

**Drin Core Group**

**1<sup>st</sup> Meeting**

**01 December 2009  
Podgorica, Montenegro**

**Report of the Meeting**

Organized with the support and collaboration of the: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med), the Government of Montenegro and the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE).

The meeting was financially supported by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

For more information, please contact:



**Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean**

c/o MIO-ECSDE

12, Kyrristou str., 10556 Athens, Greece

T: +30210-3247490, -3247267,

F: +30210-3317127

E-mail: [secretariat@gwpmed.org](mailto:secretariat@gwpmed.org)

Web: [www.gwpmed.org](http://www.gwpmed.org) and [www.watersee.net](http://www.watersee.net)

<b><i>A. Key outcomes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Drin Core Group .....</i></b>	<b><i>1</i></b>
<b><i>B. Background .....</i></b>	<b><i>3</i></b>
<b><i>C. Minutes in brief .....</i></b>	<b><i>6</i></b>
<b><i>Agenda item 1. Opening – Welcome.....</i></b>	<b><i>6</i></b>
<b><i>Agenda item 2. Adoption of the Agenda .....</i></b>	<b><i>6</i></b>
<b><i>Agenda item 3. Purpose of the meeting .....</i></b>	<b><i>6</i></b>
<b><i>Agenda item 4. Tour de table – Opening brief statements by the representatives of the participating institutions and organisations .....</i></b>	<b><i>7</i></b>
<b><i>Agenda item 5. Current and planned management status of the Drin sub-basins .....</i></b>	<b><i>8</i></b>
<b><i>Agenda item 6. Drin Dialogue .....</i></b>	<b><i>11</i></b>
<b><i>Agenda item 7. Drin Core Group - scope, objectives and synthesis.....</i></b>	<b><i>12</i></b>
<b><i>Agenda item 8. Situation Analysis in the Drin Basin.....</i></b>	<b><i>12</i></b>
<b><i>Agenda item 9. Capacity Building Needs in the Drin riparian countries.....</i></b>	<b><i>14</i></b>
<b><i>Annex I. Agenda of the meeting .....</i></b>	<b><i>15</i></b>
<b><i>Annex II. Context of and the activities within the Drin Dialogue .....</i></b>	<b><i>18</i></b>
<b><i>Annex III. Drin Core Group: Definition, overall objective, scope/specific objectives, synthesis, means to deliver results and preliminary work-plan .....</i></b>	<b><i>21</i></b>
<b><i>Annex IV. Drin Situation Analysis Workflow Diagram.....</i></b>	<b><i>24</i></b>
<b><i>Annex V. Drin Dialogue Workflow Diagram (as presented in the Drin Dialogue Concept Note and Plan of Activities).....</i></b>	<b><i>25</i></b>
<b><i>Annex VI. List of Participants .....</i></b>	<b><i>26</i></b>

## A. Key outcomes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Drin Core Group

The Meeting:

- Launched officially the Drin Dialogue, a coordinated and structured consultation process among the Ministries of the riparian countries with competence on water resources management, the formal and informal joint Commissions/Committees in place in the sub-basins and key stakeholders in the extended Drin Basin. The Drin Dialogue aims to develop a Shared Vision for the management of the Drin Basin and to explore ways towards enhancing transboundary cooperation and sustainable management of the extended Drin River Basin in compliance with the provisions of the UNECE Water Convention, the EU WFD and other related multi-lateral Agreements.

The Drin Dialogue is facilitated by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med) and is conducted within the frameworks of the UNECE Water Convention and the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process. Other key international partners include UNDP, GEF and UNESCO BRESCE. Activities implemented and to be developed in support of the Drin Dialogue contribute directly to and are part of the works of the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative and of the GEF Strategic Partnership of the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystems.

- Established the Drin Core Group as the coordinating body of the Drin Dialogue.

The representatives of the Ministries of the riparian countries and the informal and formal joint Commissions/Committees of the sub-basins of the Drin present in the 1<sup>st</sup> Drin Core Group will work with UNECE and GWP-Med for the nomination/appointment of “focal points” by the competent Ministries of the riparian countries and by the informal and formal joint Commissions/Committees of the sub-basins of the Drin that will represent these bodies in the Drin Core Group.

The GWP-Med will serve as the Secretariat of the Drin Core Group providing technical and administrative support in cooperation with the existing secretariats of the joint bodies in place in the sub-basins. It will also work in cooperation with the national and international partners involved.

- Discussed the current and planned management status of the Drin sub-basins.
- Agreed on the context of and activities within the Drin Dialogue – see Annex II.
- Agreed on the overall objective, scope/specific objectives, means to deliver results and basic work-plan of the Drin Core Group – see Annex III.
- Agreed on the terms of reference for the ‘Situation Analysis of the Drin Basin’; its aim, modalities and possible synergies for its preparation, sources of information, etc – see Agenda item 8 and Annex V.
- Expressed the willingness of the riparian countries present to initiate the process towards enhanced cooperation for the management of the Drin Basin. More specifically, the representative of the:
  - Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment of Montenegro acknowledged the initiated Drin Dialogue as means (i) towards the integrated management of the Basin as well as (ii) for the possible recognition of an institutional mechanism that will facilitate and enable cooperation among the riparian countries.

- Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration of Albania stressed the interest and willingness of its country to cooperate with increased intensity at the sub-basins level and establish cooperation at the Drin Basin level as well. With regard to the latter the interest of Albania to establish a joint structure as means for enhanced cooperation on Drin was reconfirmed.

- Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia stressed that the initiation of the Drin Dialogue shows the political will of the countries to work together.

- Acknowledged that the Drin Dialogue provides a two dimension service to the countries: (i) it will create the necessary platform for a coherent approach towards the sustainable management of the Basin; it is recognized that this will need time and concerted efforts to produce tangible results, and (ii) it will provide a flexible framework that will allow the countries to respond to their obligations *vis a vis* the International Conventions that they are parties to as well as to implement the EU WFD in the Drin sub-basins.

## B. Background

The Drin Basin covers a geographical area that includes Albania, Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Kosovo (*UN administered territory under UN Security Council resolution 1244*). The Drin River is the “connecting body” of this water system, linking the lakes, wetlands, rivers and other aquatic habitats into a single ecosystem of major importance. The region is very rich in endemic species and exceptional in terms of biodiversity.

Discussions about the importance of enhanced cooperation among the Drin riparian countries for the management of the “extended” Drin Basin (below referred to as the Basin) have been facilitated within the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process and the dialogue and capacity building activities on transboundary water resources management (TWRM) in South-eastern Europe (SEE) that the Process facilitates.

Activities implemented and to be developed in support of the Drin Dialogue contribute directly to and are part of the works of the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative and of the GEF Strategic Partnership of the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystems.

