



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



Terms of reference *Development of the Stress Reduction and Environmental Status Indicators for the Drin Basin*

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”

September 2019

The Coordinated Action for the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding for the management of the Drin basin (Drin CORDA) is supported by the GEF Drin Project. The latter is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and executed by the Global Water Partnership (GWP) through GWP-Mediterranean (GWP-Med), in cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). GWP-Med serves as the Secretariat of the Drin Core Group, the multilateral body responsible for the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Disclaimer: The document adheres to the UN rules and policies regarding the names and international status of countries and/or other geographical areas etc. The use of characterizations, names, maps or other geographical statements in this document in no way implies any political view or positions of the Parties which are executing and implementing the Project.

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Introduction

The Drin Basin extends in a large part of the Western Balkans. It consists of several sub-basins, the uppermost of which is that of the Prespa Lakes, while the lowest that of the Buna/Bojana River, adjacent to the Adriatic Sea. The Drin River is the “connecting agent” of the Drin Basin, linking tributary rivers, lakes, aquifers, and other aquatic habitats into a complex ecosystem of major importance.

The Prespa Lakes sub-basin comprises of two lakes; the Micro (small) Prespa shared by Greece and Albania, and the Macro (big) Prespa shared by Albania, Greece and North Macedonia. Water flows through underground karst channels from the Prespa to the Lake Ohrid. Shared by Albania and North Macedonia, Ohrid is the largest lake in terms of water volume in SEE. The only surface outflow of Lake Ohrid, the Black Drin, flows north through North Macedonia and it enters Albania where it meets the White Drin -originating from Kosovo- to form the Drin River. Flowing westward through Albania, the Drin joins the Buna/Bojana River 1 km downstream of the outlet of Lake Skadar/Shkoder, near the city of Shkodra. Shared by Albania and Montenegro, Skadar/Shkoder is the largest lake in terms of surface in SEE. The Buna/Bojana River drains Lake Skadar/Shkoder sub-basin and flows into the Adriatic Sea; its final tract (23 km) forms the Albania - Montenegro borderline.

The Drin transboundary system offers an excellent example of interdependencies created among different anthropogenic uses (agriculture, hydropower generation, industry, fisheries, tourism, urban settlements, etc.) as well as among uses and ecosystems, in four major inter-connected inland water bodies and a receiving sea.

The Drin Memorandum of Understanding

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, North Macedonia, Greece, Kosovo and Montenegro. This was the outcome of the Drin Dialogue coordinated by Global Water Partnership Mediterranean (GWP-Med) and UNECE.

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 **ultimate goal** of the work in the Drin Basin is to reach a point in the future where the scale of management lifts from single water bodies to the hydrological interconnected system of the Drin Basin, eventually leading from the sharing of waters among Riparians and conflicting uses, to the sharing of benefits among stakeholders.

The Drin Coordinated Action

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.

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.

- Four **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.
 - Floods management EWG (established in 2019).

The **DCG Secretariat** provides technical and administrative support to the DCG; GWP-Med serves by appointment of the Parties through the MoU as the Secretariat.

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 Facility¹ (GEF); see below.

The GEF Drin Project

The 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.

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 joint commissions and committees*. Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro and North Macedonia are the Project beneficiaries.

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

The Project is implemented by UNDP and executed by the Global Water Partnership (GWP) through GWP-Med in cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE); GWP-Med is responsible for the realization of the Project. The Drin Core Group is the Steering Committee (SC) of the Project.

It is managed by a Project Coordination Unit (PCU) with staff in Tirana, Podgorica, Ohrid, Pristina, and Athens. The duration of the Project is four years.

¹ www.thegef.org

Objective

The development of Stress Reduction Indicators (SRI) and Environmental Status Indicators (ESI) for the Drin Basin.

Scope of work - Methodology

The Knowledge Background

GEF International Waters Projects should include the identification of the appropriate **Process, Stress Reduction, and/or Environmental Status Indicators**².

