on monitoring programme for the Lake Ohrid sub-basin	➤ <b><u>Review Draft Monitoring Programme</u></b>
<b>Phase 3: Summary of river basin characterization including:</b>	➤ <b><u>Review interim progress reports and draft deliverables, and provide advise accordingly</u></b>
- Assessment of anthropogenic impacts to the status of surface and ground water bodies	
- Water utilization and demand as part of current and projected water balances	
- Location of protected areas	
- Mapping existing monitoring networks as well as results of monitoring activities	
- Protected areas	
- Assessment of water bodies of the Lake Ohrid Basin	
o Surface waters	
o Groundwater	
- Overview of the economic analysis of water use, trend projections and cost recovery of water services in the watershed	
- Identification and establishment of environmental objectives	
<b>Phase 4: Development of Programme of Measures</b>	➤ <b><u>Review Draft PoM</u></b>
- A Programme of Measures (PoM)	
- Priorities for the proposed measures and cost analysis for the implementation of the proposed measures.	
<b>Phase 5: Formulation of a Draft and Final Lake Ohrid Watershed Management Plan</b>	➤ <b><u>Review Draft Plan and comment</u></b> ➤ <b><u>Review Final Lake Ohrid Watershed Management Plan</u></b>
- Draft Lake Ohrid Watershed Management Plan	
- Lake Ohrid Watershed Management Plan	
<b>TASK II. Preparation of Terms of References (ToRs)</b>	➤ <b><u>Review the Generic ToR</u></b> ➤ <b><u>Review the Drin Basin Water Management Plan ToR</u></b>
- Generic Terms of Reference (ToR) Template for the preparation of a Basin Management Plan at the transboundary level (in English)	
- Terms of Reference (ToR) for the preparation of the Drin River Basin Management Plan (in English)	

## Requested Services

20. The International Expert will use as basis and background for the tasks and services described below the ToR of the “Call for offers for the preparation of a Lake Ohrid Watershed Management Plan” published on 1 August 2017 (see Annex 2; <http://www.gwp.org/en/GWP-Mediterranean/WE-ACT/News-List-Page/call-for-offers-for-the-preparation-of-a-lake-ohrid-watershed-management-plan/>), the provisions of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD), as well as the best available practices for the preparation of a management plan in accordance to the EU WFD. The International Expert will:

- i. **Support the PCU in selecting the Consultant to implement the Pilot Project LOWMP.** In this regard, she/he will review the Offers that will be submitted to the PCU, assess them technically

and propose for selection those offers that are technically sound and appropriate for the delivery of the work described in the ToR of the **Pilot Project LOWMP (see Annex 2)**.

- ii. **Review the Inception Report** and provide technical advice to ensure that: (i) all necessary parameters, conditions and background information are taken into consideration for the development of the methodology to be used for the successful development of the Lake Ohrid Management Plan; (ii) the methodology prepared by the Consultant for the development of the Lake Ohrid Management Plan integrates best available practices and is the appropriate for the preparation of a management plan in line with the EU WFD. For the needs of this task, the Expert will participate in the inception meetings.
- iii. **Review outputs and reports to be produced through the Phase 2 “Data Collection and Analysis of Existing Conditions”** (see Annex 2) performing quality control and provide technical advice to ensure that the work done by the Consultant offers adequate background for the preparation of the Summary of river basin characterization as well as for the development of the program of measures and overall, for the development of the Lake Ohrid Management Plan.
- iv. **Review the Draft Monitoring Programme** and provide technical advice to ensure that the information and data that this envisages to produce, complements the information to be acquired through Phase 2 (see Annex 2) so as an adequate information base is created to prepare the river basin characterization, to develop the program of measures and overall the Lake Ohrid Watershed Management Plan.
- v. **Review interim progress reports and draft deliverables related to the “Summary of river basin characterization”** (Phase 3, see Annex 2) performing quality control and provide technical advice to ensure that best available practices are used, and that the products are appropriate to form components of and contribute in the preparation of a management plan of good quality, in line with the EU WFD.
- vi. **Review the Draft and Final Lake Ohrid Watershed Management Plan** performing quality control and provide technical advice to ensure that best available practices are used and that the deliverables are in line with the EU WFD.
- vii. **Review the Generic ToR** (see Annex 2) performing quality control and provide technical advice to ensure that integrates best available practices and that the deliverable is in line with the EU WFD.
- viii. Participate in working and/or consultation meetings with the Consultant as well as consultation meetings for the development of the Lake Ohrid Management Plan. The Expert is expected to arrange directly traveling to the places the meeting will take place at. Travel costs to participate in meetings will be covered separately by the GEF Drin Project.

## Deliverables

21. The expected Deliverables of the Expert under this assignment are the following:
  - a. Expert Review, comments and advise as described above under “**Approach and Tasks**” and “**Deliverables**”.
  - b. Advice and recommendations to PCU on actions for improved implementation of the LOWMP Pilot Project.

The deliverables will be in prepared in English.

## Responsibility and Communication

22. The Expert will report to and the work under the overall guidance of the Project Manager as well as the Project Coordinator/Chief Technical Advisor. Comments and advise will be delivered to the Project Manager and the Project Coordinator who will in turn transmit these to the Consultant.

## Monitoring and Progress Controls

23. The activity will be delivered under the lead and guidance of the PCU. Deliverables will be verified by the designated staff of the PCU for integrity, comprehensiveness and quality.
24. The Expert will commence work on October 2017 and continue until completion but no later than 31 March 2019. The consultancy may be extended if further work is required or unexpected delays occur.

