



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



Terms of reference:

Technical support for the preparation of the Drin Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis -

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”

November 2018

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.

For more information, please contact



Web: www.gwpmed.org

Headquarters:
12, Kyrristou str., 10556
Athens, Greece
T: +30210-3247490, -3247267, F: +30210-3317127

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 is 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, single 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 the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Water flows through underground karst channels from the Prespa to the Lake Ohrid. Shared by Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of 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 the Former Yugoslav Republic of 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 Shkoder. 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

Following initial steps in 2008, a multi-stakeholders process for the establishment of a Shared Vision for the sustainable management of the Drin Basin, the *Drin Dialogue*, was formally launched on 1 December 2009, in Podgorica, Montenegro. The Dialogue was led by the competent Ministries of Albania, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Kosovo* and Montenegro. The Drin Dialogue was completed after two years, on 30 November 2011. It was a structured, step-by-step process, facilitated by the Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). It comprised targeted assessment and a number of consultation meetings at national and transboundary levels. It engaged the competent ministries, national agencies, users, academia, private sector, international institutions, donor countries, etc. assisting towards establishing the necessary ownership by all parties on required actions for enhancing cooperation and solutions for sustainably managing the Basin.

A Situation Analysis was prepared to inform the discussions. It enabled the identification of the main transboundary issues and their causes as well as, to a certain extent, of the drivers that lie among the policies and the management instruments. The outcomes of the Situation Analysis were validated by the Riparians prior to being presented to the stakeholders for discussion and feedback.

The key outcome of the multi-stakeholders process was 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.

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”*.

Article 3 of the Drin MoU indicates that the Parties should undertake concrete actions to address problems identified as affecting sustainable development in the entire Drin Basin in one or more of the Sub-Basins. Article 3 further lists the areas of concern and the **Goals that should be attained through action**.

In its Article 4, the Drin MoU **identifies short-, medium- and long-term priority actions to address the Goals** identified under Article 3. The preparation of an Integrated Drin Basin Management Plan in accordance to the EU Water Framework Directive, is the long-term objective. The MoU is given in Annex I.

The Drin Coordinated Action

A process called the Drin Coordinated Action “Drin CORDA” for the implementation of the Drin MoU, was put in place after the signing of the latter.

Following the provisions of the Drin MoU an institutional structure was established. 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.

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 Drin MoU 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, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo* and Montenegro are the Project beneficiaries.

The GEF Drin Project is structured around five components:

Component 1: Consolidating a common knowledge base

Component 2: Building the foundation for multi-country cooperation

Component 3: Institutional strengthening for Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM)

Component 4: Demonstration of technologies and practices for IWRM and ecosystem management

Component 5: Stakeholder Involvement, Gender Mainstreaming and Communication Strategies

The Project is implemented by the 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 is responsible for the realization of the Project. The Drin Core Group is the Steering Committee (SC) of the Project.

Objective

Under the supervision of the Project Coordinator (PC) and in consultation with the GEF Regional Technical Coordinator on International Waters in UNDP IRH, the SAP International Consultant (IC) will provide technical support for the development of the Strategic Action Plan for the Drin Basin.

Approach

The GEF Drin Project within its Component 1: “Consolidating a common knowledge base” carries out a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) to:

- Identify and assess transboundary -including water and other natural resources as well as environmental management- issues.
- 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 TDA Report comprise the following:

- (i) TDA Synthesis Report.
- (ii) Thematic Reports -as Appendices to the TDA Synthesis Report- including the analytical work done to substantiate the findings included in the TDA Synthesis Report:
 - a. Biodiversity and Ecosystems;
 - b. Hydrology/Hydrogeology;
 - c. Pollution;
 - d. Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus;
 - e. Institutional and Legal Setting;
 - f. Socioeconomics.

The Thematic Reports are prepared. The draft Causal Chain Analysis was discussed in a meeting of the Drin Core Group and in a Stakeholders Conference (Ohrid, November 2018). Guidance received was used for its finalisation during a Causal Chain Analysis meeting with all National experts that participated in the development of the TDA. The TDA synthesis report will be ready in January 2019.

The Thematic Reports developed, include the necessary elements to be used as building blocks for the development of a river basin management plan at the Drin Basin level should such a decision be taken by the Riparians in the future (including: initial proposal for the delineation of water bodies in accordance to the EU WFD, calculation of water budget under different scenarios, analysis of pollution pressures, assessment of pollution loads generated, assessment of chemical pollution, identification of protected areas, analysis of the governance of water and environment in the basin, initial assessment of the condition of and the pressures to biodiversity etc.). The level of detail of the pollution report is such that can be used by the authorities of the Riparians for policy making. The Analysis of Chemical Pollution Report (annex of the Pollution Thematic Report) can be used as reference for the academia/research institutes.