These indicators should use information from, associate closely with and supplement the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Programme.

The Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis/Strategic Action Programme (TDA/SAP) approach is a highly collaborative process that has proven to be a major strategic planning tool for GEF International Waters Projects over the last 20 years³.

The main technical role of a TDA is to identify, quantify, and set priorities for environmental problems that are transboundary in nature.

The GEF Drin Project carried out a **Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)** to:

- Identify and assess transboundary -including water and other natural resources as well as environmental management- issues/challenges.
- Assess the environmental impacts and socio-economic consequences of each issue.
- Identify the immediate and underlying causes of these issues among the social and economic sectors and activities. Furthermore, the TDA identifies the related root causes/ drivers that ultimately create these issues.

The development and drafting process of the Drin River Basin TDA was carried out between July 2016 and December 2018.

The Drin TDA is the core document, that synthesizes the findings of basin-wide Thematic Reports, undertaken at three levels: Sub-basin level; Riparian level within each sub-basin; and the extended Drin basin:

- Thematic Report on Institutional and Legal setting
- Thematic Report on Socioeconomics
- Thematic Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystems
- Thematic Report on Hydrology and Hydrogeology
- Thematic Report on Pollution and Water Quality
- Thematic Report on the Nexus⁴.

² For more detailed information on the 3 key GEF indicators utilized in the International Water Projects, please refer to: http://iwlearn.net/publications/misc/duda_indicator.pdf/view

³ IW:LEARN TDA/SAP Methodology and training Course (2013)

⁴ The Nexus assessment/approach looks into the interlinkages and trade-offs among the sectors of water, land, energy and environment aiming to identify solutions that will foster not only water and environment security,

The Thematic Reports developed, assist in enhancing the knowledge basis of the Drin Riparians regarding the state of the natural and anthropogenic environment in the basin. They include the necessary elements to be used as building blocks for the development of a **Drin Basin Management Plan** in accordance to the EU Water Framework Directive (EU WFD). **The TDA is intended to serve as a baseline against which future progress is measured. The TDA provide a solid base for the development of appropriate indicators.**

The TDA identified four key transboundary problems each exacerbated by the impacts from climate variability and change:

- **Deterioration of Water Quality**
- **Variability of Hydrological Regime**
- **Biodiversity Degradation**
- **Sediment Transport**

A Causal Chain Analysis was part of the TDA development that identified causes either related to the inadequacy of infrastructure or policies or enforcement. The TDA provides the factual basis for the formulation of a Strategic Action Programme (SAP).

The SAP is a negotiated policy document that should be endorsed at the highest level. It establishes clear priorities for action to resolve the priority transboundary problems identified in the TDA. Two key elements of the SAP are: (1) a well-defined baseline -provided by the TDA- (2) monitoring and evaluation procedures to measure effectiveness of the outcomes of the process for the implementation of the managerial actions agreed by the countries and included in the SAP.

The draft Drin Basin SAP is ready (to be provided to the selected consultant); the Riparians will discuss this and the line Ministers will adopt it -should an agreement is reached- until the end of 2019.

The Drin Basin SAP draws -in addition to the TDA- on the Drin MoU. The Drin MoU presented a clear vision (titled 'Objective') and identified seven 'common concerns' within the basins which are reaffirmed in the SAP as '**Goals**' to be achieved through the implementation of specific **Objectives**. For each Objective, a series of **Management Actions** are detailed which include: Timescale; Priority; Location; Responsible organisation; Financing; Budget; Process indicators; Link to TB Problem; and Link to Thematic Report.

