



The GEF Drin Project

“Enabling transboundary cooperation and integrated water resources management in the Extended Drin River Basin”

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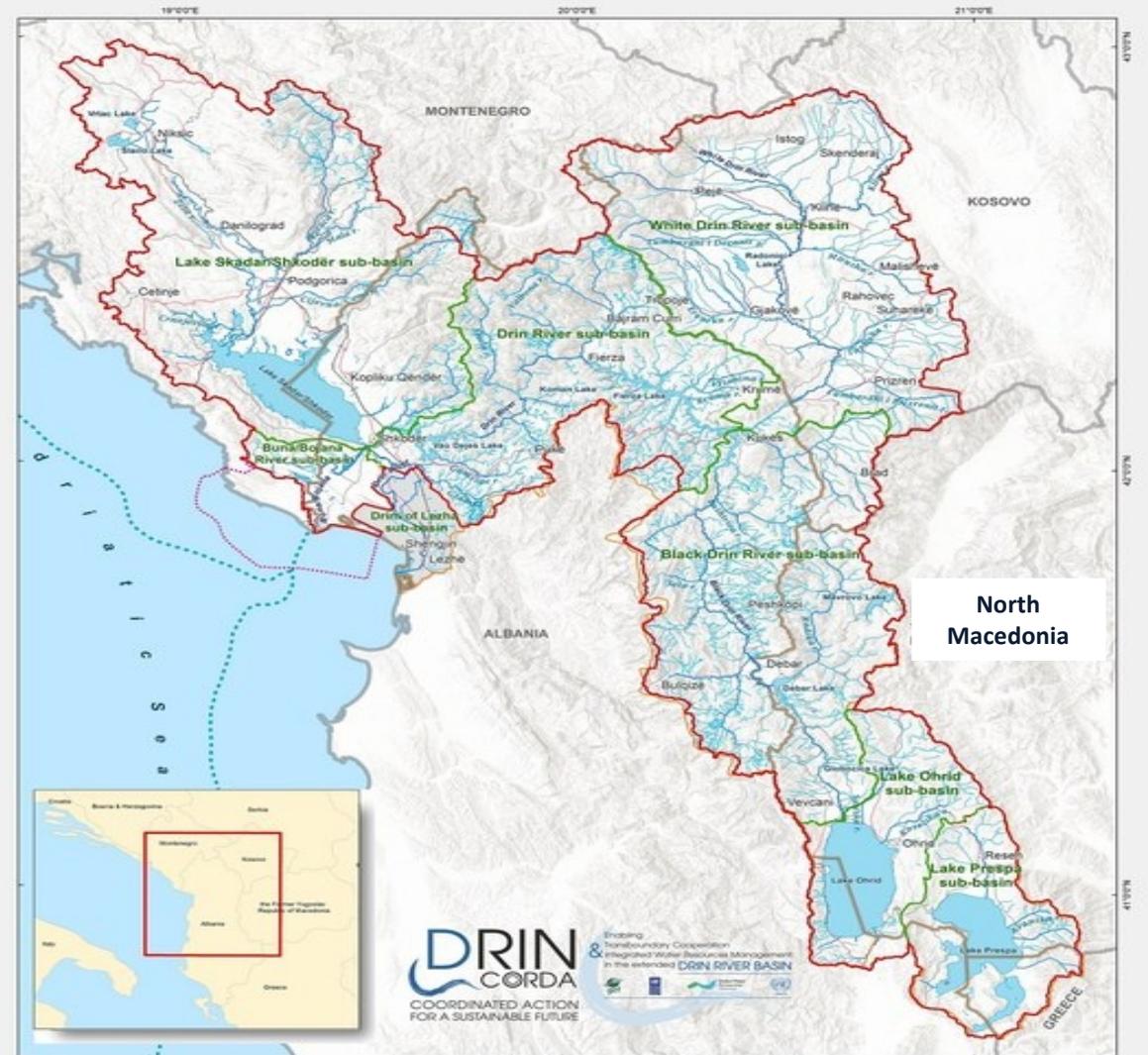
15th meeting of the Working Group on
Monitoring and Assessment (Geneva, 6
December 2019)



Extended Drin River Basin

The Drin River Basin is located in the Western Balkans and it is shared between Albania, Greece, Kosovo, North Macedonia and Montenegro.