The concept of a Drin Dialogue was presented and discussed at the **International Roundtable on “Integrated Management of Shared Lake Basins in Southeastern Europe”<sup>1</sup> (Ohrid, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 12-14 October 2006)** and received positive consideration by the representatives of countries and key basin stakeholders.

Based on the Conclusions of the Ohrid 2006 Roundtable and as a response to the interest expressed by key Basin stakeholders to concretely explore possibilities for the initiation of a dialogue on the management of the Basin, the Albanian Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration, UNECE and GWP-Med jointly organized a **Consultation Meeting on Integrated Management of the extended Drin River Basin**, in Tirana, Albania, 24 November 2008 with the financial support of the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and the German Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.

More than 80 targeted participants attended the meeting representing key stakeholders involved in the management of the Basin: competent governmental institutions, regional and local authorities, users, NGO's and academia from the riparian countries as well as international organizations and donor agencies.

---

<sup>1</sup> The International Roundtable was organized jointly by the GWP-Med and the Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee within the framework of Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process and GEF IW:LEARN Activity D2. It was the first time that key stakeholders from the riparian countries were brought together to discuss common challenges and aspirations on the integrated management of shared lakes in Southeastern Europe. The group of 55 participants included representatives of competent authorities, national and international organizations and donors working on shared water resources management in the area. Among others, the Ohrid Roundtable concluded the following:

- *Sharing of experiences among the three examined sub-systems namely Prespa, Ohrid and Skadar-Shkoder, is beneficial to strengthening cooperation and identifying synergies. It is important to be further encouraged and stimulated. The existing formal and informal structures (commissions, committees etc.) should be strengthened and used in an appropriate way in order to move to the next steps, namely to institutionalize the collaboration between the riparian countries and make these structures fully operational and effective;*
- *All available possibilities to gradually build a Shared Vision as a first step towards the integrated management of the “extended” Drin River Basin should be explored. The Danube – Sava case can provide useful inspiration.*

The Main Outcomes of the Consultation Meeting were:

- The riparian countries:
  - Acknowledged the need for coordinated action for the management of the Basin.
  - Expressed interest to initiate a Dialogue/Consultation process towards the establishment of a Shared Vision for the coordinated management of the Basin. It was agreed that the informal and formal Joint Bodies already in place i.e. Prespa Park Coordination Committee, Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee, Lake Skadar-Shkoder Commission will be used for the initiation of the Dialogue.
- The Partners in the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process and the UNECE were given a mandate to facilitate the Dialogue starting the earliest possible.
- The countries requested the support of GEF towards development of the integrated management of the Basin. UNDP (Bratislava Office) expressed commitment to assist and launch the process that would eventually lead to a full size project.

The Drin Dialogue should use and capitalize on the available experience in the region. As such it should involve the “carriers” of this experience, the institutions that have been directly involved in the cooperation processes in the Drin sub-basins, namely Prespa, Ohrid and Skadar/Shkoder. These are primarily the (i) competent Ministries of the riparian countries<sup>2</sup> and (ii) the joint bodies already in place<sup>3</sup>.

**A “Status Report on the Management of the “extended” Transboundary Drin Basin”** was elaborated by GWP-Med and UNECE with the financial support of the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. The Status Report (i) provided input for the discussions in the Tirana Meeting (24 November 2008, Tirana, Albania); (ii) established a knowledge base to be enriched in the future and assist in facilitating the cooperation process among the riparian countries. Staff of the competent ministries of Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and of Montenegro was engaged by providing information and data.

**A Meeting to coordinate joint action for the initiation of a structured Dialogue process among competent stakeholders for the enhancement of transboundary cooperation and sustainable management for the extended Drin River Basin** (Drin Dialogue) took place in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina on 18 May 2009; it was jointly organized by UNECE and GWP-Med (on behalf and representing the partners of the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process).

Representatives of the competent ministries of the riparian countries as well as of the joint bodies that are already in place participated in this meeting. The main points of discussion and conclusions were:

1. The Meeting reaffirmed the commitment of key partners to realize the Drin Dialogue following the relevant decision of the Tirana Consultation Meeting (24 November 2008, Tirana, Albania).
2. UNECE expressed its commitment to support the process; UNECE informed participants that discussions with the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency to financially support the endeavour are at advanced stage.

---

<sup>2</sup> - Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration, Albania  
- Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia  
- Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment, Montenegro  
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Montenegro  
- Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Kosovo (*UN administered territory under UN Security Council resolution 1244*)

<sup>3</sup> - Prespa Park Coordination Committee  
- Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee  
- Skadar/Shkoder Lake Management Commission

3. A Concept Note including a preliminary Plan of Activities had already been prepared and presented in the meeting. It was in principle agreed to proceed with this Plan of Activities and define related details in future meetings dedicated to the Drin Dialogue.

3.a. It was agreed to refer to the coordinating body of the Drin Dialogue as the "Drin Core Group"; this group would consist of representatives of (i) the joint structures already in place (i.e. Prespa Park Cooperation Committee (PPCC), Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee (LOWC) and the Lake Skadar-Shkoder Commission), (ii) competent Ministries of the riparian countries and (iii) UNECE, GWP-Med (on behalf of the partners of the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process) – being the facilitators of the process. Modalities regarding the functioning and the synthesis of the "Drin Core Group" will be decided in its first meeting.

3.b. The situation analysis, to be elaborated within the Drin Dialogue process, should reach the appropriate level of detail for establishing a common understanding with regard to the issues and managerial status in the extended Drin Basin.

4. The countries will be asked to appoint a focal point for the Drin Dialogue.

5. UNDP/GEF reaffirmed its commitment to support the preparation of a GEF project proposal regarding the extended Drin Basin for possible funding in GEF-5. The country participants will make sure that the GEF Political Focal Points and the GEF Operational Focal Points in the riparian countries will be fully informed and involved in the project preparation process.

### **The first Meeting of the Drin Core Group**

Based on this background, the **first meeting of the Drin Core Group was organized on 1 December 2009, in Podgorica, Montenegro** with the support and collaboration of the: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med), the Government of Montenegro and the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE). The meeting was financially supported by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency.

The agenda of the meeting is given in Annex I.

The list of participants is given in Annex VI.



### **C. Minutes in brief**

The Meeting was co-chaired by Bo Libert (Regional Adviser on Environment, UN Economic Commission for Europe) and Michael Scoullos (Chairman, Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean).

#### **Agenda item 1. Opening – Welcome**

Bo Libert welcomed the participants and invited Jelena Knezevic (Advisor to the Minister - Head of Division for Strategic and Integration Processes, Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment, Montenegro) to address the Drin Core Group Meeting.