The **Goals** are:

- Goal 1: Improving access to comprehensive data and adequate information to fully understand the current state of the environment and the water resources and the hydrologic system (including surface, underground and coastal waters) as well as ecosystems of the Drin Basin.
- Goal 2: Establish conditions for a sustainable use of water and other natural resources.
- Goal 3: Develop cooperation and measures to minimise flooding especially in the lower parts of the Drin Basin.
- Goal 4: Improve management and appropriate disposal of solid wastes.
- Goal 5: Decrease nutrient pollution deriving from untreated or poorly treated wastewater discharges and unsustainable agricultural practices.
- Goal 6: Decrease pollution from hazardous substances such as heavy metals and pesticides.
- Goal 7: Minimise effects of hydro-morphologic interventions that alter the nature of the hydrologic system and the supported ecosystems, resulting in their deterioration.

but also energy and food security. In other words, the nexus assessment has no bias towards a specific sector and is multi-centric by definition.

The content of the TDA and its Thematic Report as well as the content of the SAP provide the necessary input for the consultant to work on for the development of the indicators.

Stress Reduction Indicators (SRIs) and Environmental Status Indicators (ESIs)

Having achieved a shared understanding of the present baseline conditions in the Drin Basin and the major transboundary issues -through the TDA and the included therein Causal Chain Analysis- **the project will work to define appropriate indicators that will allow the Riparians to monitor in a harmonized way and in the short, medium and long term the evolution of the system and its reaction to the various stress reduction measures and interventions that countries will undertake in the near and more distant future within the SAP implementation context or otherwise.**

The -endorsed by the Drin Riparians through the DCG- Stress Reduction Indicators (SRI) and Environmental Status Indicators (ESI) will be the means to measure actual performance or success in restoring and protecting the targeted water body. Social indicators should be included to measure whether communities and stakeholders benefit from the changes in environmental conditions brought about by the implementation of the SAP. Definitions of SRI and ESI are given in Annex 1.

Indicators Template

The main product of this assignment should be an Indicators Template. The template should present the proposed indicators against the:

1. Identified and potential socioeconomic and environmental issues indicated in the TDA and its thematic reports in all sub-basins of the Drin Basin.
2. Goals, objectives, sub-objectives and managerial actions included in SAP.

The indicators under each issue/goal/objective should be classified:

- according to their importance, urgency of application, availability of data to populate the indicator and eventual multiple function (potential use of the indicator for reporting under the EU or UN);
- into “**Core**” and into “1st, 2nd, 3rd wave” or otherwise (see below under section “the Process and Sources of Information).

Indicators and Selection Criteria

Selection of Indicators to be included in the Template – Criteria and characteristics to be taken into consideration

There are several methodologies and criteria for the selection of appropriate indicators for assessing the stress reduction and the environmental status.

The indicators to be selected would be determined largely by the objectives, the nature of the proposed interventions or activities, the feasibility and cost of collecting various types of information and data, and the institutional capability for incorporating them into analysis and decision-making processes. Indicators that measure project impacts quantitatively as opposed to indicators that simply identify direction of change in environmental performance are particularly useful and preferable.

The following groups of indicators and characteristics should be considered:

1. Indicators directly linked to the background and content of the TDA and the SAP more specifically:
 - Goals, objectives, sub-objectives and actions included in the SAP.
 - The Transboundary issues and the respective causes identified through the Drin TDA.
 - The key issues, and their causes identified in the Drin Situation Analysis.
 - Quantitative information included in the Thematic Reports of the TDA.

2. Indicators relevant/compatible to other regional and international frameworks such as the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD), the Barcelona Convention, the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (UNECE Water Convention), the UN SDGs, etc. Particularly for the EU WFD, taking into account the aspiration and efforts of the Riparians to join the EU, provisions should be made for the harmonization of the proposed indicators with those of EU WFD in the medium-long term. Furthermore, whenever possible, the core indicators should be common to those of regional and international initiatives, so that they represent a common tool to assist governments in meeting international requirements for reporting and avoid imposing to them an unnecessary burden. This would also help to improve information consistency at the national, regional, and international levels.
3. Indicators suitable to be populated by the available data and statistics. A number of initiatives for developing and compiling environmental statistics have been undertaken in the Drin Basin. While some data are available for a number of the indicators, it is necessary for the consultant to identify all major available data banks, data sets and significant gaps/data missing in each one of the Riparians.

