



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



7th Stakeholders Conference

Tirana, 4-5 December 2019

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”



**AUSTRIAN
DEVELOPMENT
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Day 1, Wednesday 4 December 2019

09.30 – 10.00 WELCOME – OPENING REMARKS

- *Ms. Gerta Lubonja, Head of Water Resources Management Agency, Albania*
- *High level representatives of the Riparians*
- *Ms. Limya Eltayeb, Resident Representative of UNDP Albania*
- *Ms. Sarangoo Radnaaragchaa, Regional Adviser, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (tbc)*
- *Mr. Dimitris Faloutsos, Drin Core Group Secretariat, GEF Drin Project Coordinator, GWP-Med*

10.00 – 10.05 Purpose of the Meeting and Introduction to the Agenda

- *Mr. Dimitris Faloutsos, Drin Core Group Secretariat, GEF Drin PCU, GWP-Med*

10.05 – 10.45 Coffee Break / Press conference

High level representatives of the Riparians make statements to the media

10.45 – 12.15 PART 1. THE POLITICAL AND OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE DRIN BASIN

Session 1.1

OVERVIEW OF ACTIONS AND RESULTS

Session 1.1 will focus on the framework for the management of the Drin Basin i.e. the Drin Coordinated Action for the implementation of the Drin Memorandum of Understanding supported by the GEF Drin Project. A presentation will remind the political framework, provide an overview of the developments and results within 2019 as well as planned actions within 2020.

10.45-12.00 Report of activities implemented in 2019 - Draft Action Plan for 2020

- *Mr. Dimitris Faloutsos, Drin Core Group Secretariat, GEF Drin PCU, GWP-Med*

Reflection from the representatives of the Drin Riparians and the participants.

12.15 – 13:00

Session 1.2

WORKING TO IDENTIFY AND PLAN FOR SOLUTIONS: THE TRANSBOUNDARY DIAGNOSTIC ANALYSIS – STRATEGIC ACTION PROGRAMME

The Drin Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) prepared identified four transboundary issues, likely to be exacerbated by **climate variability and change**:

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

A Strategic Action Programme (SAP) was prepared through a drafting and consultation process that lasted one year and involved ~200 stakeholders and 30 experts. The Drin Basin SAP draws on the Drin MoU. The SAP includes agreed by the Riparians '**Goals**' to be achieved through the implementation of specific **Objectives and Management Actions** to address the transboundary issues and their causes.

Moderator: *UNDP Representative*

Mr. Novak Cadjenovic, Drin Core Group Secretariat, GEF Drin PCU, GWP-Med

12.15-12.25 TDA-SAP Process; providing context for the enhancement of cooperation for the management of the Drin Basin

- *Representative of a Drin country (tbd)*

12.25-12.35 SAP structure and a summary of actions/interventions

- *Martin Bloxham, SAP international consultant*

12.35-12.45 After the SAP endorsement; what comes next in the process for the management of the Drin Basin?

- *Mr. Dejan Panovski, Drin Core Group Secretariat, GEF Drin PCU, GWP-Med*

12.45-13.15 Questions and Answers/ Reflections from the representatives of the Drin Riparians and the stakeholders

13:15-14:15

Lunch break

14:15-15.30

Session 1.3.

WORKING TO IDENTIFY AND PLAN FOR SOLUTIONS: PHASE II OF THE NEXUS ASSESSMENT IN THE DRIN BASIN

Moderator: *Mr. Tassos Krommydas, Senior Programme Officer, GWP-Med*

The Session will discuss the Phase II Nexus Assessment in the Drin basin as part of the overall Drin SAP including the issues to focus on and be explored in detail. Phase II Nexus Assessment in the basin under is supported by ADA under the SEE Nexus Project.

14.15-14.30 Hydropower and flood management

- Ms. Lucia de Strasser, Consultant, UNECE

14.30-14.45 Sustainable forestry, biomass and Rural development

- Mr. Voislav Todorov, Regional Projects Development, CNVP

14.45-15.00 Further to the Assessment: Capacity Building, identifying interventions of priority, a Roadmap ahead and the gender dimension

- Mr. Tassos Krommydas, Senior Programme Officer, GWP-Med

15.00-15.45 Plenary discussion

The three presentations will offer the basis for a facilitated discussion in plenary for the stakeholders to provide input and guidance in relation to information availability, opportunities, synergies and potential issues that may arise from the use of the Nexus approach for the management of the Drin Basin. The outcomes of the discussion will be used as guidance for the implementation of the activities.

15.45-16.00 **Coffee break**

16.00-17.30 **PART 2. DROUGHTS MANAGEMENT PLANNING & PREPAREDNESS IN THE DRIN BASIN**

16.00-16.10 Introduction - Objectives and expectations, background and inputs

- Mr. Rizah Hajdari, Drin Core Group Secretariat, GEF Drin PCU, GWP-Med

Session 2.1

THE ISSUE: DROUGHTS AND THEIR EFFECTS

The Session will discuss the issue of droughts and the effects in the society, economy and the ecosystems

Moderator: Mr. Dejan Panovski, Drin Core Group Secretariat, GEF Drin PCU, GWP-Med

Mr. Elias Dimitriou, Geologist - Environmental Scientist, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, Institute of Marine Biological Resources and Inland Waters

16.10 -16.15 Water stress in the Drin Basin and its effects

- Mr. Elias Dimitriou, Geologist - Environmental Scientist, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, Institute of Marine Biological Resources and Inland Waters

16.15-16.30 Droughts in South East Europe; current status and projections for the Drin Basin.

- *Ms. Andreja Sušnik, Slovenian Environment Agency, Drought Management Centre for SEE*

16.30-17.30 Breakout working groups session: Droughts in the Drin Basin

The participants will break into working groups and discuss about droughts in the Drin Basin and sub-basins including reference on the level of importance of the incidents in terms of the effects to society and the economy; issues leading to the exacerbation of the events; response by the state and the communities.

17.30-17.35 Wrap up – Conclusions of Day 1

19.30 *Evening Reception*

Day 2, Thursday 5 December 2019

09.30–10.45 **Session 2.2**
THE INSTRUMENTS AND SOLUTIONS

Moderator: *Ms. Sabina Bokal, Programme Officer, GWP-CEE*
Ms Erjola Keci, GEF Drin PCU, GWP-Med

09.30-09.45 Droughts Integrated Management Approach.

- *Ms. Sabina Bokal, Programme Officer, GWP-CEE*

A. The Instruments and Solutions: Drought Monitoring and Early Warning Systems.

The session will address the issue of drought monitoring in the Drin Riparians focusing on existing infrastructure and practices and whether this are adequate. It will also discuss prospects, opportunities and needs.

09:45-10:45 Panel discussion

Representatives of the HydroMet services will participate in a discussion about the needs and possible next steps and interact with the conference participants.

10.45–11.00 *Coffee Break*

B. The Instruments and Solutions: Governance Framework, Available Tools and Needs

The aim of this session is to identify and assess the current management framework for drought management. The session will address the following: what do administrations do, how the management system is functioning and how it is governed at state level.

11.00–12.00 Governance framework and tools available for drought management

- *Representatives of competent institutions from the Drin Riparians.*

12.00–13.00 Panel discussion

The presenters will participate in a discussion about the needs and possible next steps and interact with the conference participants.

13.00–13.30 WRAP UP AND CONCLUSION – CLOSING REMARKS

Representatives of Governments of the Riparians, Respective Ministries

13.30–14.30 Lunch and Departure of participants