



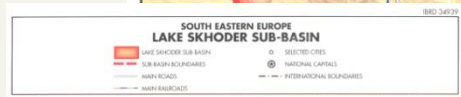
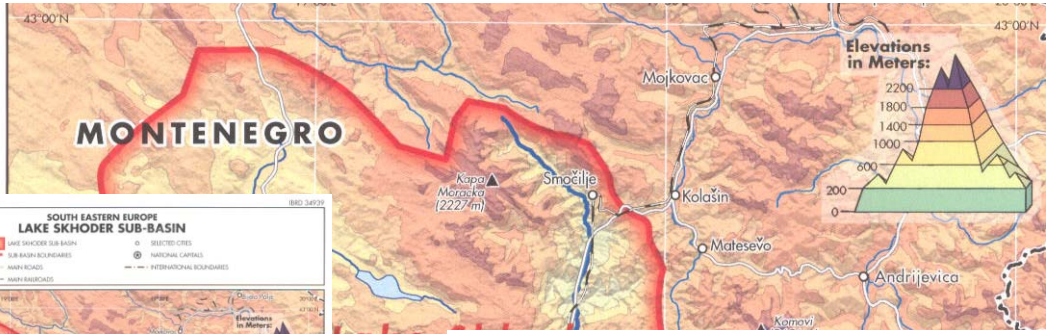
COORDINATED ACTION  
FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

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

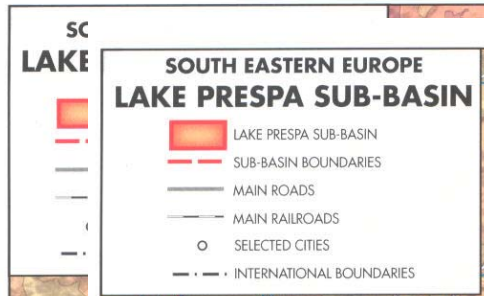


# *Report 2017*

Ohrid 25/5/2017



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Initiation of the efforts to establish cooperation at the Drin Basin level (2006)

Initiation of the **Drin Dialogue process** (2009 – ended in 2011)

Signing of the **Memorandum of Understanding** for the management of the Drin Basin (Tirana, 25 November 2011)

***Towards the enhancement of transboundary cooperation among the Drin Riparians for the sustainable management of the extended Drin River Basin***

## **Drin Dialogue process**

***A coordinated and structured consultation process among the:***

- water resources management competent ministries of the Riparians,***
- the existing joint commissions/committees in the sub-basins and the***
- stakeholders***

## Memorandum of Understanding for the Management of the Extended Drin Basin (Tirana, 25 November 2011)

- **Objective / Shared Vision:** *““ The Parties commit to 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”*

"Strategic Shared Vision" for the management of the Drin Basin possibly complemented by a Plan of Action for the promotion of multilateral coordination/ cooperation

# **Memorandum of Understanding for the Management of the Extended Drin Basin (Tirana, 25 November 2011)**

- *Provides the political framework for cooperation*
- *Defines the context of cooperation*