Furthermore, the indicators should have some generic qualities such as, being:

- Simple, comprehensive and feasible so to allow the Riparian countries to monitor the stress reduction / environmental status in a harmonized way.
- Adaptable in the sense that they could be “upgraded” or become more stringent with time following the hopefully positive evolution and enhanced environmental status of the Drin system as a result of implementation of stress reduction measures and interventions that the Riparian countries will undertake within the framework of the SAP implementation.

Finally, the consultant should consider the so called “**SMART**” Concept of Indicators:

- Simple (easily interpreted and monitored)
- Measurable (statistically verifiable, reproducible and show trends)
- Accessible (regularly monitored, cost effective and consistent)
- Relevant (directly address issues or agreed objectives)
- Timely (provide early warning of potential problems)

An indicative attempt to combine the above criteria is given as an example in the following list, which is by no means, complete or obligatory for the consultant to follow:

- Serve as a robust indicator of environmental change/stress reduction;
- Reflect a fundamental or highly valued aspect of the environment;
- Be applicable to regional or sub-regional environmental issues (of regional and/or national significance);
- Provide an early warning of potential problems;
- Be capable of being monitored to provide statistically verifiable and reproducible data that show trends over time and, preferably, apply to a broad range of sub-basins;
- Be scientifically credible;
- Be easy to understand;
- Be monitored regularly with relative ease and cost-effectiveness;
- Have relevance to policy and management needs;
- Contribute to monitoring of progress towards implementing commitments in regionally and/or nationally important environmental policies;
- Where possible and appropriate, facilitate community involvement;
- Contribute to the fulfillment of reporting obligations under international agreements with emphasis on those addressing EU requirements;

- Where possible and appropriate, be consistent and comparable with indicators related to the SDGs.

It is evident that each proposed indicator should meet as many as possible of the aforementioned criteria.

The Process and Sources of Information

The selected consultant should carefully study the Methodology proposed in the present ToR and submit any comments or questions on points that may require clarification to be discussed with the DCG Secretariat. The result of the discussion will be consolidated in the Methodology.

The TDA should serve as the baseline against which future progress could be measured and the efficiency and effectiveness of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) be assessed.

It is clarified that the contract does not provide for the development of “Process Indicators” to assess directly the progress of the implementation but focuses on the SRIs and ESIs.

The consultant should follow the **Steps** described herewith:

1. Review, through a **desk study**, the documentation produced within the GEF project (the Drin MoU, TDA and its Thematic Reports, SAP) and:
 - a) Compile a **consolidated list of key themes and sub-themes** to be addressed, on which indicators should be developed.
 - b) Map in detail and enlist: (i) all **major national, regional and sub-regional agencies** and bodies holding and/or treating data relevant to the identified and potential socioeconomic and environmental issues indicated in the TDA and its thematic reports in all sub-basins of the Drin Basin as well as to the goals, objectives and actions included in the SAP; (ii) other stakeholders competent to measure, collect, assess and/or treat data, useful to populate the indicators. Provide a preliminary identification of missing expertise and infrastructures and capacity needs.
 - c) Enlist all indicators formally requested by and parameters linked to regional and multilateral conventions agreements and frameworks where the Riparians are involved in and for which they have reporting obligations.
 - d) Collect all available information about indicators already utilized by the Riparians.

The desk study should take also into account the relevant published, unpublished and draft reports at Riparian level referring to indicators and the state of the environment in the Drin Basin and its sub-basins. Particular attention should be given to reports by UN organisations and bodies and regional and national sources including work carried out within the framework of transboundary and multilateral conventions and agreements as well as the national efforts related to the relevant SDGs.