The TDA is intended to serve as a baseline against which future progress is measured. The Strategic Action Programme (SAP) to be developed will include the list of actions and interventions to address the causes of the transboundary issues. The SAP that is developed subsequently to the TDA is a politically negotiated document. The SAP is intended to link national and regional commitments to shared efforts made by the participating countries. These commitments include accepting that the responsibility for the successful development and implementation of the SAP rests squarely with the governments of the countries. By negotiating and endorsing the SAP at the highest possible levels, the governments are indicating to each other, and to the wider donor and finance community that the agreed actions are indeed priorities for the countries and that there is sufficient political will to enact these through coordinated efforts.

The content of the SAP should not overlap or be in conflict rather be aligned with and complement the already planned activities included in strategic documents prepared, among others, as part of the Riparians' effort under the EU accession process.

The SAP development will comprise of the following:

1. Reviewing, under the light of the information provided through the TDA and its Thematic Reports, of the Shared Vision text as stated in Article 2 "Objective" of the Drin MoU and propose a new vision statement **if necessary**, to be consulted with the stakeholders and considered for endorsement by the EWGs and the DCG. **Should the Shared Vision be already aligned with the TDA findings there is no need to propose a new vision statement.**
2. Reviewing of Goals listed in Article 3 of the Drin MoU meant to address the problems identified as affecting sustainable development in the entire Drin Basin or in one or more of the Sub-basins. The review should be based on the findings of the TDA. Should the listed Goals **don't adequately address** the specific challenges related to the transboundary issues and don't reflect the ecosystem quality conditions to be improved upon in order to realize the Shared vision, a proposal to amend/adjust the Goals should be provided with the aim to be consulted with the stakeholders and considered for endorsement by the EWGs and the DCG. **Should the Goals be already aligned with the TDA findings there is no need to propose amendments/adjustments for the Goals.**
3. Development of a set of measurable targets under each Goal.
4. Development of a list of prioritised interventions for each target, separated in structural and non-structural interventions. The interventions should be grouped in Programs of Action and for each one the following should be specified:
 - Means to be used (the list below is not exhaustive):
 - capacity building;
 - additional training and professional development support;
 - equipment;
 - institutional and regulatory authorizations;
 - legal interventions;
 - investments;
 - etc.
 - Timescale.
 - The cost for each intervention.
 - Measurable Monitoring and Evaluation indicators.

The SAP development will be participatory, making use the already established Drin Institutional Framework, the inter-ministerial committees as well as the well-established Drin Community of Practice and strive for a balanced participation of men and women; one of the actions to ensure this is that consultation meetings are carried out in hours that are accessible to women and that the methodology is such that everybody have possibility to actively participate and be heard. The

participatory process will ensure that the opinions of stakeholders regarding the management issues and needs in the Drin Basin are taken into consideration in the SAP preparation.

The SAP will be developed using as basis the priority transboundary issues as these are described in the TDA as well as the TDA recommendations. **The SAP shall be developed in line with and using the table of contents suggested in the GEF TDA/SAP methodology (<https://iwlearn.net/manuals/tda-sap-methodology>).**

The SAP will be developed with contribution from the following:

- The Drin Core Group (DCG).
- The three Expert Working Groups (EWGs) that support the Drin Core Group in its mission to coordinate the implementation of the Drin MoU:
 - o EWG Biodiversity and Ecosystems;
 - o EWG Monitoring and Information Exchange;
 - o EWG Water Framework Directive Implementation.

The EWGs comprise officially appointed members from the Drin Riparians and will ensure that the SAP integrates technical knowledge available to the Riparians and reflects the priorities of the Riparians.

- The line Ministries of the Riparians represented in the Drin Core Group.
- The Inter-ministerial Committees (IC).
- Team of National Experts (TNE) that have been involved also in the preparation of the Thematic Reports of the TDA.

The DCG will be the body that will be ultimately providing guidance for the development of the SAP.

The SAP will be presented for endorsement by the DCG and for adoption to the Ministerial meeting.

Scope of work

Step 1)

Timeframe: December 2018

Action 1: Activities for the development of the SAP will commence with the meeting of the TNE that will brainstorm on innovative ideas, opportunities and solutions, organize these in the form of a set of targets and interventions, priorities and timescales under each of the Transboundary Issues identified through the TDA to meet the MoU Goals. The meeting will be facilitated by the PCU.

