



## Terms of Reference

### *Development of an Annotated Outline of a Climate Adaptation Strategy for the Drina River Basin*

In the framework of the project

***“Promoting the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in South-eastern Europe,  
through the use of the Nexus approach”***

*funded by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA),*

implemented by the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med)  
in partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

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## 1. Introduction & Background

The Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus (“Nexus”) approach has been introduced in the natural resources management agenda in order to enhance water, energy, and food security, while preserving ecosystems and their functions. The Nexus approach provides for an integrated and coordinated approach across sectors, with a view to reconciling potentially conflicting interests as they compete for the same scarce resources, while capturing existing opportunities and exploring emerging ones.

The Nexus approach is quite pertinent in South-East Europe (SEE), especially given the Region’s rich water and forest resources, the high share of hydropower in the energy mix, the key role of agriculture and the many pristine natural areas, as well as the commitment of the Economies in the Region towards sustainable development and integrated management of natural resources.

The overall aim of the “**SEE Nexus Project**”<sup>1</sup> is to introduce the Nexus approach in and catalyse action for its adoption and implementation in SEE. With activities focusing on the transboundary basins of the Drin and Drina rivers and in Albania, the Project facilitates Nexus Dialogue Processes involving a broad range of stakeholders, and the development of technical Nexus Assessments exploring cross-sectoral interlinkages, while enabling conditions for financing actions to address issues of priority.

The Project’s activities in the Drina basin follow up on previous related activities in the basin led by UNECE, including the (Phase I) Drina Nexus Assessment (2016-2017) and the Drina Nexus Follow-Up Project (2018-2019). Activities are guided by an ad-hoc Steering Committee, consisting of senior officials from Ministries and Agencies of the riparian countries (Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia) responsible for water resources management, energy policy and environmental protection. Activities are also coordinated with the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC).

Aiming to maximise its usefulness for the beneficiaries and lead to tangible outputs, the SEE Nexus Project supports the preparation of full Project Documents for interventions addressing Nexus-related issues/challenges with cross-sectoral benefits. The present assignment is in the frame of these activities under the SEE Nexus Project. The suggestion for the specific issue of focus was raised in related discussions with the members of the Steering Committee as well as the ISRBC Secretariat.

More information on the Project and its activities is available at <https://gwp.org/seenexus>

## 2. Objectives of the Assignment

- To develop Annotated Outline of a Climate Adaptation Strategy for the Drina River Basin
- To propose next steps for the development of the full Strategy
- To identify related potential pilot priority measures for implementation.

## 3. Background, scope and aims of the Assignment

### *3.1 Climate adaptation in the broader Region*

The Drina River is the largest tributary of the Sava River. The area of the Drina River Basin is 19,680 km<sup>2</sup> and is almost equally divided by three riparian countries, with 32% of the basin in the north of Montenegro, 36% of the basin in eastern Bosnia and Herzegovina, 31% in western Serbia, and less than 1% in Albania.

The climate in the basin and the broader region is already changing as demonstrated by observations on increasing temperatures, changing of precipitation patterns and more frequent and more intense

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extreme weather events. The expected impacts of climate change during the century (depending on the evolution of global emissions of greenhouse gases) will affect not only water resources and ecosystems but also settlements, infrastructure and key economic sectors such as agriculture, forestry, hydropower, navigation, tourism. Early and effective adaptation policies and measures are critical to increase resilience to and reduce risks from climate change, but also to capture potential related opportunities.

The importance of adaptation to climate change in SEE is also highlighted in the “Sofia Declaration on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans”<sup>2</sup>. One of the actions envisaged therein is “Prepare and implement climate adaptation strategies to increase resilience through climate-proofing of investments and to ensure greater integration of climate change adaptation with disaster risk reduction”.

At the sub-regional level of the Drina basin, planning and policy-making on adaptation is currently predominantly being developed at the national level in each of the 3 riparian countries which are at different stages of preparing, developing or implementing related strategies and plans. Beyond national adaptation planning, it is important to also do so at the level of transboundary river basins. As the impacts of climate change extend beyond borders, transboundary cooperation on adaptation is essential for resilience-building, advancing sustainable development and ensuring social and political stability for the riparian countries and their people. A basin approach to adaptation allows the sharing of the costs and benefits of adaptation measures, prevents possible negative effects of unilateral adaptation measures and potential related conflicts, motivates transboundary cooperation in further areas, enhances disaster management (e.g. flood forecasting) are highly dependent on early information sharing and requires forecasting data from the river basin as a whole.