Jelena Knezevic welcomed the participants on behalf of the Montenegrin Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment. She referred to the importance of the Skadar/Shkoder sub-basin for Montenegro since this drains the 49% of the territory of the country; to its inter-linkage hence interaction with the Drin River sub-basin. She described the pressures exerted to the Basin, emphasizing those related to hydropower generation that is among the main activities in the Basin. The importance of establishing a knowledge basis as means for improved basin management was also underlined. The need for synergies was highlighted, including with the GEF/UNEP MAP - World Bank Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem project.

Jelena Knezevic acknowledged the initiated Drin Dialogue as means (i) towards the integrated management of the Basin as well as (ii) for the possible recognition of an institutional mechanism that will facilitate and enable cooperation among the riparian countries.

#### **Agenda item 2. Adoption of the Agenda**

Bo Libert presented the draft Agenda of the meeting. The Agenda was adopted by the participants with the addition of an item regarding capacity building needs related to water resources management in the riparian countries, following a proposal by Dimitris Faloutsos (Programme Coordinator for Southeastern Europe, Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean).

#### **Agenda item 3. Purpose of the meeting**

Michael Scoullos underlined the importance of the meeting as a formal forum for the representatives of the ministries of the riparian countries responsible for water resources management present and stakeholders, to discuss and decide on issues related to the consultation dialogue towards the enhancement of cooperation in the Drin Basin.

He presented the purpose of the meeting i.e. to elaborate further and concretize on key issues agreed in principle in previous multi-stakeholder meetings with regard to the consultation dialogue process in the Drin Basin. These involved the context of the Drin Dialogue and activities within it; the key settings regarding the Drin Core Group including its scope, objectives, structure, basic work-plan etc.; the terms of reference of the Situation Analysis of the Drin Basin including its aim, modalities, sources of information, possible synergies for its preparation, etc.

He referred to the political framework under which the Drin Dialogue will be implemented i.e. the EU Water Framework Directive and the UNECE Water Convention. He made an explicit reference to the key role of UNECE in the process, which has also secured assistance by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency for the initiation of the Dialogue.

The on-going initial phase of the Dialogue may lay the ground for a GEF full size project, in accordance to the request already expressed by the countries to the UNDP (Consultation Meeting on Integrated Management of the extended Drin River Basin, Tirana, Albania, and 24 November 2008).

With regard to that Michael Scoullos read a message sent by Vladimir Mamaev, GEF Regional Technical Advisor, UNDP, Europe and the CIS, Bratislava Regional Centre: *“On behalf of UNDP/GEF I would like to welcome all the participants of this very important workshop and apologize that I can't be with you in Podgorica. I would like to reconfirm our strong support to the Transboundary cooperation in the Drin River basin. UNDP/GEF is ready to work jointly with the riparian countries, UNECE, GWP-Med and other partners on the development of the new GEF IW project for this very important Transboundary basin. The first step in this process will be the preparation of the situation analysis or Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) in GEF speak that will form a strong scientific basis for the development of the Project concept that will be submitted to the GEF as soon as the GEF 5 cycle is operational, hopefully after June 2010. I wish you successful deliberations during this meeting and agreements on how to proceed with the situation analysis work during the next months.”*

Michael Scoullos stressed that the Drin Dialogue is being initiated having a clear way forward and can succeed its objective since the basic components that would support its development are in place including political commitment, technical capacity, the expressed interest of stakeholders and donors, etc.

He referred to the important synergetic framework provided for the Drin Dialogue by the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process and the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative. To these he added that the Capacity Building Component within HORIZON 2020 Initiative to De-pollute the Mediterranean may be used as a supplementary factor in the Drin Dialogue. Synergies between the part of this Component that addresses the SEE countries participating in the Union for the Mediterranean and the Drin Dialogue will be sought and capacity building workshops could be organized as means to support and empower the Dialogue. Cooperation with UNESCO BRESCE on capacity building activities may be another important synergy to be developed.

#### **Agenda item 4. Tour de table – Opening brief statements by the representatives of the participating institutions and organisations**

At the tour de table, participants highlighted several points including:

- Sajmir Hoxha (Director for Nature Protection Policies, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration, Albania) welcomed the initiative and mentioned also that he is a member of the joint Albanian-Montenegrin Lake Skadar/Shkoder Commission.

- Dejan Panovski (Secretary, Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee/Secretariat - Ministry for Environment and Physical Planning, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) expressed his satisfaction for the initiation of the Drin Dialogue; he stressed that this indicates the existence of political will by the countries to work together.

- Jelena Knezevic stressed the importance of using the Drin Dialogue to identify the priorities with regard to the integrated management of the Drin Basin as well as the means and ways to proceed with the enhancement of cooperation among the countries.

- Zdenka Ivanovic (Water Director, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Montenegro) underlined the importance of this initiative.

- Bo Libert made a reference to and linked the context and the expected results of the initiated Drin Dialogue process with the Water Convention as well as to additional International Conventions established under the auspices of and serviced by the UNECE, such as the Espoo and the Aarhus Conventions. With regard to the Espoo convention, Bo Libert referred to the regional agreement established by the countries of Southeastern Europe regarding its implementation.

- Michael Scoullou referred to the Petersberg Phase II /Athens Declaration Process, which established the basis for the initiation of the Drin Dialogue. The Process provides the framework for the realization of the Dialogue along with the EU Water Framework Directive and the UNECE Water Convention as well as the MED EUWI.

- Milan Vogrin (Member of the Executive Bureau, Mediterranean Information Office for Environment Culture and Sustainable Development) gave information on the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), its goal and objectives. He explained that MIO-ECSDE is the major federation of national and local environmental and sustainable development NGOs in the Mediterranean. These NGOs have various competences and expertise on water issues and have followed closely the evolution of civil society involvement and contribution in the Danube and Sava River basins. Furthermore, he expressed the commitment of MIO-ECSDE to support the Drin Dialogue by contributing to the establishment of a common understanding and shared vision and for enhancing the ability and capacity of NGOs in the riparian countries to participate in a constructive way.

#### **Agenda item 5. Current and planned management status of the Drin sub-basins**

Dejan Panovski spoke about developments with regard to the management of the Prespa and Ohrid Lakes and the Drin River sub-basins in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as well the cooperation with Albania and Greece in this regard. He referred to the:

- Complexity regarding the management of the Prespa and Ohrid Lakes and the importance of physical planning in this regard;

- Developments regarding the transposition of the water related *EU acquis communautaire* in the national legislation of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and more specifically to the law transposing the EU WFD as well to its implementation – the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning will assume overall responsibility regarding water resources management in the country as of 1 January 2010;

- Management plan for the Ohrid Natural and Cultural Area (within the part of the basin extending in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) under the auspices of UNESCO that it is currently being prepared.

- Investments that have been made as well as these that are underway: 75% of the Ohrid area is served by sewerage networks and wastewater treatment plants; much more should be invested for the protection of biodiversity and delineation of the boundaries of protected areas; the construction of a new small hydropower plant is planned in the Drin sub-basin possible having an impact to the Ohrid lake – hydropower production and related investments are expected to be the most critical challenge regarding the management of the

Drin Basin and should be adequately addressed by the Drin Dialogue particularly in the context of transboundary cooperation.