Drin  
MoU



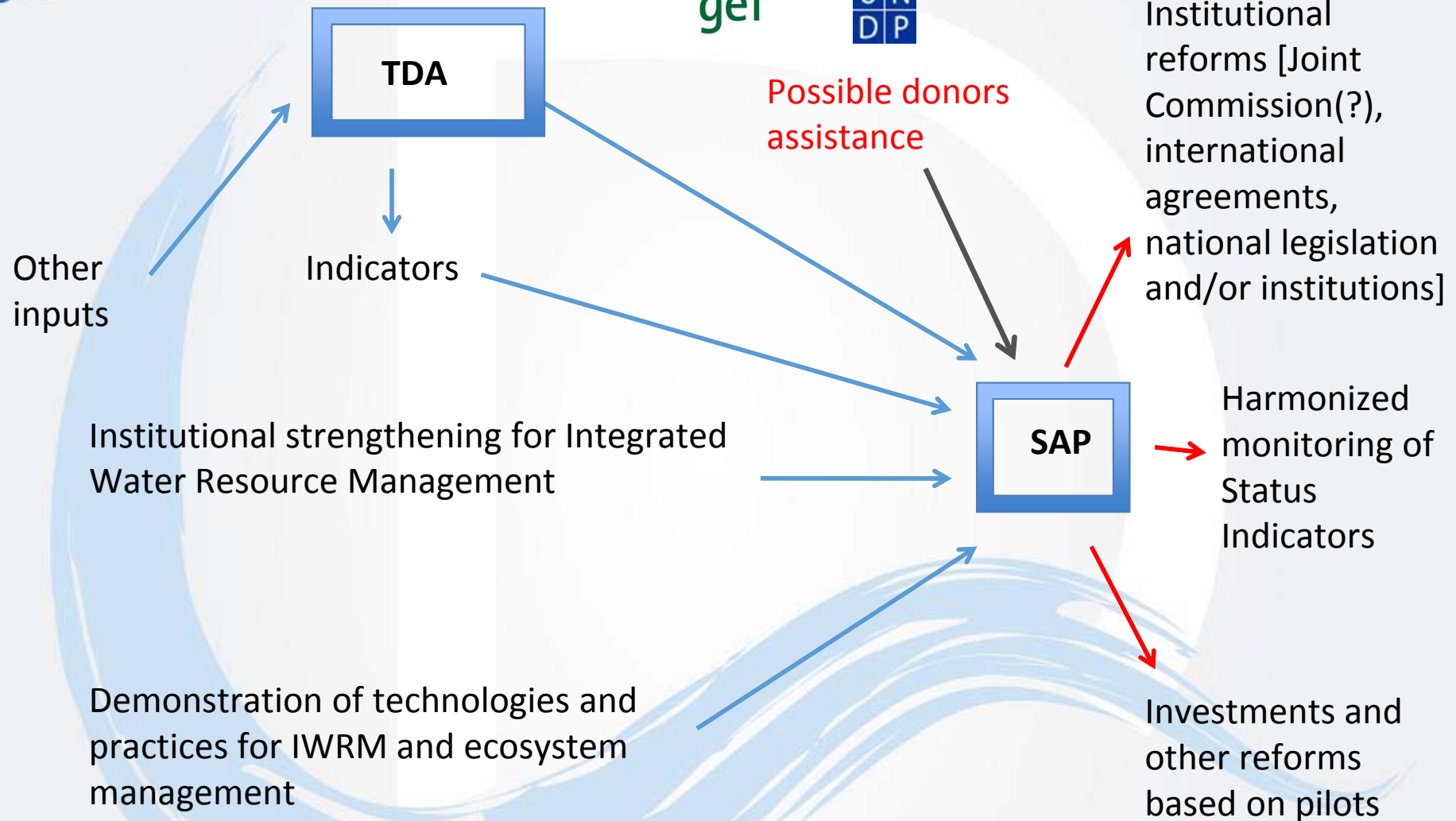
Drin Action  
Plan



GEF Drin  
Project

Implementation  
of Content







## OUTCOME 1: CONSENSUS AMONG COUNTRIES ON KEY TRANSBOUNDARY CONCERNS, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE AND VARIABILITY, REACHED THROUGH JOINT FACT FINDING

### Output 1. Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)

*Slide 1*

#### *Results achieved*

- The development of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis of the Extended Drin River Basin has been initiated and progressed by means of the **PCU**, **two international experts, fourteen (14) national experts and three (3) companies** that were contracted for data collection and preparation of Thematic Reports.
- The **GIS Drin Basemap** is ready.
- **Considerable volume of information** collected and generated; e.g. Pollution:
  - A 10-years dataserie of monitored parameters of all beneficiary Drin Riparians; Dataseries from monitoring performed by CSBL for the three lakes in the years 2013 and 2014
  - Dataseries from two Monitoring Campaigns. Water samples from 4 Drin Riparians using **65** surface water, groundwater and marine monitoring stations. Biological samples were collected from **25** monitoring stations.

## OUTCOME 1: CONSENSUS AMONG COUNTRIES ON KEY TRANSBOUNDARY CONCERNS, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE AND VARIABILITY, REACHED THROUGH JOINT FACT FINDING

### Output 1. Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)

*Slide 2*

#### *Results achieved*

Three out of six draft Thematic Reports are ready:

- **Pollution:** Final Drafts /input by national experts received. The assessment of the state of the basin in terms of pollution has been initiated.
- **Institutional and Legal Setting:** The draft Thematic Report is prepared.
- **Biodiversity and Ecosystems:** The draft Thematic Report is prepared.
- **Socioeconomics:** The draft Thematic Report is prepared.
- **Hydrology/Hydrogeology:** Final Drafts /input by national experts are pending.
- **Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus:** Final draft inputs from Drin Riparians experts have been received. The methodological approach has been slightly altered to accommodate challenges in combining the use of the TDA/SAP and Nexus assessment methodology. The Nexus Report will be prepared in parallel with the TDA Synthesis report.