## Contract Price, Schedule of Activities, Deliverables and Payment

25. The Expert will be paid a fixed amount and payments will be made based on deliveries (see below). Claims for payment will be made through an invoice accompanied by proof of delivery.
26. The maximum fee for this assignment is 25,000 USD.
27. This amount includes all other costs, income taxes and any other amount payable or cost that may be required for the completion of the work/service.
28. The Schedule of Activities, Deliverables and Payment for this assignment will be defined and specified, after the detailed schedule of the selected Consultant for elaboration of the LOWMP is defined.

**Table 2 Tentative payment schedule**

Task of Consultant	Tentative period *	Deliverables of the Expert	Deadline	Expert working days	Payment
		-	Upon contract signature		20%
<b>TASK 1: DEVELOPMENT OF THE LAKE OHRID WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN (LOWMP)  Phases 1 - 5</b>	Q1 2018	Review Reports (see Table 1) Implementation advice and support to PCU	TBD		10%
	Q2 2018				15%
	Q3 2018				15%
	Q4 2018				15%
	Q1 2019				15%
<b>TASK 2</b>	Q2 2019	Review of Outputs /Deliverables – TASK 2			10%
<b>Total:</b>					100%

*\*Exact timeline to be adjusted following the detailed schedule of Deliverables /Outputs to be prepared under the contract to be established with the Consultant that will prepare the Lake Ohrid Management Plan.*

## Duration of the Contract

29. The overall duration of the contract will be 18 months.



## Location and Language of the Assignment

30. The location of the assignment will be the location that the Consultant lives. The language for all documents and reports as well as for all communication is English.

## Qualification and Experience

### 41. Academic Qualifications/Education

An advanced university degree (at least Masters) in hydrology, water management, environmental management or equivalent is required.

### 42. Required Experience

The Consultant is required to have:

- Minimum 10 years of professional experience in the environmental or water sector, with emphasis on planning aspects.
- Proven experience on: preparation of basin management plans in accordance to Water Framework Directive at a transboundary context, and/or IWRM; preparation of related reports.

### 43. Key Competencies

The Consultant is required to have the following competencies and skills:

- Very good understanding of the EU directives related to water resources and environmental management and especially the EU Water Framework Directive.
- Excellent written and spoken English.

## Annex 1. The Lake Ohrid Basin

31. Lake Ohrid, is shared by Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. It is one of Europe's oldest lakes, preserving a unique aquatic ecosystem that is of worldwide importance, with more than 200 endemic species. The importance of the lake was further emphasized when it was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1979.
32. Lake Ohrid is the deepest lake of the Balkans, with a maximum depth of 288 m and a mean depth of 155 m. It contains an estimated 55.4 km<sup>3</sup> of water. It is 30.4 km long by 14.8 km wide at its maximum extent with a shoreline length of 87.53 km.
33. The lake drains an area of around 2,600 km<sup>2</sup> and is fed primarily by: underground springs on the eastern shore, St. Naum and Tushemist being the most significant ones (~ 50% of total inflow); rivers (~25% of total inflow); direct precipitation.
34. The catchment area of the lake has a population of about 170,000 people, with 131,000 people living directly at the lake shore (43,000 of which in Albania). The historic monuments, as well as the pristine lake environment make the area around Lake Ohrid a prime site for tourism. Even though most of the visitors are staying for a weekend only, tourism makes an important share of local economy.

### *Basin and Water Management Institutions*

35. The EU WFD has been transposed to the legislative framework of both littoral countries and guides the RBM planning.
36. The implementation of the WFD and pertinent EU Directives is lagging behind transposition of the legislation in both countries. Transformation of the legislation and the organizational and institutional setup is currently taking place. Strong international support is reflected in myriad of bilateral and multilateral donor supported projects on national and local level.

### *Basin Management Plan at Transboundary Level*

37. The two Lake Ohrid littoral countries are at different stages regarding RBM planning.
38. A RBMP is currently being developed in Albania for the part of the Drin Basin extending in its territory<sup>2</sup>. The geographical area that the plan will cover includes the Albanian part of the Ohrid sub-basin. No action has been taken to coordinate the development of the plan with the neighbouring country.
39. An initial characterization of the Lake Ohrid (in accordance to the EU WFD – the same outcome has been achieved also for the Lakes Prespa and Shkodra/Skadar) has been developed, however not fully completed, under the GIZ “Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity program on the three lakes Skadar, Ohrid and Prespa”<sup>3</sup> (CSBL); furthermore, an initial attempt to set environmental objectives pursuant to the EU WFD has been made.

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<sup>2</sup> Project entitled “Preparation of River Basin Management Plans for Drin-Buna and Seman RBAs” coordinated by the Albanian institutions. It is in the framework of a World Bank technical cooperation project that started in 2012 assisting the competent Albanian Institutions in establishing a strategy on IWRM, two river basin management plans (Drin and Semani, with priority for the Drin river basin – the latter supported by Sida) and a cadastre on water uses and recharge. The time line of this project will be approximately 5 years.

<sup>3</sup> The GIZ supported CSBL has resulted in the following:

## **Annex 2. Terms of Reference for the Pilot Project Lake Ohrid Watershed Management Plan**

See file that accompanies this document.

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- A regional monitoring program that complies with the EU standards (first implementation phase) has been developed.
  - An EU-compliant (EU Water Framework, Habitats and Birds Directives) transboundary fauna and flora monitoring schemes was developed.
  - Fish quotas at Lakes Prespa, Ohrid and Shkodra/Skadar were set based on sound stock assessments.
- A second phase of the project will among others entail the:
- Continuation of surveillance monitoring;
  - Further analysis for the elaboration of environmental objectives.