- Positive effect that the Drin Dialogue is anticipated to have as a tool for stability and enhancement of relations between the countries. Cooperation on the environment has been successfully used as such a tool in the past e.g. in Ohrid and Prespa cases.

Dejan Panovski emphasized that the Drin Dialogue will provide opportunities to initiate work on the ground for the improved management of the Drin Basin.

Aleksadar Ivanovski (Project Specialist, UNDP/GEF Integrated Ecosystem Management of Prespa Lakes Basin in Albania, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Greece, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) made a general presentation about the current and planned activities within the GEF/UNDP supported project in Prespa. He referred to the:

- Current ecosystem status as well as to the threats that the ecosystem faces;
- Evolution of the management status at the Lake area;
- Main projects in the region;
- Main components and aims of the GEF/UNDP Prespa project;
- Main activities in the part of the basin extending in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia with an emphasis on the watershed management plan prepared in accordance to the EU WFD. The watershed management working group, having members from the riparian countries, will assist in harmonizing the watershed plans to be prepared in all three riparian countries;
- Main activities at the transboundary level with an emphasis on the enhancement of cooperation through the empowerment of the Prespa Park Coordination Committee; the transboundary monitoring system that is being established; fisheries management and; the development of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis aiming to identify the main transboundary issues and problems being the basis for the development of a Strategic Action Programme for addressing these priority issues;
- Main challenges including the Prespa Park Coordination Committee becoming a formal joint management structure effectively functioning after the end of the GEF/UNDP supported project.

Arian Merolli (Secretary, Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee /Secretariat, Albania) presented the situation in the Ohrid basin as well as the transboundary cooperation for its management. He referred to the:

- Current cooperation framework which provides the basis for further cooperation activities;
- Bilateral agreement established between Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;
- Watershed Management Bilateral Committee established through the aforementioned agreement and its tasks;
- Scientific cooperation between the riparian countries;
- Main pressures in the basin;
- Investments made e.g. investments led to the 93% of the population at the Albanian side being served by a wastewater treatment system;
- Lessons learned.

Viktor Subotic (Coordinator, GEF/WB "Lake Skadar/Shkoder Integrated Ecosystem Management" Project, Montenegro) and Agin Shimaj (Coordinator, GEF/WB "Lake Skadar/Shkoder Integrated Ecosystem Management" Project, Albania) made a presentation about the current and planned activities within the GEF/World Bank Lake Skadar/Shkoder Integrated Ecosystem Management Project. The presentation referred to the:

- Evolution of cooperation in the Skadar/Shkoder Lake;
- Aim, components and main activities/interventions within the GEF/World Bank supported project towards the sustainable management of the Lake;

- Baseline situation in the lake in terms of pressures and impacts e.g. pollution from Shkodra city, illegal fishing and construction along the shores leading among others to the deterioration of fisheries in the Lake;
- Lack of joint information base;
- Lack of adequate management of the Lake;
- Different level of protection of the protected areas in the Albanian and the Montenegrin sides;
- Skadar/Shkoder Lake Commission, its structure and main duties.

Sajmir Hoxha spoke about the efforts of the Albanian government towards a more efficient management of the Drin Basin; these efforts emphasize nature protection. In the field of water resources management there are plans for the transposition of the EU WFD in the legal framework of the country and the preparation of river basin management plans. With regard to Ohrid reference was made to the plans of proclaiming a part of the basin as protected area including as a UNESCO Nature and Culture Heritage area.

He referred to the cooperation established with neighboring countries regarding the sub-basins of the Drin Basin, its importance and the efforts made for its enhancement. Reference was made to the activities at the national level that may have a potential effect on the Drin basin and in particular to the two hydropower plants the construction process of which has been initiated; environmental impact assessments have been prepared for both and recommendations have been taken into account by the government.

Sajmir Hoxha referred to the variety of pressures exerted on the Drin Basin from the different riparian countries as well as the different interests that exist as factors of complexity towards the management of the Basin. He stressed the interest and willingness of his country to cooperate with increased intensity at the sub-basins level and establish cooperation at the Drin Basin level as well. With regard to the latter the interest of Albania to create a common structure as means for enhanced cooperation on Drin was reconfirmed.

Novak Cadjenovic (Advisor, Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment, Montenegro) made a presentation about the current and planned management status in the Skadar basin. He referred to the:

- Institutional and legal frameworks for water resources management in Montenegro;
- Major projects in the area implemented with the support of the international community;
- Plans in terms of major projects in the sub-basin with the construction of four hydropower plants on Moraca River and the construction of a water supply system in the coastal area of Montenegro using water from the Skadar Lake being the most important (in terms of infrastructure projects in the sub-basin);
- Major transboundary issues with the lack of sufficient financial resources, inefficient institutional settings, water resources related information exchange, pollution of transboundary waters, development of infrastructure with potential impacts on the sub-basin (e.g. hydropower plants, drainage systems), insufficient cooperation on the area of research mentioned as the most important;
- Expectations from the Drin Dialogue including enhancement of transboundary cooperation between riparian countries (in the framework of the UNECE Water Convention and the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration process and in compliance with the provisions of the UNECE Water Convention and the EU WFD); improved knowledge about the Basin; the development of a shared vision about the management of the Basin and building of regional consensus around key issues; facilitation of the process towards sustainable management of the transboundary water resources in the Drin River Basin; enhanced coordination among countries, donors, projects and agencies.

Thomie Vlachogianni (Programme Officer, Mediterranean Information Office for Environment Culture and Sustainable Development), mentioned the record of actions and activities of

MIO-ECSDE related to the transboundary water resources management in South Eastern Europe in the framework of the Petersberg Phase II/Athens Declaration Process and within GEF IW:LEARN. As a direct follow up of these actions, MIO-ECSDE will make the links with other important regional programmes that participates in as a catalyst in mobilizing and involving the civil society in the beneficiary countries of SEE, such as the GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem and the Horizon 2020 Initiative to De-pollute the Mediterranean by the year 2020.

### **Agenda item 6. Drin Dialogue**

Michael Scoullos made a brief summary of the main points raised during the previous discussion. He referred to the three parallel processes providing the basis for action in the Drin Basin: (i) the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process which is the facilitating process and the interlinked MED EUWI and GEF SPM; (ii) the range of International Conventions that the countries are parties to and whose provisions they are bound to implement, including the UNECE Water Convention; (iii) the EU Water Framework Directive.