The basin represents a very complex water system where rivers, lakes, wetlands, reservoirs, groundwater interact with each other and create a very rich ecosystem



Map of the extended Drin Basin

Legend

- | | | | |
|--|----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Hydrological border of the extended Drin River Basin | Road network | Water body | City |
| Sub-basins of the extended Drin River Basin | Primary road | Lake | Territorial water |
| Extended Drin River Basin - outer borders of the River Basin Districts designated or proposed for designation in the Riparians | Secondary road | Reservoir | Hydrography |
| | Railway | Marine area | River |
| | | Riparian borders | Stream |

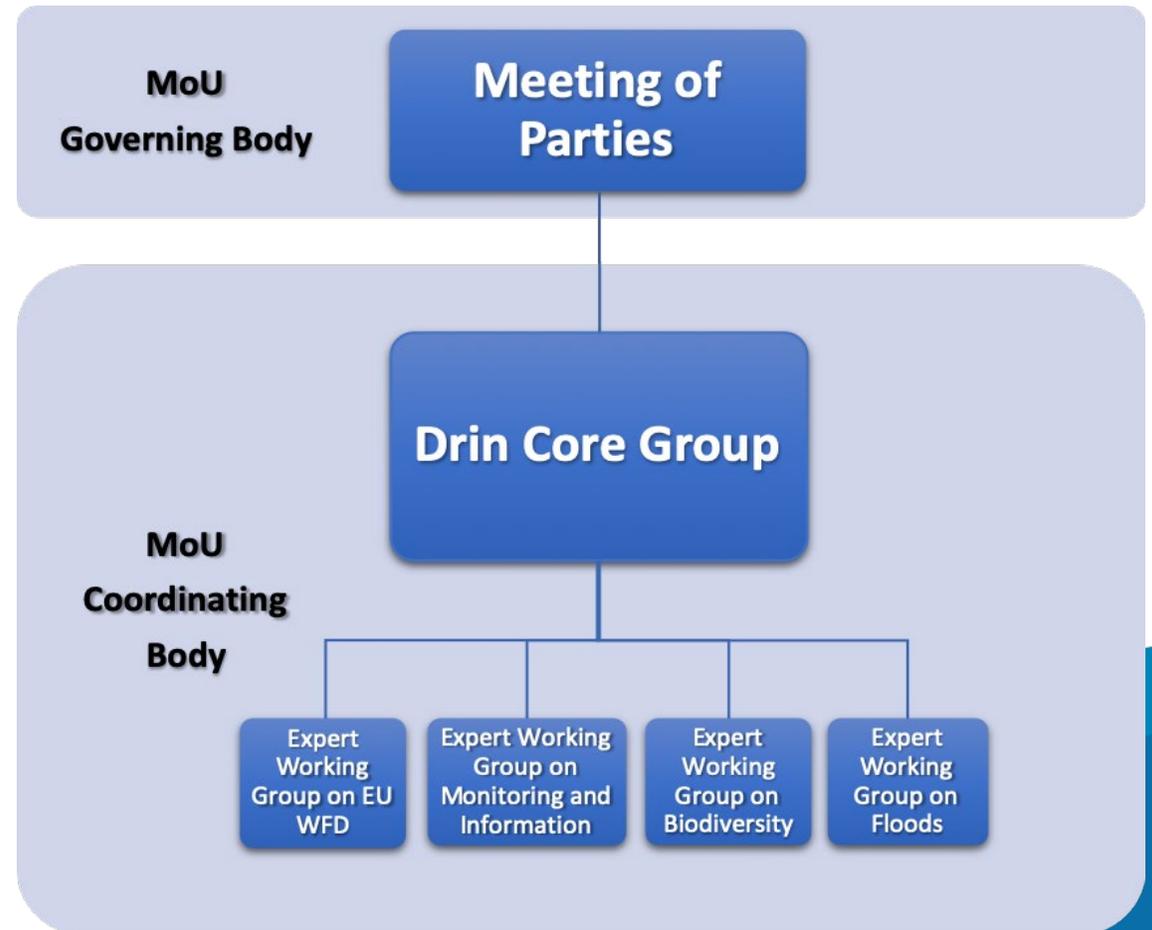


DRIN Coordinated Action – A history

- Needs for Coordinated Actions at the Drin Basin
- As a result of the **Drin Dialogue**, with the support of the GWP-Med and UNECE, was developed Shared Vision for the Sustainable Management of the Drin Basin and Memorandum of Understanding between riparians was signed in Tirana, 25 November 2011.

Institutional structure for implementation of the Drin MoU

The **DCG Secretariat** (GWP-Med) provides technical and administrative support to the DCG.



The GEF Drin Project

The Global Environment Fund (GEF) project: ***‘Enabling transboundary cooperation and integrated water resources management in the Extended Drin River Basin’*** was initiated by UNDP and GWP-Med, under the ‘Drin CORDA’ process (Drin Coordinated Action for the implementation of the Drin MoU) **to facilitate the implementation of the MoU** in addressing the transboundary environmental problems in the Basin.