2. Produce a brief **Consolidation Report** summarizing the information collected through the desk study. The report should contain in annexes evidences of information collected through step 1 (see above). This report will be submitted to the DCG Secretariat for comments. The Consolidation Report should contain all indicators related data as described in step 1;
3. This step is to be used for the verification of information collected and filling-in gaps identified under 2. The consultant will address the Riparians to verify and possibly enrich the report, through a **questionnaire**. The draft of the questionnaire will be submitted for approval to the DCG Secretariat prior to its dissemination. The approved questionnaire will be **distributed electronically** to a wide list of competent agencies and stakeholders to collect information related to the content of the Consolidation Report and more specifically on:
 - a) Eventual lists of relevant indicators, national, regional or international, utilized already.

- b) Any SRIs and ESIs or other indicators related to transboundary issues under consideration proposed and/or in “the pipeline”.
 - c) Any other relevant indicator the Riparians may wish to consider.
 - d) Existing agencies and infrastructures, competent for collection and treatment of data and verify capacity needs.
4. On the basis of the replies and the comments received through the electronically disseminated questionnaire, the **Amended Consolidation Report will be produced where** the capacity needs will be identified and a **“Preliminary Draft Indicators Template”** (see page 7 under section Indicators Template) will be proposed by the consultant. The indicators to be included in the Preliminary Draft Indicators Template should be chosen among those identified through steps 1-3 above. In case the identified indicators through steps 1-3 above are not sufficient⁵ for the Preliminary Draft Indicators Template, the consultant is expected to develop appropriate indicators to measure stress reduction and environmental change through the actions included in the SAP. The Preliminary Draft Template will be submitted to the DCG Secretariat for comments and the eventually amended template will constitute the **“Zero Draft Indicators Template”**.
 5. **“Face to face” interviews/ground truthing survey** with the responsible officials of competent authorities of the Riparians and (eventually) a limited number of other competent stakeholders will be done with the assistance/involvement of appropriate local experts. The questionnaire and the Zero Draft Indicators Template will be used in this regard.
 6. The information collected, in steps 3 and 5, should allow the consultant to consolidate the various indicators, either already utilized or proposed by the Riparians or proposed by the consultants. The consultant should compile a **Preliminary Final Report** including information and tables as follows:
 - a) Indicators in place in the Riparian Countries.
 - b) Indicators requested or considered by the Riparians under various multi-lateral agreements, programmes, conventions, etc.
 - c) Reference table containing selected important indicators applied in the EU, in UN Water related projects and worldwide.
 - d) **1st Draft of Indicators Template** containing indicators proposed by the consultant. Among them, a set will be identified as **Core** indicators based on the criteria mentioned. The rest may be further classified in sets to be introduced gradually within a given timeframe (e.g. 1st, 2nd, 3rd wave).
 - e) The capacity needs of the Riparians as it concerns collection, handling and monitoring of indicators, taking into account, the existing agencies and infrastructures.
 7. The Preliminary Final Report including the **“1st Draft Indicators Template”** will be submitted to DCG Secretariat for comments. Comments will be collected and, after the necessary clarifications, a **2nd Draft Indicators Template** will be prepared by the consultant identifying also areas of eventual lack of agreement or needing further development/elaboration, including the timeframe for the gradual implementation of the proposed indicators.
 8. The **2nd Draft Indicators Template** will be presented by the consultant in a **meeting** to be coordinated by an external facilitator (appointed by DCG Secretariat). The meeting will, hopefully, reach agreement by consensus for any additional needed amendments on the basis of which the consultant will prepare the **Final Template of SRIs and ESIs** and the timeframe for their gradual introduction and implementation (in groups).
 9. The **Final draft Indicators Template** and timeframe should be formally approved by the Drin Core Group.

⁵ In terms of allowing the Riparians to monitor in a harmonized way and in the short, medium and long term the evolution of the system and its reaction to the various stress reduction measures and interventions that countries will undertake in the near and more distant future within the SAP implementation context or otherwise.

