



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



## **7<sup>th</sup> Stakeholders Conference**

**Tirana, 29-30 January 2020**

***Draft 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”

## Day 1, Wednesday 29 January 2020

### 09.30 – 10.00 Welcome – Opening Remarks

- *Ms. Gerta Lubonja, Head of Water Resources Management Agency, Albania*
- *Ms. Ana Petrovska, State secretary in the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, North Macedonia*
- *Mr. Momcilo Blagojevic, General Director in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural development, Montenegro*
- *Ms. Manduha Gojani, Head of Division in the River Basin District Authority, Kosovo*
- *Ms. Limya Eltayeb, Resident Representative of UNDP Albania*
- *Ms. Annukka Lipponen, Environmental Affairs Officer, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe*
- *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*

## Part 1. THE POLITICAL AND OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE DRIN BASIN.

### 10.45 – 12.00 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

**12.00 – 13:00**     **Session 1.2**

**THE TDA - SAP**

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 '**Goals**' to be achieved through the implementation of specific **Objectives**. For each Objective, a series of **Management Actions** are detailed which includes: Timescale; Priority; Location; Responsible organisation; Financing; Budget; Indicators; Impact of action on water resources/ecosystem.

Moderator: *UNDP representative (tbc)*

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

12.00-12.10 TDA-SAP Process; providing context for the enhancement of cooperation for the management of the Drin Basin

- *Ljupka D. Zajkov / Ylber Mirta – Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, North Macedonia*

12.10-12.30 SAP structure and a summary of actions/interventions

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

12.30-12.40 After the SAP; what comes next for the management of the Drin Basin?

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

12.40-13.15 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.**

**Phase II of the Nexus Assessment in the Drin basin**

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

The Session will discuss issues to be explored in detail in the Phase II Nexus Assessment in the Drin basin and synergies and interlinkages with the Drin SAP, as well as further activities in the basin under the SEE Nexus Project funded by ADA and implemented by GWP-Med and UNECE.

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. *Isuf Omuri, Senior Advisor, CNVP Albania*

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*

15.00-15.30 Questions and Answers – Discussion in Plenary

**15.30-15.45**

***Coffee break***

**15.45-17.30**

**Part 2. DROUGHTS MANAGEMENT PLANNING & PREPAREDNESS IN THE DRIN BASIN.**

15.45-15.50 Introduction - Objectives and expectations, background and inputs

- Mr. *Dejan Panovski, 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.*

15.50-16.05 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.*

16.05-16.20 Droughts in South East Europe; current status and projections for the Drin Basin.

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

16.20-17.20 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.

17.20-17.30 Wrap up – Conclusions of Day 1

**19.30** *Evening Reception*

## Day 2, Thursday 30 January 2020

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

Moderator: *Mr. Robert Stefanski, Head, Applied Climate Services Division Applications for Agriculture, Energy and Health; Co-lead, Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP); Services Department; WMO*  
*Ms. Erjola Keci, Drin Core Group Secretariat, GEF Drin PCU, GWP-Med*

09.30-09.45 Droughts Integrated Management Approach.  
- *Mr. Robert Stefanski, Head, Applied Climate Services Division Applications for Agriculture, Energy and Health; Co-lead, Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP); Services Department; WMO.*

### **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 is 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.

- *Ms. Mirjana Ivanov, Hydromet Service - Montenegro (tbc)*
- *Mr. Bashkim Kastrati, Hydromet Service – Kosovo*
- *Ms. Silvana Stevkova, Hydromet Service – North Macedonia*
- *Mr. Klodian Zaimi, Institute of GeoSciences Energy Water and Environment - Albania*

**10.45–11.00** *Coffee Break*

**The Instruments and Solutions: Governance Framework, Available Tools and Needs.** The aim of 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**