## OUTCOME 1: CONSENSUS AMONG COUNTRIES ON KEY TRANSBOUNDARY CONCERNS, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE AND VARIABILITY, REACHED THROUGH JOINT FACT FINDING

Output 3. *Monitoring and Information Management System (IMS)*

**Slide 1**

### *Results achieved*

The Consultant delivered the following in November 2017 (to be presented to the EWG and DCG):

- “Detailed Analysis Report on Basin and Water Data Management Drin Riparians” Report.
- “IMS thematic datasets and set of standards for exchanging basin and water management data” Report including: List and specifications of IMS themes, data-sets objects and layers; The feature catalogue; IMS data model; Standards to be used within IMS; IMS data exchange protocols
- Architecture, Operational concept for next phase(s) of IMS development
- Implementation plan for development of IMS

## OUTCOME 1: CONSENSUS AMONG COUNTRIES ON KEY TRANSBOUNDARY CONCERNS, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE AND VARIABILITY, REACHED THROUGH JOINT FACT FINDING

Output 3. *Monitoring and Information Management System (IMS)*

**Slide 2**

### *Results achieved*

- Consultations with countries are to be done
- Terms of reference for a phased design, development and implementation of IMS to be prepared

## OUTCOME 2: VISIONING PROCESS OPENS THE WAY FOR SYSTEMATIC COOPERATION IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE TRANSBOUNDARY DRIN RIVER BASIN

Output 4. *Shared Vision*

**Slide 1**

### *Results achieved*

1. A **Strategy for the development of the SAP** outlining the framework of action, the steps to be followed and the process for official discussions and negotiations for its adoption, prepared and adopted by the 13th DCG / 4th Steering Committee Meeting held in Ohrid on May 25th, 2017.

**OUTCOME 4: THE OPERATIONALIZATION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS FOR TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION WILL FACILITATE BALANCING OF WATER USES AND SUSTAINING ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY THROUGHOUT THE EXTENDED DRIN BASIN**

**Output 7. High Level Joint Commission for the extended Drin Basin established *S1***

***1. Day to day support of DCG and EWGs operation***

Operation of the overall institutional structure for the implementation of the Drin MoU, supported as planned:

*1.1 Actions undertaken for the implementation of the decisions of the DCG and EWGs.*

*1.2 Technical support (e.g. preparation of background documents, concept notes, strategic papers, ToRs was provided etc.)*

## OUTCOME 4: THE OPERATIONALIZATION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS FOR TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION WILL FACILITATE BALANCING OF WATER USES AND SUSTAINING ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY THROUGHOUT THE EXTENDED DRIN BASIN

### Output 7. High Level Joint Commission for the extended Drin Basin established **S2**

#### ***1. Day to day support of DCG and EWGs operation (continued)***

*1.3 Communication with and among members of the DCG/SC as well as the members of the EWGs.*

Meetings with the following to inform and update:

- Secretary of the Kosovar Water Council took place in September 2017.
- Technical Secretariat of the Water Council (TWSW) of Albania in October 2017 in Tirana. Communication with the TSWC is frequent.
- The new Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Jani Makraduli, in the margins of the 2nd High-Level Panel of Environment and Climate Action in the Western Balkans, 17th November 2017, Bonn Germany.
- The new Minister of Environment of Kosovo Ms. Albena Reshitaj in 13 November 2017 in Pristina at the margins of the aforementioned event.
- The Minister of Agricultural and Rural Development of Montenegro on 20 November 2017 in Podgorica.

**OUTCOME 4: THE OPERATIONALIZATION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS FOR TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION WILL FACILITATE BALANCING OF WATER USES AND SUSTAINING ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY THROUGHOUT THE EXTENDED DRIN BASIN**

**Output 7. High Level Joint Commission for the extended Drin Basin established S3**

***1. Day to day support of DCG and EWGs operation (continued)***

*1.4 Identification of opportunities for deepening and enhancing cooperation and bring these opportunities to the attention of the DCG and Riparians for guidance.*

- Meeting between KESH, ELEM, UNDP and the Secretariat/PCU to discuss the possibility to establish cooperation in the fields of energy and water was organized in KESH Headquarters in Tirana on 29 March 2017.
- Following related request by the 12th DCG meeting, the PCU drafted a draft MoU as a basis of cooperation among the ELEM, KESH and the DRIN CORDA.



**OUTCOME 4: THE OPERATIONALIZATION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS FOR TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION WILL FACILITATE BALANCING OF WATER USES AND SUSTAINING ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY THROUGHOUT THE EXTENDED DRIN BASIN**

**Output 7. High Level Joint Commission for the extended Drin Basin established S4**

***1. Day to day support of DCG and EWGs operation (continued)***

*1.5 Liaising with the international development community for the identification of opportunities to attract additional support for the implementation of provisions of the Drin MoU.*

*1.6 Information provision, awareness raising and strategic communication related to Drin CORDA.*

The PCU participated in:

- Meeting UNECE Water Convention on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus Task Force, 18 October 2017, Geneva
- 2nd High-Level Panel of Environment and Climate Action in the Western Balkans, 17th November 2017, Bonn Germany

**OUTCOME 4: THE OPERATIONALIZATION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS FOR TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION WILL FACILITATE BALANCING OF WATER USES AND SUSTAINING ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY THROUGHOUT THE EXTENDED DRIN BASIN**

**Output 7. High Level Joint Commission for the extended Drin Basin established S5**

***1. Day to day support of DCG and EWGs operation (continued)***

The **13th DCG / 4th Steering Committee Meeting** (Ohrid on 25 May 2017) and the **14th DCG / 5th Steering Committee Meeting** (23-24 November 2017) were successfully organized and provided guidance for the implementation of actions for the achievement of the objectives of the Drin MoU and the implementation of the Project.