The Drin Dialogue provides a two dimension service to the countries: (i) it will create the necessary component for a coherent approach towards the sustainable management of the Basin (it is recognized that this will need time and concerted efforts to produce tangible results), and; (ii) it will provide a flexible framework that will allow the countries to respond to their obligations *vis a vis* the International Conventions that they are parties to as well as implementing the EU WFD in the sub-basins. The optimum would be if the Dialogue and the follow up activities could result in an agreement that would serve at the same time the obligations of all countries *vis a vis* their commitments under the range of conventions that they are parties to and to the EU WFD. The aforementioned should be the underlying aims while the countries proceed with the Dialogue and the eventual enhancement of cooperation.

Bo Libert stressed that there is an important work ahead in terms of achieving sustainable management of the Basin. He also referred to the UNECE work program under the Water Convention in the SEE. The establishment of a joint body in the Drin would be a desired outcome of the Drin Dialogue in the long term. He also expressed the hope that the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro will become parties of the UNECE Water Convention.

He elaborated on the challenges ahead in view of the enhancement of cooperation for the management of the Drin Basin emphasizing on how to deal with the different levels of governance in the Basin which extend to the national, sub basins and Drin Basin levels in addition to the bilateral level. In this regard, any effort for enhanced cooperation should be politically acceptable and administratively efficient.

He also stressed that, in addition to the implementation of the UNECE Water Convention, it is also the implementation of the EU WFD that needs to be taken into account and all activities should be based on both.

Bo Libert reaffirmed UNECE's commitment to support this endeavor by also assisting in attracting the necessary financial resources that would allow the implementation of the Drin Dialogue. He informed about the possible decision of the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency to support the implementation of the next (second) phase of the Drin Dialogue (in 2010-2011). The third phase that the partners should aim for would be the initiation of a GEF PPG project.

Dimitris Faloutsos made a presentation about the Drin Dialogue. A 'Concept Note and Plan of Activities' served as background document and had been disseminated to the participants in advance. This document was prepared by GWP-Med on the basis of inputs received during the related consultation meeting of 18 May 2009 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina where the draft 'Concept Note and Plan of Activities' was first presented.

A discussion regarding the context of and the activities within the Drin Dialogue followed the presentation. The discussion led to an agreed text provided in Annex II.

### **Agenda item 7. Drin Core Group - scope, objectives and synthesis**

Dimitris Faloutsos made a presentation about the Drin Core Group, its overall objective, scope/specific objectives, synthesis, means to deliver results and preliminary work-plan.

A background document had been prepared by GWP-Med and disseminated to the participants of the Meeting.

The document was discussed and the Meeting agreed on the text provided in Annex III.

### **Agenda item 8. Situation Analysis in the Drin Basin**

Konstantina Toli (Programme Officer, Global Water Partnership –Mediterranean) made a presentation about the Situation Analysis in the Drin Basin, its methodology and steps for its preparation.

The Situation Analysis will identify and briefly analyze the key issues linked with water resources management in the Basin. It will also identify gaps with what concerns information necessary for a more detailed analysis of the Basin system within a possible GEF project.

The Analysis will elaborate on the following:

- Physical and geographical characteristics (water, land and biological resources, their status etc.);
- Socio-economic settings (demographic characteristics, economic indicators, economic activities such as agriculture, hydropower generation, industry, tourism, fisheries etc.);
- Legal and institutional framework;
- Pressures on the system, their root causes and their impacts;
- Key transboundary issues and problems, their causes and their effects.

A preliminary Stakeholders Analysis at the transboundary level will be part of the Situation Analysis and will identify:

- the stakeholders;
- their characteristics (level of knowledge on the issues, interests and priorities etc.),
- their opinion and positions regarding the key water resources management issues, transboundary cooperation for the management of the Drin Basin, the possible joint structure at the Drin Basin level, etc.

The methodology/approach to be followed for the preparation of the Drin Basin Situation Analysis is based on the TDA methodology adapted to the needs, processes and resources of the Drin Dialogue. The Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) approach has been developed by GEF to analyze a transboundary water system as a basis for further action, the designing of an action programme (Strategic Action Programme) for addressing the

priority issues. This Situation Analysis may be used for the preparation of a follow-up GEF project and provide the basis for the preparation of a detailed TDA within such a project.

The TDA approach has been developed by GEF on the basis of experience gained through many other similar exercises. It includes the following steps:

*1. Identification and initial prioritisation of transboundary problems*

This is being done by a team of experts using input drawn through consultation with stakeholders.

*2. Analysis of impacts/consequences of each transboundary problem*

The environmental impacts and socio-economic consequences of the relevant transboundary problems are identified. Information is primarily given during the stakeholder consultation process, as impacts or consequences may be identified. Additional research may be required by the group of experts in order to ensure that the entire range of impacts and consequences are identified and quantified.

*3. Final prioritisation of transboundary problems*

After the completion of the analysis of impacts/consequences, a final prioritisation is carried out. Final prioritisation is vital since it ensures that the causal chain analysis concentrates on those problems that are the most significant to stakeholders and represent the best investment of their resources.

*4. Causal chain analysis*

The causal chain analysis relates the problems to their immediate physical causes and their social and economic underlying causes. Such a causal chain analysis has to be carried out for each priority problem. The completed causal chain analysis should help to locate/detect potential areas of intervention. Future corrective actions can only be proposed if the whole chain of symptoms, causes and effects is understood.

*5. Governance analysis*

Governance analysis includes the analysis of the whole political environment: institutions, laws, policies and projected investments that affect the environmental problems. These mechanisms and the reasons for any failure are documented in order that appropriate interventions can be suggested. Emphasis is put on where the decision-making power really sits, and how the mechanisms actually work, as opposed to how they are supposed to work. The dynamic relations are described, within political and social structures that underpin such aspects as legislative and regulatory frameworks, decision-making processes and budgetary allocations. Information about relevant projects, programmes and investments that have been approved, or are in the pipeline for the forthcoming decade is also vital.

The key steps to be followed in the preparation of the Drin Situation Analysis are the following:

*1. Joint fact-finding and Preliminary Stakeholder Analysis.*

Data related to the physical/geographic characteristics, the socioeconomic setting, the legal and institutional framework in the sub-basins of the Drin Basin will be gathered by a team of experts using available sources. A preliminary stakeholder analysis will also be elaborated at this stage. National Consultation Meetings, to be held in each of the involved countries, will be used to validate this information and receive additional by the stakeholders as appropriate.

*2. Identification of Major Perceived Problems and Issues.*

The major perceived problems and issues will be identified, using the available data and information as a basis for consultation at the National Consultation Meetings, to be held in each of the involved countries. Input from these meetings will be incorporated in the Drin Situation Analysis.

*3. Environmental Impacts and Socioeconomic Consequences.*

The environmental impacts and socio-economic consequences of the major perceived problems will be identified and information will be given through the stakeholder consultation process, on the basis of the initial findings, during the National Consultation Meetings.