In the broader Region, the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) prepared in 2012 a Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change<sup>3</sup>, addressing also the sub-basin of the Sava river. The Strategy was updated in 2018 and aims at offering guidance on the integration of climate change adaptation into ICPDR planning processes, promoting action in a multilateral and transboundary context, and serving as a reference document influencing national strategies and activities.

In 2015 the Water and Climate Adaptation Plan (WATCAP) for the Sava River Basin<sup>4</sup> was developed as a result of a study undertaken by the World Bank, and provided a range of climate change scenarios and a set of adaptation guidance notes for various sectors, including hydropower use, agriculture, and flood protection. Climate change has also been addressed in the 1st Sava River Basin Management Plan (2014) as well as in the draft 2<sup>nd</sup> Sava RBMP<sup>5</sup>. In 2018 the ISRBC prepared the Outline of the Climate Adaptation Strategy and basin-wide priority measures for the Sava River Basin<sup>6</sup>, which summarises the state of knowledge on climate change adaptation efforts in the Sava countries, elaborates on potential climate change impacts on water resources, economic sectors, nature conservation, and other sectors, and identifies adaptation guiding principles, objectives, and measures.

Specifically for the Drina river basin, the GEF-World Bank “West Balkans Drina River Basin Management Project” had among its outputs a climate change analysis which assessed the current climate conditions over the basin and their expected variation up to 2100, and defined high-resolution, bias-corrected climate projection data.

### 3.2 Scope of the Assignment

Building up on the experience of the Outline of the Climate Adaptation Strategy for the Sava River Basin, this Assignment is for the preparation of a related Outline for the Drina basin. The Outline will lay the ground towards an eventual full Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan for the Drina river basin. In that regard, it aims to contribute and feed into related policies, plans and initiatives, assist in the

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<sup>2</sup> Adopted by the Leaders of the Western Balkan countries at the Sofia Summit, held on 10 November 2020.

<sup>3</sup> For more info: <http://www.icpdr.org/main/activities-projects/climate-change-adaptation>

<sup>4</sup> Available at <https://www.savacommission.org/water-and-climate-adaptation-plan-for-the-sava-river-basin-watcap/245>

<sup>5</sup> For more info: <https://www.savacommission.org/sava-river-basin-management-planning/264>

<sup>6</sup> Available at: <https://www.savacommission.org/documents-and-publications/technical-and-project-reports/outline-of-the-climate-adaptation-strategy/243>

identification, prioritisation and preparation of climate-related projects and investments, and increase synergies with broader policy areas.

The Outline should provide an overview of the current status and suggest further lines of work in terms of climate-related knowledge and integration of climate adaptation and resilience across sectors. It should also identify measures of priority and potential financing sources, explore options for monitoring, evaluation, and public participation, outline social and gender considerations, propose capacity building activities etc.

**The suggested structure – table of contents of the Outline is available in Annex 1.**

#### **4. Methodology and tasks**

For the preparation of the Outline, the consultant is expected to perform the following tasks:

##### **Task 1: Policy review, identification of stakeholders, finalisation of scope and structure of the Outline – Inception Report**

The consultant will:

- a. identify all the key stakeholders and beneficiaries that need to be engaged and/or consulted for the development of the Outline, and identify required data and information and related sources
- b. identify and review all related Reports and outputs of related initiatives from the Region including those mentioned in section 3.1 above
- c. identify and review all national strategic documents and priorities related to climate adaption from the Drina riparian countries
- d. Identify and review similar strategies developed in other transboundary basins worldwide
- e. identify key potential financing sources and instruments that could finance the eventual development of the Climate Adaptation Strategy for the Drina river basin
- f. suggest potential restructuring of the structure of the Outline (Annex 1) as well as potential provision of supplementary materials which are currently not covered in Annex 1.

The above will be captured in an **Inception Report** which will include among others:

- the information collected under (a) - (e) above
- a description of the approach to be followed for the development of the Outline
- list of stakeholders to be consulted and draft plan of consultations
- information gaps that were identified and suggestions to overcome them
- suggested structure of the Outline
- detailed work plan for the preparation of the Outline

The Inception report will be finalised in consultation with GWP-Med.

GWP-Med can assist in the identification of related policy documents, projects and/or stakeholders.

##### **Task 2: Consultations and development of draft Outline**

The consultant is required to plan and conduct consultations (physical and/or virtual) with the key stakeholders identified under Task 1. Overall, the consultations will assist the consultant to harvest and understand the needs and expectations of the stakeholders and beneficiaries, so as these are reflected in the exact definition of the scope and structure of the Outline. This will also support the identification of potential partners for the next steps toward the development of the full Strategy.