*Organization of DCG meeting included*

- 1.1 Logistical arrangements including travel, accommodation, meals of participants, technical issues including venue, interpretation, reproduction of material etc.
- 1.2 Provision of technical support including preparation of agenda, background documents and report, facilitating the meeting etc

**OUTCOME 4: THE OPERATIONALIZATION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS FOR TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION WILL FACILITATE BALANCING OF WATER USES AND SUSTAINING ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY THROUGHOUT THE EXTENDED DRIN BASIN**

**Output 7. High Level Joint Commission for the extended Drin Basin established **S6****

***1. Day to day support of DCG and EWGs operation (continued)***

- **The 4th and 5th EWG Meeting** were successfully organized in Skopje on June 15th, 2017 and in Podgorica on 20 November 2017 respectively. Guidance was provided on a number of issues to the Secretariat of the Drin MoU process / PCU for the implementation of the Project activities as well as on cooperation and synergies with other on-going projects in the Drin Basin.

*Organization of DCG meeting included*

- 1.1 Logistical arrangements including travel, accommodation, meals of participants, technical issues including venue, interpretation, reproduction of material etc.
- 1.2 Provision of technical support including preparation of agenda, background documents and report, facilitating the meeting etc

## OUTCOME 4: THE OPERATIONALIZATION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS FOR TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION WILL FACILITATE BALANCING OF WATER USES AND SUSTAINING ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY THROUGHOUT THE EXTENDED DRIN BASIN

### Output 7. High Level Joint Commission for the extended Drin Basin established **S7**

#### *Results achieved*

- The Drin Core Group (DCG) operated in line with its mandate (see Annex 1 of the Drin MoU) and functions overtaken the past year to:
  - a. Act as main beneficiary of and guide the GEF project acting as its Steering Committee.
  - b. Coordinate actions among Riparians for the implementation of the MoU.
  - c. Facilitate and enable cooperation among the Riparians, the international institutions, initiatives and donors active in the area and beyond.
  
- Following a request by the DCG, an MoU for the improvement of transboundary cooperation in the fields of energy and water was prepared and negotiations with the electricity companies of Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia were initiated.

**OUTCOME 4: THE OPERATIONALIZATION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS FOR TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION WILL FACILITATE BALANCING OF WATER USES AND SUSTAINING ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY THROUGHOUT THE EXTENDED DRIN BASIN**

**Output 7. High Level Joint Commission for the extended Drin Basin established *S1***

***Ministerial Meeting***

- The political crisis in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the forthcoming elections in Albania did not provide a favourable framework for the organization of a Ministerial meeting.

**OUTCOME 4: THE OPERATIONALIZATION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS FOR TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION WILL FACILITATE BALANCING OF WATER USES AND SUSTAINING ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY THROUGHOUT THE EXTENDED DRIN BASIN**

**Output 8. *Inter-ministerial Committees established and functioning***

**Slide 1**

***Results achieved:***

- IMC was established and convened in **Kosovo**. It is kept up-to-date.
- In **Montenegro** the National Council for Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (NCSDCCICZM; hosted within the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism and headed by the President of the country) assumed the role of the IMC. It is kept up-to-date.
- In **Albania**, a response to the request made is still pending; an IMC is still not established.
- In the **Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** there's no progress due to the political crisis following the Dec 2016 elections.

**OUTCOME 4: THE OPERATIONALIZATION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS FOR TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION WILL FACILITATE BALANCING OF WATER USES AND SUSTAINING ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY THROUGHOUT THE EXTENDED DRIN BASIN**

**Output 10. *Training program***

**Slide 1**

**Activity 1. Training/Workshop “*Empower the institutions and the stakeholders to mainstream gender issues in the management of the Drin Basin*” (Skopje, 13-14 June 2017)**

**Participants:** A group of 18 women and 23 men, comprising national decision makers, representatives of NGOs, local authorities and public institutions in the field of integrated basin management.

**Content:** The training provided support to the participants to conduct gender analysis in their own organisations and identify needs and solutions at both project and organisational level of relevance for the "Drin Coordinated Action Process".