Step 2)

Timeframe: December 2018 – February 2019

Action 1: The International Consultant for the development of the SAP (IC SAP) does home-based in-depth review of the TDA Thematic Reports and the causal chain analysis and recommendations.

Action 2: The IC SAP reviews the Shared Vision text as stated in Article 2 “Objective” of the Drin MoU under the light of the information provided through the TDA and its Thematic Reports and propose a new vision statement **if necessary** to be consulted with the stakeholders and considered for endorsement by the EWGs and the DCG. Should the Shared Vision be already aligned with the TDA findings **there is no need to**

propose a new vision statement. The proposal -if any- should be discussed with and approved by the Project Coordinator / Chief Technical Advisor.

Action 3: The IC SAP reviews the Goals listed in Article 3 of the Drin MoU meant to address the problems identified as affecting sustainable development in the entire Drin Basin or in one or more of the Sub-basins. The review should be based on the information provided through the TDA and its Thematic Reports. Should the listed Goals don't adequately address the specific challenges related to the transboundary issues and don't reflect the ecosystem quality conditions to be improved upon to realize the Shared vision, a proposal to amend/adjust the Goals should be provided with the aim to be consulted with the stakeholders and considered for endorsement by the EWGs and the DCG. **Should the Goals be already aligned with the TDA findings there is no need to propose amendments/adjustments for the Goals.** The proposal -if any- should be discussed with and approved by the Project Coordinator / Chief Technical Advisor.

Action 4: The IC SAP reviews the innovative ideas, opportunities and solutions, organized in the form of a set of targets and interventions, priorities and timescales under each of the Transboundary Issues identified through the TDA to meet the MoU Goals, under the light of the in-depth review of the TDA, its thematic reports and the causal chain analysis and adjusts these as appropriate.

Output 1: Review of the SAP development plan.

Output 2: Brief report with an assessment regarding the necessity for changes in the Shared Vision and Goals; should necessity is established through the assessment, the report should present the proposal for the Shared Vision Statement as well as the proposal for the Goals.

Output 3: A first draft SAP.

Step 3)

Timeframe: 25 February – 15 March 2019

Action 1: Field mission; design and technically guide three Focus Groups meetings in Albania (in each of the Drin Sub-basins), and one Focus Group meeting in each of Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo. The IC SAP will provide a training on the TDA/SAP and will moderate the meetings to harness the knowledge of the stakeholders, getting their input on the first draft SAP. The Focus Groups meetings will examine how feasible the innovative ideas, opportunities and solutions (organized in the form of a first list of targets, interventions, priorities and timescales) are from an economic, political and social perspective and propose new if necessary. The Focus Groups meetings will provide indication regarding priorities at the Riparian level.

Action 2: Meetings with the line Ministries of each one of Albania, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo and Greece to work on the:

(a) Revised Shared Vision and Goals (depending on whether these are altered)

(b) First draft SAP.

(i) The line Ministries will provide their views and prospects regarding: their priorities; the feasibility of the list of

targets, interventions, and timescales from an economic, political and social perspective and options for their implementation including to which extent these are or can be integrated with the national development/action plans. The IC SAP will use this to revise the draft SAP.

Output 1: A report presenting the (1) results of the Focus Groups Meetings; (2) results of the discussions with the Line Ministries.

Step 4)

Timeframe: Week 8 April 2019

Action 1: Field mission; TNE meeting – technical Action Planning Workshop. Provide an in-depth training on the TDA/SAP to the TNE. The IC SAP designs and technically guides the technical Action Planning Workshop to produce a comprehensive set of targets, interventions, priorities, timescales, responsible institutions and related Monitoring and Evaluation indicators making use of the results of the Focus Groups meetings and the guidance received by the Line Ministries.

Output 1: A second draft SAP using the input of the: Focus Groups meetings and the Line Ministries (see under Step 3); meeting with TNE.

Step 5)

Timeframe: April – May 2019

Action 1: The PCU will present the second draft SAP to the Inter-ministerial Committees (IMC) and examine the feasibility of the list of prioritised targets and interventions from an economic, political and social perspective within the set timescales including the extent to which these are or can be integrated with the national development/action plans.

Output 1: A report presenting the results of the discussions with the Inter-ministerial Committees.

Step 6)

Timeframe: May 2019

Action 1: Field mission; EWGs meeting. Design the EWGs SAP related meeting. Provide an in-depth training on the TDA/SAP to the EWGs. Present and discuss with the EWGs the SAP. The meeting will be an Action Planning Workshop with representatives from the Riparians that will formulate the third version of the SAP using input from the Focus Groups Meetings, the TNE meeting and the meeting with the Inter-ministerial Committees. The meeting will be presented, review and decide -with the aim to provide advice to the DCG- about the targets, interventions, priorities, timescales, responsible institutions and related Monitoring and Evaluation indicators.