Deliverables/Outputs

The deliverables/outputs of this assignment are:

1. A confirmed, **refined Methodology** based on the process and action steps proposed for the achievement of the objectives of the assignment, proposed in the ToRs.
2. **Brief Consolidation Report** summarizing the information collected through the desk study. The report should contain in annexes evidences of information collected through step 1.
3. **Questionnaire** to collect information related to the content of the Consolidation Report and more specifically on:
 - a) Eventual lists of relevant indicators, national, regional or international, utilized already.
 - b) Any SRIs and ESIs or other indicators related to transboundary issues under consideration proposed and/or in “the pipeline”.
 - c) Any other relevant indicator the Riparians may wish to consider.
 - d) Existing agencies and infrastructures, competent for collection and treatment of data and verify capacity needs.
4. **Amended Consolidation Report including** the capacity needs, and a **Preliminary Draft Indicators Template**
5. **Zero Draft Indicators Template**
6. A **Ground Truthing Survey** carried out in all Riparians by local experts
7. A **Preliminary Final Report** including information and tables as described in step 6 above as well as the **1st Draft Indicators Template**.
8. The **2nd Draft Indicators Template**
9. A **meeting/workshop** for the presentation and discussion of the draft and agreement and the **meeting report**
10. The **Final Report** including the identified capacity needs and the **Indicators Template** as well as the **Roadmap** for its implementation.

Monitoring and Progress Controls

Mr. Dimitris Faloutsos, Project Coordinator will be providing oversight and guidance from the side of the PCU.

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.

Place of Performance

This assignment is home based. The tasks will be carried out from a place of the Consultant’s preference.

Qualification and Experience

Education

At least MSc degree or equivalent in Natural Sciences (in case of a group of experts the experience listed below applies for the lead expert).

Work experience

- Minimum 10 years of professional experience in the field of natural resources and environmental management including the use and development of Stress Reduction and Environmental Status Indicators (Required).
- Minimum 1 project on the development of Stress Reduction and Environmental Status Indicators (Required).
- Minimum 10 years of professional experience on environmental assessment, analysis and monitoring OR designing and monitoring of environmental measures (Required).
- Experience with transboundary water resources management (Required).
- Experience with GEF IW project implementation is desirable.
- Experience in working in the Drin Basin and/or its sub-basins is desirable.

Excellent written and spoken English is required for this assignment.

Duration of the Contract

- The duration of the agreement is 8 months.

Contract Price, Deliverables and Schedule of Payment

The maximum fee for the tasks described above is 45,000 USD. 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. All payments except the advance payment shall be upon reception and acceptance/verification of the deliverables.

The agreed fee is payable as follows:

Deliverables	Payment
	Advance Payment 30%
1. A confirmed, refined Methodology based on the process and action steps proposed for the achievement of the objectives of the assignment, proposed in the ToRs.	20%
2. Brief Consolidation Report summarizing the information collected through the desk study. The report should contain in annexes evidences of information collected through step 1.	
3. Questionnaire to collect information related to the content of the Consolidation Report and more specifically on:	
a) Eventual lists of relevant indicators, national, regional or international, utilized already. b) Any SRIs and ESIs or other indicators related to transboundary issues under consideration proposed and/or in "the pipeline". c) Any other relevant indicator the Riparians may wish to consider. d) Existing agencies and infrastructures, competent for collection and treatment of data and verify capacity needs.	
4. Amended Consolidation Report including the capacity needs, and a Preliminary Draft Indicators Template	20%
5. Zero Draft Indicators Template	
6. A Ground Truthing Survey carried out in all Riparians by local experts	
7. A Preliminary Final Report including information and tables as described in step 6 above as well as the 1 st Draft Indicators Template.	
8. The 2 nd Draft Indicators Template	30 %
9. A meeting/workshop for the presentation and discussion of the draft and agreement and the meeting report	

10. The Final Report including the identified capacity needs and the Indicators Template as well as the Roadmap for its implementation.	
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Terms and Conditions

- *Language*

The language of the deliverables/outputs is English.