Based on the outcomes of these consultations, as well as on the findings of activities under Task 1, a **draft Outline** of the Climate Adaptation Strategy for the Drina river basin will be prepared, following the

structure agreed on during the Inception phase. A report on the consultations held will be annexed to the draft Outline. The draft Outline will then be discussed with the beneficiaries and GWP-Med.

Travel costs associated to the missions will be covered by the consultant (to be included in financial offer) at no additional expenses to the contractor.

**Task 3: Development of the full Outline**

Based on the results from Tasks 1 & 2, the consultant will draft the full Outline and any accompanying material addressing all comments received.

**5. Deliverables/Outputs**

The deliverables/outputs of this assignment are:

1. **Inception report**, as described under Task 1 above
2. **Draft Outline** as a result of the desk study & consultations, as described under Task 2 above, including as Annex the reports of the consultation meetings
3. **Final Outline** where comments are fully addressed.

**6. Contract price, duration, schedule of deliverables and payments**

The maximum fee for this assignment is **30,000 EUR**. 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, including VAT.

The overall duration of the contract will be for a maximum of **4 months** after contract signature.

Payments will be made upon acceptance and verification of the related deliverables, as laid out in the table below.

*Table: Schedule of deliverables and payments*

Tasks	Deliverables	Deadline	Payment Schedule
1. Policy review, identification of stakeholders, finalisation of scope and structure of the Outline	D1. Inception Report (See under “4. Methodology and tasks” for details)	1 month after contract signature	Tranche 1: 20%
2. Consultations and development of draft Outline	D2. Draft Outline, including reports of consultations (See under “4. Methodology and tasks” for details)	2 months after contract signature	Tranche 2: 30%
3. Development of the full Outline	D3. Final Outline	4 months after contract signature	Tranche 3: 50%

**7. Selection Criteria (pass / fail)**

Successful participant (Natural or Legal Person or Entity):

- Must have a record of minimum 3 assignments/projects over the last 10 years of comparable nature and degree of complexity relevant to those required for this Contract.
- Must be enrolled in one of the official professional or trade registries kept in their country of registration.
- The proposed Team Leader must have
  - o Post graduate diploma (at least MSc or equivalent) in a field relevant to the Assignment (e.g. Water resources management, Natural resources management, Environmental Policy/Management, Environmental engineering etc)
  - o Excellent oral and written communication skills in English.

**Failure to provide the minimum required criteria is considered ground for disqualification**

## 8. Qualification and Experience

Participants in the call are required to have solid experience in developing and managing complex projects in the field related to the tasks described in the ToR. This needs to be demonstrated in the **Technical Offer** to be submitted as part of the application. A template for the Technical Offer form is available in the Call for Offers.

The Technical Offer Form consists of the following sections:

- Section 1: Expertise and work experience
- Section 2: Approach and Methodology

The required and desired qualifications are presented below. **Failure to provide the minimum required qualifications is considered ground for disqualification.** Qualifications additional to the minimum requested per category will receive additional score under the evaluation process as described in the section "Evaluation Process and Awarding Criterion". In the case of a team of experts / company, the required qualifications apply only for the Team Leader, whereas the desired qualifications apply cumulatively.

### Work experience -Team Leader (Required):

- Minimum 15 years of professional experience in the field of integrated natural resources management
- Minimum one assignment/project relevant to climate adaptation policies in a transboundary river basin context.

### Work experience (Desired) (Cumulatively in the case of more than one Experts) :

- Minimum 3 assignments/projects directly relevant to integrated natural resources management in the Drina river basin OR 1 in each of the riparian countries (Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia)
- Minimum 3 assignments/projects relevant to the development or assessment of climate adaptation policies, plans or strategies
- Knowledge of one of the languages spoken in the Drina basin.

## 9. Evaluation Process and Awarding Criterion

The Award criterion is the most economically advantageous tender on the basis of best price / quality ratio.