Output 1: Third draft SAP

Step 7)

Timeframe: May 2018 – June 2019

Action 1: The PCU will hold an on-line consultation regarding the SAP. The IC SAP will review comments received, assess their relevance and incorporate these to the SAP.

Action 2: Third draft SAP incorporating comments by the stakeholders.

Step 8)

Timeframe: July 2019

Action 1: Field mission; DCG meeting. Present the Third draft SAP to an ad-hoc DCG meeting and facilitate discussion -with the assistance of the PCU- for the finalisation of the content of the SAP. Receive guidance regarding the finalisation of the SAP.

Output 1: Report presenting the DCG input.

Output 2: Final draft SAP.

Step 9)

Timeframe: September - October 2019

Action 1: Send the Final draft SAP to the DCG for any eventual final comments. The IC SAP will review comments received and incorporate these to the SAP.

Action 2: Field mission; DCG meeting. Present the Final draft SAP to the DCG for adoption.

Step 10)

Timeframe: December 2019

Action 1: The IC SAP presents the SAP in the Drin Stakeholders Conference.

Action 2: The SAP is presented to the Ministerial Meeting for approval.

Duration of the Contract

The overall duration of the contract will be maximum 12 months.

Contract Price, Deliverables and Schedule of Payment

The fee for this assignment is 36,000 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, as laid out in the table below.

DELIVERABLES / TASKS	DEADLINE	PAYMENT STRUCTURE
	After the signing of the contract	30%
Step 2) Output 1: Review of the SAP development plan. Output 2: Brief report with an assessment regarding the necessity for changes in the Shared Vision and Goals; should necessity is established through the assessment, the report should present the proposal for the Shared Vision Statement as well as the proposal for the Goals.	11 February 2019	

Output 3: A first draft SAP.		
Step 3) Output 1: A report presenting the (1) results of the Focus Groups Meetings; (2) results of the discussions with the Line Ministries.	31 March 2019	20%
Step 4) Output 1: A second draft SAP using the input of the: Focus Groups meetings and the Line Ministries (see under Step 3); meeting with TNE.	30 April 2019	
Step 6) Output 1: Third draft SAP	31 May 2019	30%
Step 8) Output 1: Report presenting the DCG input. Output 2: Final draft SAP.	31 July 2019	
Step 10) Presentation of the SAP to the Ministerial Meeting	December 2019	20%

Monitoring and Progress Controls

The activity will be delivered under the lead and guidance of the PCU. Deliverables will be verified by the designated staff of the PMU for integrity, comprehensiveness and quality.

Travel Requirements

This assignment is home based with a one 15 days mission and five 3 days mission in the Drin Riparians. The concrete duration and timing of the missions are subject to discussion with the DCG members and the PCU.

The Consultant will need to travel to participate in working and/or consultation meetings. Travel costs to participate in meetings will be covered separately by the GEF Drin Project.

Qualification and Experience

The successful Consultant must be an Individual Expert or a team of Experts that will have the following qualifications and experience:

Education

At least a Masters degree or equivalent in chemistry, hydrology, environmental sciences or economics or natural resources or social sciences or equivalent (Required). A PhD would be an asset.

Work experience:

- Minimum 10 years of professional experience in the field of transboundary water resources management (Required).
- Experience with GEF funded projects on International Waters (Required).
- Active involvement in the development of (at least 1) SAPs (Required).

- Experience in working in the Drin Basin and/or its sub-basins is desirable.

Key competencies: The Individual Expert or Group of Experts is /are required to have the following competencies and skills:

- Excellent written and spoken English (Required).
- Well-developed analytical and reporting skills confirmed by at least 1 assignment related to TDA/SAP.

Evaluation Procedure

Applications will be examined by an evaluation committee as follows:

- 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.
- 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.
- The final evaluation will be based on an analysis of the approach and methodology, 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 - max. 100 points:

- Approach and Methodology (max points: 20)
- Academic Qualifications/Education as indicated under the ToR section entitled "Qualifications and Experience" (max points: 10)
- Required Work Experience as indicated under the ToR section entitled "Qualifications and Experience" (max points: 60).
- Key competencies as indicated under the ToR section entitled "Qualifications and Experience" (max points: 10)

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.

Ki: 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.

Terms and Conditions

- *Language*

The language of the deliverables/outputs is English.

- *Sources of data*

All necessary data and information will be provided by the PCU.

- *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.

- The PCU will provide the IC 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;
- Provide logistical and translation support during the missions.

Annex1. Drin MoU