- *Data and information*

The PCU will provide the Consultant with the following, needed for effective and timely implementation of the assignment tasks:

- Project related documentation (TDA, TDA thematic reports etc.);
- Contact details of stakeholders

The consultant is responsible to collect all additional information and data necessary for the completion of this assignment.

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

All primary data, reports, and other documentation produced during this assignment shall be made available to Drin Project in electronic format in a USB storage device. All data acquired, and products developed during the assignment will be in the ownership of Drin 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 PCU.

Evaluation Procedure

Evaluation procedure

Applications will be examined by an evaluation committee as follows:

- A) The Committee will examine the submitted documents received in relation to the qualifications and experience listed in the TORs. Applications which do not meet the required qualifications and experience will be excluded from further evaluation. The remaining applications will be further evaluated by the Evaluation Committee, concluding with a short list.
- B) The Evaluation Committee may decide to hold personal interviews with the short-listed applicants. Applicants called to an interview may be requested to submit in printed format prior to their interview all documentation supporting their declared qualifications.
- C) The final evaluation will be based on an analysis of the qualifications and experience. The candidate to be selected will be the one evaluated and determined as:
 - Responsive to the procedure described herein;
 - Compliant to the ToR of the post;
 - Having received the highest score out of a pre-determined set of weighted criteria (see below)

Criteria - min. 100 points / max. 150 points:

- Work experience (min. 100 points / max. 150 points)

- Minimum 10 years of professional experience in the field of natural resources and environmental management including the use and development of Stress Reduction and Environmental Status Indicators (Required). (30 points for minimum requirement and 2 points for each extra year with a maximum of 40 points)
- Minimum 1 project on the development of Stress Reduction and Environmental Status Indicators (20 points for minimum requirement and 2 points for each extra year with a maximum of 30 points)
- Minimum 10 years professional experience on environmental assessment, analysis and monitoring OR designing and monitoring of environmental measures (Required). (20 points for minimum requirement and 2 points for each extra year with a maximum of 30 points)
- Minimum 1 project on transboundary water resources management (Required). (20 points for minimum requirement and 2 points for each extra year with a maximum of 30 points)
- Minimum involvement in 1 GEF IW project. (10 points for minimum requirement and 5 points for each extra year with a maximum of 15 points)
- Experience in working in the Drin Basin and/or its sub-basins is desirable (5 points)

For the overall score which will determine the ranking of offers, technical evaluation will be weighted with 80%, 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_{max}: the max score received by the best of the technical offers received

B_i: the score of the technical offer

K_{min}: The cost of the financial offer with the minimum price offered.

K_i: The cost of the financial offer

The most advantageous offers is the one with the greater value of Λ .

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

ANNEX 1

Definitions of **Stress Reduction Indicators (SRIs)** and **Environmental Status Indicators (ESIs)**

- **Stress Reduction Indicators (SRI)**

Stress reduction indicators typically reflect the source (input) of pressure or stress on environment and how direct causes of socio-economic or ecosystem stress have been reduced or eliminated.

Stress Reduction Indicators (SRI) relate to the specific on-the-ground measures implemented by the countries to address the particular issue or concern, and which characterize and quantify specific reductions in environmental/water resources stress on water bodies or increases in stress-reduction measures. These indicators document on-the-ground results of projects, investments, and implementation of sectoral reforms, i.e., they show the rate of success of specific on- the-ground actions implemented. Examples of SRIs are:

- ✓ Non-point source pollution programmes implemented (area treated with best management practices);
- ✓ Area of eroded land stabilized, e.g. by tree planting (estimated sedimentation reduction).

- **Environmental Status Indicators (ESI)**

Environmental Status indicators track progress towards achieving the Drin Basin SAP Goals and Objectives.