The Objective :

“Promoting 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”.

The GEF Drin project is structured in five components:

- 1: Consolidating a common knowledge base**
- 2: Building the foundation for multi-country cooperation**
- 3: Institutional strengthening for Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM)**
- 4: Demonstration of technologies and practices for IWRM and ecosystem management**
- 5: Stakeholder Involvement, Gender Mainstreaming and Communication Strategies**

DRINI Project Implementation Strategy



Main outputs of the Project:

- **Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis** (to understand the transboundary problems affecting water/environment in the basin)

- **Strategic Action Plan** (that presents agreed strategy and actions to address the transboundary problems) known as a TDA/SAP process for Drin Basin

- **Shared Vision** (horizon of 20 years)

- **Drin Commission**

- **Training program**

- **Six demonstration activities:** 

- Integrated Basin Management Planning in the Lake Ohrid sub-basin;
- Wastewater treatment options in the Shkodra city area;
- Wastewater management in Kosovo;
- Nutrients management in the Montenegrin part of Lake Skadar;
- Flood management across the Drin Basin;
- Operation of a transboundary monitoring system in the Shkoder/Skadar and Buna/Bojana area

The Drin Basin TDA development

The development of the Drin River Basin TDA was carried out between July 2016 and December 2018.

The TDA provided necessary information that enabled Drin Riparians to discuss and identify priority transboundary problems and their causes that inform the formulation of the actions included in the SAP.

The TDA is the core document, that synthesize the findings of Thematic Reports on:

- Socio-Economics
- Institutional and Legal setting
- Biodiversity and Ecosystems
- Hydrology and Hydrogeology
- Pollution and Water Quality and
- Nexus

The TDA document and Thematic Reports are 'living documents' that will be periodically revised

The Transboundary Problems

The key transboundary problems identified in TDA are:

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

The Vision of the Drin River Basins:

The Drin Riparians, through their Ministers and their representatives, 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.

Exchange of data and information: plan

The TDA :

- includes several recommendations regarding **methods of data gathering, information management, monitoring, reporting, data harmonization and information sharing** (basin level)
- stresses the importance of **improving forecasting, modelling, and risk preparedness.**
- defines **priority themes** as: water quality, hydrological/hydrogeological, sediment transport, biodiversity.
- explains the importance of transboundary and inter-sectoral cooperation.

The SAP:

- sets as 1st ***Improving access to comprehensive data and adequate information to fully understand the current state of the environment and the water resources and the hydrologic system as well as ecosystems of the Drin Basin***, with two Objectives:
 - **Establishment and implementation of monitoring programmes** (priority themes) for coordinated action among Riparians for the management of the Extended Drin Basin by 2030
 - **Enhancement and development of Riparian and regional data and information systems** (priority themes) for coordinated action for the management of the Extended Drin Basin by 2030

✓ Expert Working Group on Monitoring and Information Exchange (EWG-MIE) Training Workshop on "Strengthening the Basis for Exchange of Data and Information on Priority Themes" (2-4 July 2019, Ohrid)

Expert Working Group on Monitoring and Information Exchange - Work plan 2019-2020

- SAP review and finalization – January/February 2020
- Establishment of an Information Management System – December 2020
- Capacity building
- Establishment of Monitoring programme for Transboundary Management of the Extended Drin River Basin - March/April2020

Next steps

- Finalization and endorsement of the SAP;
- Preparation of a detailed **road map for the establishment of a Drin Commission**;
- Preparation of **project documentation for implementation of the Drin SAP** (for GEF project support);
- **Implementation of the Drin MoU provisions on flood risk management** will be done under the new regional project “Climate-resilient transboundary flood risk management in the Drin river basin” financed by the Adaptation Fund (AF) and implemented by UNDP;
- Implementation of **The Nexus Project**, funded by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and implemented by GWP-Med in partnership with UNECE;
- **Drin Basin Management Plan** will be developed (the draft ToR for a DRBMP is prepared);
- Establishment of **Bilateral Committee** for Ohrid lake protection.



The 6th celebration of the Drin Day, on the 5th of May 2019, with focus on “plastic pollution”



On 29th May 2019, Expert Working Groups meet in Pristina, Kosovo to review 1st draft of the SAP



A systematic water monitoring campaign provides baseline for the Lake Ohrid Management Plan



During it's 17th meeting, on 30-31 May 2019 in Prishtina, the DCG requested the establishment of a Drin Commission.



Visit to the Mekong River Commission (MRC), to learn about the Mekong River Commission functions, the Official Agreements...



**Thank you
for your attention!**