#### *4. Prioritisation of Major Perceived Transboundary Problems.*

After the completion of the National Consultation Meetings, the group of experts will suggest an initial prioritisation of the major perceived problems to be thoroughly discussed and agreed upon during the 4th Drin Core Group Meeting.

#### *5. Causal Chain Analysis.*

Causal chain analysis of the major perceived transboundary problems by expert judgment will be carried out, relating to the immediate and underlying causes of the problems.

#### *6. Draft Situation Analysis.*

A draft Drin Situation Analysis will be presented to the participating stakeholders in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Drin Consultation Meeting. This final consultation will provide input with regard to the findings of the Drin Situation Analysis and in addition reflect the stakeholders' vision for the sustainable management of the Drin Basin.

The steps for the preparation of the Drin Situation Analysis as well as the related workflow are presented as part of the overall Drin Dialogue workflow in Annex IV.

The Situation Analysis will be prepared by GWP-Med in cooperation with key institutions and experts from the Drin Basin. UNDP (Bratislava office) will assist by providing expertise on the TDA methodology.

The meeting agreed to proceed with the preparation on Situation Analysis using the approach as well as the timeframe presented.

### **Agenda item 9. Capacity Building Needs in the Drin riparian countries**

Dimitris Faloutsos made an introduction referring to the potential of the UNESCO BRESCE providing assistance for the organization of capacity building workshops as means for supporting and strengthening the Drin Dialogue process. In this regard the participants were requested to identify related needs in the Drin riparian countries.

The participants referred to the following broad topics:

- Integrated water resources management;
- Integrated coastal zone management;
- Transboundary cooperation with an emphasis on the functioning and financing of joint bodies;
- Establishment and functioning of water management agencies;
- Multi-stakeholders involvement in the management of the basin – establishment and functioning of basin councils;
- Water Framework Directive;
- Water demand management.

The meeting concluded that the issues should be discussed again in one of its forthcoming meetings.

## **Annex I. Agenda of the meeting**

**Drin Core Group Meeting  
Podgorica, Montenegro  
09:30 – 17:30 hrs  
01 December 2009**

### **ORGANISATIONAL INFORMATION**

**VENUE: PODGORICA HOTEL**

Bulevar Sv. Petra Cetinjskog  
181000  
Podgorica

***TIME SCHEDULE:***

**1 December 2009**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Time</b>
Working Session I (Agenda Items 1,2,3,4,5)	9.30 – 11.00 (90 min)
<i>Break</i>	<i>11.00 - 11.30</i>
Working Session II (Agenda Items 5,6)	11.30 – 13.30 (120 min)
<i>Lunch</i>	<i>13.30 – 14.30</i>
Working Session III (Agenda Item 6,7,8)	14.30 – 16.00 (90 min)
<i>Break</i>	<i>16.00 - 16.30</i>
Working Session IV (Agenda Item 8,9)	16.30 – 17.30 (60 min)
<i>Dinner</i>	<i>19.30</i>

***For information please contact:***

GWP-Med Secretariat  
c/o MIO-ECSDE  
12, Kyristou str., 10550 Athens, Greece  
T: +30210-3247490, -3247267, F: +30210-3317127  
Cell (Dimitris Faloutsos): +30 6948 827451  
E-mail: dimitris@gwpmmed.org

Organised with the support and collaboration of: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med), Government of Montenegro and the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE).

Financially supported by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency.

## DRAFT AGENDA

Chair: *Mr. Bo Libert, UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)*

Co-Chair: *Mr. Michael Scoullou, Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med)*

### 1. Opening – Welcome

*Ms Jelena Knezevic, Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment, Montenegro*

### 2. Adoption of the Agenda

### 3. Purpose of the meeting (10 min)

### 4. *Tour de table* – Opening brief statements by the representatives of the participating institutions and organisations (15 min)

### 5. Current and planned management status of the Drin sub-basins (100 min)

<i>Action</i>	<i>Background</i>
<p>Current and planned management status at the transboundary and national levels</p> <p><i>A. Transboundary level</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Prespa Lake – GEF/UNDP “Integrated Ecosystem Management in the Prespa Lakes Basin of Albania, FYR Macedonia and Greece” Project <i>Mr. Aleksandar Ivanovski, UNDP</i></li><li>- Ohrid Lake <i>Mr. Dejan Panovski, Secretariat of the Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee / Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</i> <i>Mr. Arian Meroli, Secretariat of the Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee, Albania</i></li><li>- Skadar/Shkoder Lake – GEF/WB “Lake Skadar/Shkoder Integrated Ecosystem Management” Project (LSIEMP) <i>Mr. Viktor Subotic, Coordinator of the LSIEMP, Montenegro</i> <i>Mr. Agim Shimaj, Coordinator of the LSIEMP, Albania</i></li></ul> <p><i>B. National level</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (Prespa and Ohrid Lakes, and Drim River) <i>Mr. Dejan Panovski, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning</i></li><li>- Albania (Prespa, Ohrid and Shkoder Lakes and Drin and Buna Rivers) <i>Mr. Sajmir Hoxha, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration</i></li><li>- Montenegro (Skadar Lake and Bojana River) <i>Mr. Novak Cadjenovic, Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment</i></li></ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Kosovo (UN administered territory under UN Security Council resolution 1244 - White Drin) <i>Representative of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning</i></li> <li>- A coordinated Civil Society contribution for an effective Drin Dialogue <i>Ms. Thomie Vlachogianni, Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE)</i></li> </ul>	
--	--

**6. Drin Dialogue (90 min)**

<i>Action</i>	<i>Background</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction: Activities and Work Plan (UNECE and GWP-Med)</li> <li>- Discussion (All)</li> </ul>	<p>Drin Dialogue Concept Note and Plan of Activities</p> <p><i>This has been prepared on the basis of the draft Drin Dialogue Concept Note and Plan of Activities that was accepted in principle by the Sarajevo Coordination Meeting (Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 18 May 2009)</i></p>

**7. Drin Core Group - scope, objectives and synthesis (60 min)**

<i>Action</i>	<i>Background</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction (UNECE and GWP-Med)</li> <li>- Discussion (All)</li> </ul>	Drin Dialogue Concept Note and Plan of Activities

**8. Situation Analysis in the Drin Basin (60 min)**

<i>Action</i>	<i>Background</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction on the Situation Analysis: content and work plan for its preparation (UNECE and GWP-Med)</li> <li>- Discussion on modalities for the Situation Analysis preparation, sources of information and eventual synergies (All)</li> </ul>	Drin Dialogue Concept Note and Plan of Activities

**9. Wrap Up - Any Other Business (10 min)**

## **Annex II. Context of and the activities within the Drin Dialogue**

The **Drin Dialogue** is a coordinated and structured consultation process among the water resources management competent ministries of the riparian countries, the formal and informal joint commissions/committees in place in the sub-basins and the stakeholders, towards the development of a Shared Vision for the management of the Drin Basin and to explore ways towards the enhancement of transboundary cooperation and sustainable management for the extended Drin River Basin in compliance with the provisions of the UNECE Water Convention, the EU WFD and other related multi-lateral Agreements. It is facilitated by the UNECE and the GWP-Med and conducted within the frameworks of the UNECE Water Convention and the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process.