Environmental Status Indicators (ESI) are goal-oriented and focus on actual improvements of ecosystem or environmental quality (state) as well as any associated socioeconomic improvements that usually extend beyond the lifetime of the project/intervention. These indicators are usually 'static' snapshots of environmental and socioeconomic conditions at a given point in time and, like Stress Reduction Indicators, are usually reported against a baseline year and level to show change/improvement. A number of socioeconomic indicators (SEI) are also indicators of the impacts of environmental change on human wellbeing. Examples of ESIs are:

- ✓ Improved (measurable) chemical, physical (including flow regimes), and biological parameters;
- ✓ Improved hydrological balance as vegetation cover increases due to reforestation programmes.

In addition to the SRIs and ESIs recommended by the GEF International Waters Projects, there are several other schemes to be considered by the consultant. Among the commonly used ones, useful for the elaboration of indicators are the DPSIR (Drivers – Pressures – State – Impact – Responses) Framework; the indicators related to EU Water Framework Directive and the Indicators connected to the relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

ANNEX 2

Example of relationship between major objectives and issues used to select Stress Reduction and Environmental Status Indicators for the Template

OBJECTIVE	ISSUE
Sustainable water resource use	Declining water resources; human health risks
Conservation/protection of ecosystems and natural living resources	Forest loss; Land degradation; Coral reef degradation/loss Mangrove degradation/loss Seagrass degradation/loss Biodiversity loss Degradation of water quality Beach loss Unsustainable fisheries exploitation
Sustainable agricultural practices	Harmful agricultural practices
Pollution control/reduction	Solid waste; Industrial waste; Sewage/domestic wastewater; Human health risks; Atmospheric emissions
Improved water quality	Reduction in quality of coastal/marine waters; Reduction in quality of freshwater
Reduction in exposure to natural disasters	Increased vulnerability to natural disasters

ANNEX 3

Example of Proposed Stress Reduction and Environmental State/Socioeconomic Indicators from the Caribbean small islands Developing States (GEF IWCAM).

(Core indicators are shown in bold italics. The frameworks under which the core indicator is relevant are shown in parentheses).

Note: a number of indicators could be applied to more than one issue

OBJECTIVE/ISSUE	STRESS REDUCTION INDICATORS	ENVIRONMENTAL STATE AND SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS
1. Sustainable water resource use		
1.1 Declining water resources; human health risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Reduction in annual withdrawal of surface and groundwater</i> - <i>Increase in area of river basin under management</i> - <i>Increase in number of watershed restoration programmes</i> - <i>Improvement in technology (or investment) for more efficient water use</i> - <i>Increase in aquifer recharge rate</i> - Increase in water use efficiency leading to reduced extraction rate (m³/ha/yr in irrigation) - Increase in watershed area with appropriate cover (see forest/vegetation cover) - Reduction in water demand/consumption (UNCSD) (see annual water withdrawal) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>% population with access to clean drinking water</i> (BPoA; CSME; Mauritius Strategy; ILAC; MDG 7, T10; UNCSD) - <i>Water availability/capita</i> (CSME; ILAC; St. George's) - <i>Water consumption/capita</i> (CSME; ILAC) - <i>River flow regimes</i> (CBD; CCD) - <i>Surface and groundwater levels</i> (related to river flow regimes, aquifer recharge rate) - <i>Mean annual rainfall</i> (correlated with water levels)

ANNEX 4

Indicative Important Themes which reflect the main issues where indicators could be developed

Biodiversity

Atmosphere

Water quality

Freshwater resources

Land use and vegetation cover

Natural disasters

Sanitation and human health

Waste

Tourism

Socioeconomics

Sustainable Development

Governance

ANNEX 5

Indicative issues for the Identification of relevant agencies and assessment of Capacity needs

Existing agencies and monitoring programmes in the region and per Riparian

Existing Data banks/sets and information

Missing capacities and infrastructures:

- ✓ Systemic capacity
- ✓ Institutional capacity
- ✓ Human resources
- ✓ Technology needs

Indicative Financial resources required