



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



8th Stakeholder Conference

Friday, 9 July 2021

Agenda

In the framework of:

Memorandum of Understanding
for the Management of the Extended Transboundary Drin Basin

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

The on-line conference will review progress regarding the cooperation for the management of the Drin Basin and will discuss steps ahead.

The GEF Drin Project has been the main vehicle of support for the implementation of the 2011 Drin Memorandum of Understanding and pivotal in creating the conditions for closer cooperation among the Drin Riparians for the management of the Drin Basin. The **operationalization of the Drin Core Group (DCG)**, constituting this the de facto joint coordination body, was -undoubtedly- the most significant result. The **Strategic Action Programme** -endorsed at Ministerial level on 24 April 2020- including the steps and actions to address the main transboundary problems identified through the **Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis**, are the key outputs of the GEF Drin project underpinning and carving the future course of action. The main outcomes achieved through this investment under the leadership and guidance of the Drin Riparians through the Drin Core Group, will be presented along with the opportunities it created for the future, to enhance cooperation and impactful action towards sustainable natural resources management.

In addition to the GEF Drin project, there have been significant interventions implemented with the support of donor countries, organizations and institutions that have been traditionally active in the Drin Basin area and its sub-basins. These interventions have contributed to addressing national priorities, and directly or indirectly in the implementation of the Drin Strategic Action Programme. These will be also presented during the web-based event.

The views of Drin Basin actors regarding the needs and opportunities for a cooperative and sustainable future for the Drin basin will be reflected in this partnership event.

Agenda

10:00 – 10:05

Welcome – Opening Remarks

- *Mr. Dimitris Faloutsos, DCG Secretariat*

10:05 – 10:30

Introductory statements

- *Mr. Konstantinos Aravossis, Secretary General of Natural Environment & Water, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Greece*
- *Mr. Danilo Mrdak, State Secretary, Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism, Montenegro (tbc)*
- *Ms. Kaja Sukova, State Secretary, the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, North Macedonia*
- *Ms. Gerta Lubonja, Director, Agency of Water Resources Management, Albania*
- *Ms. Limya Eltayeb, Resident Representative, UNDP Albania*
- *Mr. Steffen Cole Brandstrup Hansen, Environmental Specialist, Global Environment Facility*

10:30 – 11:50

Session 1 - The Drin Coordinated Action

- **Implementing the Drin MoU; results and steps ahead - The pivotal role of the GEF Drin Project**

- *Mr. Dimitris Faloutsos, DCG Secretariat*

- **Achievements and prospects – the views of the Drin Riparians**

Representatives of the Drin Riparians will present their views regarding the present and future of cooperation for the management of the Drin Basin and the contribution of the GEF supported project in this respect.

10:45 - 10:55 *Mr. Arduen Karagjozi, Agency of Water Resources Management, Albania*

10:55 - 11:05 *Ms. Evmorfia Alexopoulou, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Greece*

11:05 - 11:15 *Ms. Letafete Latifi, Ministry of Environment Spatial Planning and Infrastructure, Kosovo*

11:15 - 11:25 *Ms. Ivana Stojanovic, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, Montenegro*

11:25 - 11:35 *Mr. Ylber Mirta, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, North Macedonia*

- **Achievements and prospects – the views of international organizations**

11:35 - 11:40 *Ms. Sarangoo Radnaaragchaa, Regional Advisor on Environment, UNECE*

11:40 - 11:45 *Mr. Vladimir Mamaev, Regional Technical Advisor, UNDP*

11:45 - 11:50 *Mr. Vangelis Constantianos, Executive Secretary/Regional Coordinator, GWP – Med*

11:50 - 12:20

Questions and answers

12:20 - 13:00

Session 2 -Thematic and sectoral actions promoting basin management and transboundary cooperation

- **Development partners active at the regional, basin and Riparian level briefly present the initiatives and projects they support**

12:20 - 12:30 *Mr. Martin Wolff, Team leader, EUSWIM project, ADA*

12:30 - 12:40 *Mr. Gerrit Bodenbender, Adaptation to Climate Change through Transboundary Flood Risk Management in the Western Balkans project, GIZ*

12:40 - 12:50 *Mr. Bojan Kovacevic, Regional Project Manager, AF Drin Flood Risk Management Project, UNDP*

12:50 - 13:00 *Ms. Mirjam de Koning, Executive Director, Prespa Ohrid Nature Trust*

- **Moderated Panel Discussion**

Representatives of the Drin Riparians and the development partners will participate in a moderated discussion focusing on the priorities among the SAP actions as well as about on-going and future interventions and how these may lead in the implementation of the Drin SAP and the enhancement of coordinated management of the Drin Basin.

Questions from the participants will feed the discussion.