**The Policy Framework** is provided *inter alia* by the:

- The UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (UNECE Water Convention)
- The European Union Water Framework Directive (EU WFD)
- The Petersberg Phase II Process / Athens Declaration Process (jointly coordinated by Germany, Greece and the World Bank - with the active participation of key regional organizations and bodies including UNECE, UNDP, UNESCO, GEF etc). The Drin Dialogue Contributes directly to the scope and objectives of the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI) and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem.
- Other compatible multi-lateral Agreements

**The main objective of the Drin Dialogue** is the development of a Strategic Shared Vision among the competent national authorities and stakeholders for the sustainable management of the Drin basin.

**The expected results of the Drin Dialogue** are:

- Identification and brief analysis of the key issues linked with water resources management in the Basin.
- Establishment, sustaining and functioning of the “Drin Core Group”.
- Development of a long term Strategic Shared Vision document for the management of the Drin Basin.
- Prepare and create the conditions for GEF/UNDP-financing of the future work.

The following **activities** would be implemented during a period of 18 months - planned to start on February 2010.

- (i). Preparation of the Drin Situation Analysis;
- (ii). Organization of three Drin Core Group Meetings;
- (iii). Organization of three Consultation Meetings at National level;
- (iv). Organization of one Consultation Meeting at the Drin Basin level;
- (v). Preparation of the “Strategic Shared Vision” document for the management of the Drin Basin; it may be complemented with a preliminary Plan of Action for the promotion of multilateral coordination and cooperation.

The participants agreed with the overall activities and timeframe as these presented in Annex V.

(i), (ii) The discussion about the Situation Analysis and the Drin Core Group took place under Agenda Items 7 and 8.

(iii). With regard to the Consultation Meetings at National level the Meeting agreed on the following:

The Consultation Meetings at National level will be used as means to involve the stakeholders of the riparian countries in the Drin Dialogue.

The National Consultation Meetings will give the opportunity to a broader range of stakeholders to discuss, interact and elaborate on basin management issues, and facilitate the development of the Strategic Shared Vision for the management of the Drin Basin.

The Meetings will also:

- Raise awareness about the need and actions for sustainable management of the Drin Basin and about the Drin Dialogue as a process, contributing to that;
- Discuss the findings of the Situation Analysis.

Overall, the National Consultation Meetings will substantially assist in creating the necessary ownership of the dialogue process by the stakeholders.

Participants will comprise representatives of national and local stakeholders from each riparian country including national, regional and local authorities, important economic sectors (such as agriculture, energy, industry, tourism etc.), water users associations, academia, private sector, NGOs and civil society organizations (as identified through the Preliminary Stakeholders Analysis).

The meetings will be organized by GWP-Med in cooperation with UNECE and a key national institution of the hosting country. The exact dates will be decided in consultation with the key involved parties.

(iv). With what concerns the Consultation Meetings at the Drin Basin level the Meeting agreed on the following:

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Drin Transboundary Consultation Meeting will be the final step of the Drin Dialogue.

It will build on the outcomes of the:

- 1st Drin Transboundary Consultation Meeting (November 2008, Tirana);
- Three National Consultation Meetings;
- Work of the Drin Core Group.

The Meeting will discuss and/or decide on the following:

- The findings of the Situation Analysis;
- The steps to follow as means for continuing the Drin Dialogue;
- The "Strategic Shared Vision" for the management of the Drin Basin;
- Other steps for enhancing cooperation between the riparian countries.

Participants of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Drin Transboundary Consultation Meeting will include representatives of riparian countries' national authorities and other key national and local stakeholders from each riparian country as these will be identified through the Preliminary Stakeholders' Analysis.

The Meeting will be organized in Tirana, Albania by GWP-Med in cooperation with UNECE and national key partners. The exact dates will be decided in due time and in coordination with the UNECE and the key involved parties.

(v). With regard to the "Strategic Shared Vision" for the management of the Drin Basin the Meeting agreed on the following:

It will briefly present the situation in the Basin and the key water-related challenges and describe the vision of the stakeholders regarding the management of the Basin in relation to its sustainable development. It will include a number of recommendations for action on key issues such as the improvement and/or conservation of a good state of the environment, the optimal level and means of cooperation among the riparian countries etc.

It will be based on the information generated by the Situation Analysis (that will be developed in parallel) and the views and opinions of the stakeholders as identified through the Drin Dialogue Process. This multi-stakeholders process at the national and transboundary levels will make sure that the Strategic Shared Vision reflects the consensus of the stakeholders of the Drin Basin.

The steps for the preparation of the "Strategic Shared Vision" document will be the following:

- The first draft will be prepared by GWP-Med and UNECE using the input of/ and guidance by the Drin Core Group;
- An advanced draft will be discussed and finalized in the 4th Drin Core Group meeting (Podgorica, Montenegro);
- It will further be presented and discussed in the 2nd Drin Transboundary Consultation Meeting; input received will be incorporated;
- The final draft will be distributed to the Drin Core Group Members for a final review before it is finalized;
- The Strategic Shared Vision document is finalized.

### **Annex III. Drin Core Group: Definition, overall objective, scope/specific objectives, synthesis, means to deliver results and preliminary work-plan**

#### **Drin Core Group**

- The Drin Dialogue is a coordinated and structured consultation process among the water resources management competent ministries of the riparian countries, the formal and informal joint commissions/committees in place in the sub-basins and the stakeholders, towards the development of a Shared Vision for the management of the Drin Basin and to explore ways towards the enhancement of transboundary cooperation and sustainable management for the extended Drin River Basin in compliance with the provisions of the UNECE Water Convention, the EU WFD and other related multi-lateral Agreements. It is facilitated by the UNECE and the GWP-Med and conducted within the frameworks of the UNECE Water Convention and the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process.
- For the communication and cooperation among the riparian countries and for the coordination and the facilitation of implementation of the Drin Dialogue, an informal structure was formed under the name Drin Core Group.
- The 1st Drin Transboundary Consultation Meeting (Tirana, Albania, 24 November 2008) recommended among others that the process for moving from bilateral to multilateral coordination and cooperation as well as the related Drin Dialogue should be built on the experience gained in Prespa, Ohrid and Shkoder sub-basins. The establishment of the Drin Core Group has been envisaged as means to use and capitalize on this experience; as such it should involve primarily the institutions that have been directly involved in the establishment of cooperation processes and governance schemes in the aforementioned shared sub-basins.
- The overall objectives and scope/specific objectives of the Drin Core Group as well as its synthesis, means to deliver results are presented below; the work-plan until the next Core Group Meeting is annexed here.