Offers qualified in terms of exclusion grounds and selection criteria will be further evaluated on the basis of the requirements presented under section “Qualification and Experience”, as follows:

(1) Criterion	(2) Weighting (w)	(3) Points of criterion (c)	(4) Score = (2) x (3)
<b>Section 1: Expertise and work experience</b>	<b>75% total</b>		
<i>Required</i>			
2.1 Minimum 15 years of professional experience in the field of integrated natural resources management	15%		
2.2 Minimum one assignment/project relevant to climate adaptation policies in a transboundary river basin context.	25%		
<i>Desired</i>			
2.3 Minimum 3 assignments/projects directly relevant to integrated natural resources management in the Drina river basin OR 1 in each of the riparian countries (Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia)	20%		
2.4 Minimum 3 assignments/projects relevant to the development or assessment of climate adaptation policies, plans or strategies	10%		
2.5 Knowledge of one of the languages spoken in the Drina basin	5%		
<b>Section 2: Approach and Methodology</b>	<b>25% total</b>		
Approach to the requested Assignment: detailed description of the methodology how the Participant will achieve all objectives and tasks and deliver all outputs as described in the Terms of Reference of the assignment, keeping in mind the appropriateness to local conditions.	20%		
Risks / Mitigation Measures: description of the potential risks for the implementation of this assignment that may impact achievement and timely completion of expected results as well as their quality. Describe measures that will be put in place to mitigate these risks.	5%		

**Scoring** for each evaluated section will be made as following:

**Section 1** – Expertise and work experience: For Section 1 score starts at 100 points (when minimum requirements are met) and can reach 150 points depending on the description of the participant and the number of projects implemented in excess of those required as a minimum. (100p Base +10p for extra criteria over base up to 50 additional points)

**Section 2** – Approach and Methodology: For Section 2, score starts at 100 points and can reach 150 points depending on the length, detail, depth, and structure of the information provided.

Each Section/evaluation criterion is evaluated autonomously. The final scoring of each evaluation criterion is the outcome of its scoring multiplied by the corresponding weighting factor. The overall score of the technical offer is the sum of the final scoring of all the Sections/evaluation criteria.

The overall score of the technical offer is calculated on the basis of the following formula:

$$B_i = w_1 \times c_1 + w_2 \times c_2 + \dots$$

For the overall score which will determine the ranking of offers, technical evaluation will be weighted with 80%, and the financial offer with 20%.

The final listing of the most advantageous offers will be made on the basis of the following formula:

$$\Lambda_i = 0.8 * (B_i/B_{max}) + 0.2 * (K_{min}/K_i).$$

Where:

- B<sub>max</sub>: the max score received by the best of the technical offers received
- B<sub>i</sub>: the score of the technical offer
- K<sub>min</sub>: The cost of the financial offer with the minimum price offered.
- K<sub>i</sub>: The cost of the financial offer

The most advantageous offers is the one with the greater value of  $\Lambda$ .

In case of equality of overall scores, the winning proposal is the one whose corresponding technical proposal received the highest rating.

## 10. Monitoring and Progress Controls

Mr. Tassos Krommydas, Senior Programme Officer at GWP-Med, will be providing oversight and guidance from the side of the Project Team. Coordination calls between the consultant and the Project Team will be held at least monthly, to monitor the progress with regard to the workplan submitted with the Inception Report.

Services will be rendered and will be considered completed upon approval of the deliverables by the Project Coordinator and the GWP-MED Executive Secretary Mr. Vangelis Constantianos.

## 11. Place of Performance

This assignment is home based with possible field missions for consultations. The tasks will be carried out from a place of the Consultant's preference.

## 12. Terms and Conditions

- *Language*

The language of the deliverables/outputs is English.

- *Data and information*

GWP-Med can assist in the identification of related policy documents, projects and/or stakeholders.

The consultant is responsible to collect all additional information and data necessary for the completion of this assignment. Missing information (from any side) would not be considered as eligible reason for not completing the tasks.

- *Submission of data, reports and other material produced*

All primary data, reports, and other documentation produced during this assignment shall be made available to the Project Team in electronic format. All data acquired, and products developed during the



assignment will be in the ownership of the SEE Nexus Project and cannot be used by the Consultant and its team without prior written permission.

- *Cooperation requirements*

The Consultant is expected to work closely with the Project Team and the beneficiaries (visited during the field missions).

- *Review and quality assurance*

Review of the work carried out by the Consultant throughout the implementation of the assignment as well as review of the deliverables may be carried out by an independent external expert or expert team.

Review of the project final deliverables may be carried out by relevant experts or Expert Working Groups of the beneficiaries.

All relevant comments and suggestions made by the reviewer(s) will have to be taken into consideration by the Consultant and integrated in the final versions of the deliverables.

- *Public consultations / meetings*

The responsibility for organizing any required workshops or working meetings will be shared between the Consultant and the Project Team. The Consultant shall be responsible for: preparation of working material invitations, agenda, technical specifications etc. ensuring participation of the key team members as required, preparation of minutes etc. The Project Team will be responsible for: distributing the invitations and enabling participation.

<b>13. Annexes</b>
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Annex 1 – Suggested structure – Table of contents of the Outline