

## Inception Meeting of the GEF Drin Project

### Full Size Project (FSP)

*“Enabling Transboundary Cooperation &  
Integrated Water Resources Management  
in the Extended Drin River Basin”*

&

### Medium Size Project (MSP)

*“Enabling Transboundary Cooperation &  
Integrated Water Resources Management  
in the White Drin and the Extended Drin Basin”*

## Agenda

Tirana, 16 December 2015

*The Inception Meeting of the Drin Project signified the initiation of its implementation. It was organized and supported by the GEF, UNDP, and GWP-Med in cooperation with UNECE, and kindly hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration.*

*The Inception Meeting:*

- (i) Reminded the participants the objectives and content of the Project;*
- (ii) Presented the Project's governing structure and workplan;*
- (iii) Enabled the stakeholders to provide input regarding the implementation of the project;*
- (iv) Identified the opportunities for the Drin MoU process to provide a practical platform of reference and coordination among on-going initiatives and projects across the Drin Basin and sub-basins.*

*Participants were representatives of Ministries from the Drin Riparians responsible for Water and Environment as well as representatives of other stakeholders such as academia, NGOs, regional and international organizations etc.*

*The Inception Meeting was organized back-to-back with the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Project / 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Drin Core Group.*

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Chair: *H.E. Mr. Edmond Panariti*, Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development & Water Administration  
Co-Chair: *Mr. Vladimir Mamaev*, Regional Technical Advisor Water and Ocean Governance Programme,  
United Nations Development Programme

## **Wednesday 16 December 2015**

### **10.00 – 11.10 Welcome – Opening Remarks**

- *H.E. Mr. Edmond Panariti*, Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development & Water Administration
- *Mr. Vigan Dervishi*, Head of Cabinet of Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development & Water Administration
- *H.E. Mr. Ferid Agani*, Minister of Environment & Spatial Planning
- *H.E. Mr. Stevo Temelkovski*, Deputy Minister of Environment & Physical Planning
- *Mr. Radosav Rasovic*, Senior Advisor, Directorate for Water
- *Ms. Evelina Stamouli*, Officer, Ministry of Environment & Energy

### **11.10 – 11.15 Purpose of the Meeting and Introduction to the Agenda**

- *Mr. Vladimir Mamaev*, Regional Technical Advisor, Water and Ocean Governance Programme, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- *Mr. Bo Libert*, Regional Advisor on Environment, Environment Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- *Mr. Vangelis Constantianos*, Executive Secretary, Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med)

### **11.15 – 13.30 Session 1. Drin CORDA – Coordinated Action for a Sustainable Future in the Drin River Basin**

Session 1 provided an overview of the Drin CORDA that forms the background and provides the political framework for the GEF Drin Project.

#### **11.15 – 11.25: The establishment of the Strategic Shared Vision for the Management of the Drin Basin**

- *Mr. Bo Libert*, Regional Advisor on Environment, UNECE

#### **11.25 – 11.35: The Memorandum of Understanding for the Management of the Extended Transboundary Drin Basin (Drin MoU)**

- *Mr. Dejan Panovski*, Member of the Drin Core Group

#### **11.35 – 11.45: The Institutional Structure under the Drin MoU**

- *Mr. Vangelis Constantianos*, Executive Secretary, GWP-Med

11.45 – 12.00 *Coffee Break*

**12.00 – 12.40: The GEF Drin Project - from Planning to Action: Realising the Drin MoU**

The GEF Project will promote joint management of the extended transboundary Drin River Basin by directly contributing to the implementation of the Action Plan of the Drin MoU. A set of presentations (i) reminded the stakeholders the Project objectives and content; (ii) presented the work and arrangements for the execution of the Project including governing structures and activities planned. The session enabled the stakeholders to provide input regarding the implementation of the project.

- *Mr. Dimitris Faloutsos*, Drin Project Coordinator / Head, Southeastern Europe, GWP-Med

**12.40 – 13.30: Panel Discussion**

Representatives of the Drin Project Beneficiary countries reflected on the presentations made and interacted with the stakeholders.

**Moderator:** *Mr. Bo Libert*, Regional Advisor on Environment, Environment Division, UNECE

**Panel members:**

- Representatives of Drin Riparians / Members of the Drin Core Group

13.30 – 15.00 *Lunch Break*

**15.00 – 17.15 Session 2. Ongoing initiatives in the Drin Basin**

During Session 2 actors working in the Drin Basin and its sub-basins presented on-going and planned initiatives and projects. Among others this information provided the basis for discussions under Session 3.

**Moderator:** *Mr. Vangelis Constantianos*, Executive Secretary, GWP-Med

**15.00 – 15.15: Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee**

- *Mr. Sandri Kocyku*, Representative of the Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee Secretariat

**15.15 – 15.30: Cooperation between Albania and Montenegro in the Skadar/Shkoder and Buna/Bojana Basin**

- *Mr. Zamir Dedej*, Director of Protected Area Agency, Ministry of Environment
- *Ms. Marija Mijuskovic*, Advisor, Ministry of Sustainable Development & Tourism

**15.30 – 15.50: Initiatives and Projects supported by the GIZ**

- *Mr. Ralf Peveling*, Team leader of CSBL Project, GIZ
- *Ms. Merita Meksi*, GIZ Office in Tirana

15.50 – 16.10 *Coffee Break*

**16.10 – 16.25: Initiatives and Projects supported by the Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation (SDC)**

- *Mr. Philipp Keller*, Deputy Head of Mission, Swiss Embassy in Tirana

**16.25 – 16.45: Initiatives and Projects supported by the Italian Cooperation**

- *Ms. Caterina Carugati*, Team Leader for Natura 2000 Project, Italian Cooperation in Tirana
- *Ms. Miranda Deda*, Expert, CIMA Research Foundation

**16.45 – 17.00: Initiatives and Projects supported by the Austrian Development Cooperation**

- *Ms. Etleva Martiri*, Programme Manager, Austrian Development Agency (ADA) in Tirana

**17.00 – 17.15: Act4Drin | Raising public awareness, enhancing knowledge and empowering NGOs to protect freshwater ecosystems in the Drin River Basin**

- *Ms. Thomais Vlachogianni*, Programme Officer, Mediterranean Information Office for the Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE)

**17.15 – 17.40 Session 3. Building Synergies and Strengthening Results in the Drin Basin**

The GEF Drin Project by serving the Drin MoU, it serves coordinated management across the basin in line with the existing agreements at the national as well as the transboundary level in Prespa, Ohrid and Shkoder/Skadar Lakes. The floor was opened for discussion with special focus on opportunities for synergy among ongoing and planned initiatives in the Drin River Basin with the GEF Drin Project towards enhancing sustainability of results.

**Moderator:** *Mr. Bo Libert*, Regional Advisor on Environment, Environment Division, UNECE

**17.40 – 18.00 Wrap up and conclusions**

- *H.E. Mr. Ferid Agani*, Minister of Environment & Spatial Planning
- *Mr. Bo Libert*, Regional Advisor on Environment, Environment Division, UNECE
- *Mr. Vladimir Mamaev*, Regional Technical Advisor, Water and Ocean Governance Programme, UNDP
- *Mr. Vangelis Constantianos*, Executive Secretary, GWP-Med
- *Mr. Dimitris Faloutsos*, Drin Project Coordinator / Head, Southeastern Europe, GWP-Med

**18.30 Reception cocktail**