#### **Overall Objectives**

- Provide guidance for, supervise and coordinate the Drin Dialogue process.
- Enhance communication and cooperation among the competent authorities of the Drin riparian countries and other key stakeholders.
- Ensure the follow up of the decisions of the Drin Dialogue meetings.

#### **Scope/Specific Objectives**

In addition to coordinating the Drin Dialogue, the Drin Core Group will:

- *Facilitate the exchange of information related to the management of the Drin Basin and its sub-basins i.e. Prespa, Ohrid and Skadar/Shkoder Lakes and Drim/Drin (including its tributaries Black Drin and White Drin and Buna/Bojana Rivers Basins);*
- *Assist in raising awareness among the stakeholders in the Drin Basin;*
- *Provide assistance for the organization of the Consultation Meetings at National and Transboundary levels described in the Drin Dialogue Concept Note and Plan of Activities.*
- *Discuss the development and provide input for the preparation of the "Situation Analysis" described in the Drin Dialogue Concept Note and Plan of Activities;*



- *Discuss and formulate the draft "Strategic Shared Vision" document (decided in the Consultation Meeting on Integrated Management of the extended Drin River Basin, (Tirana, Albania, 24 November 2008) and the Meeting to coordinate joint action for the initiation of a structured Dialogue process (Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 18 May 2009) - described in the Drin Dialogue Concept Note and Plan of Activities), with the assistance of UNECE and GWP-Med, to be discussed and finalized through the Drin Dialogue;*
- *Provide input for the preparation of the GEF Drin Project Identification Form (PIF) and the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) work-plan for a project proposal to be submitted to GEF for eventual financing, if such a process is initiated;*

## Synthesis

Dully nominated representatives ("focal points") of the following competent ministries, institutions and organizations form the Drin Core group:

### A. Members

- (i) - Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration, Albania
- Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Climatic Change, Greece
- Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment, Montenegro
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Montenegro
- Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Kosovo (*UN administered territory under UN Security Council resolution 1244*)
- (ii) - Prespa Park Coordination Committee
- Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee
- Lake Skadar-Shkoder Commission
- (iii) - United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med) as secretariat of the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process
- (iv) - MIO-ECSDE

### B. Observers

The following will be invited to participate as observers:

- European Commission; Swedish Environmental Protection Agency; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) / Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Any other parts could be co-opted as members or invited as observers on the decision of the Drin Core Group.

GWP-Med will serve as the Secretariat of the Drin Core Group providing technical and administrative support in cooperation with the existing secretariats of the sub-basins.

## Means to deliver results

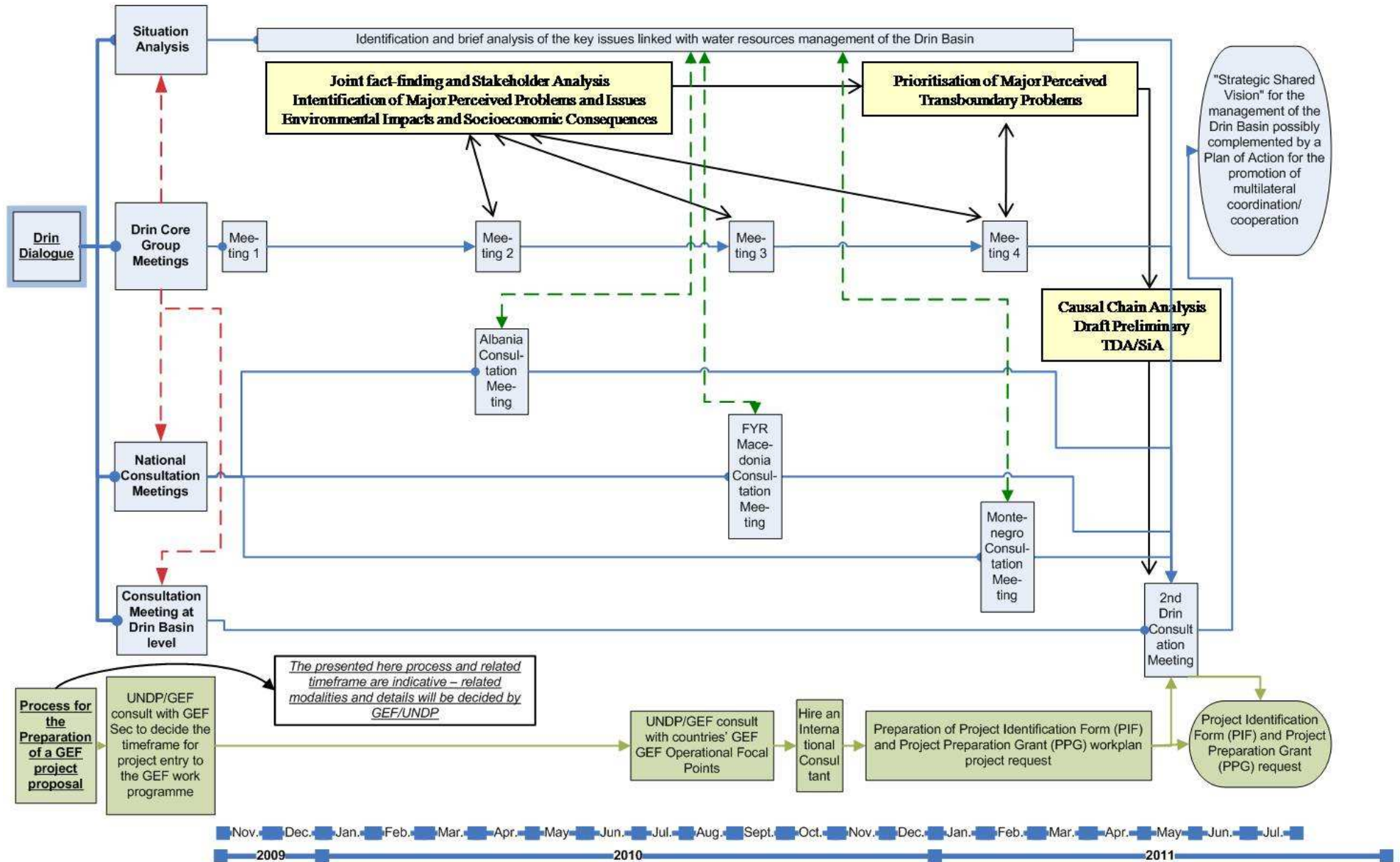
- Expert work, including preparation of background documents.
- Meetings.
- Electronic communication media (Emails, Web-based working space (explore related opportunities with GEF IW:LEARN)).

**Preliminary Work plan (until the next Core Group Meeting) – to be undertaken by the Members and the Secretariat**

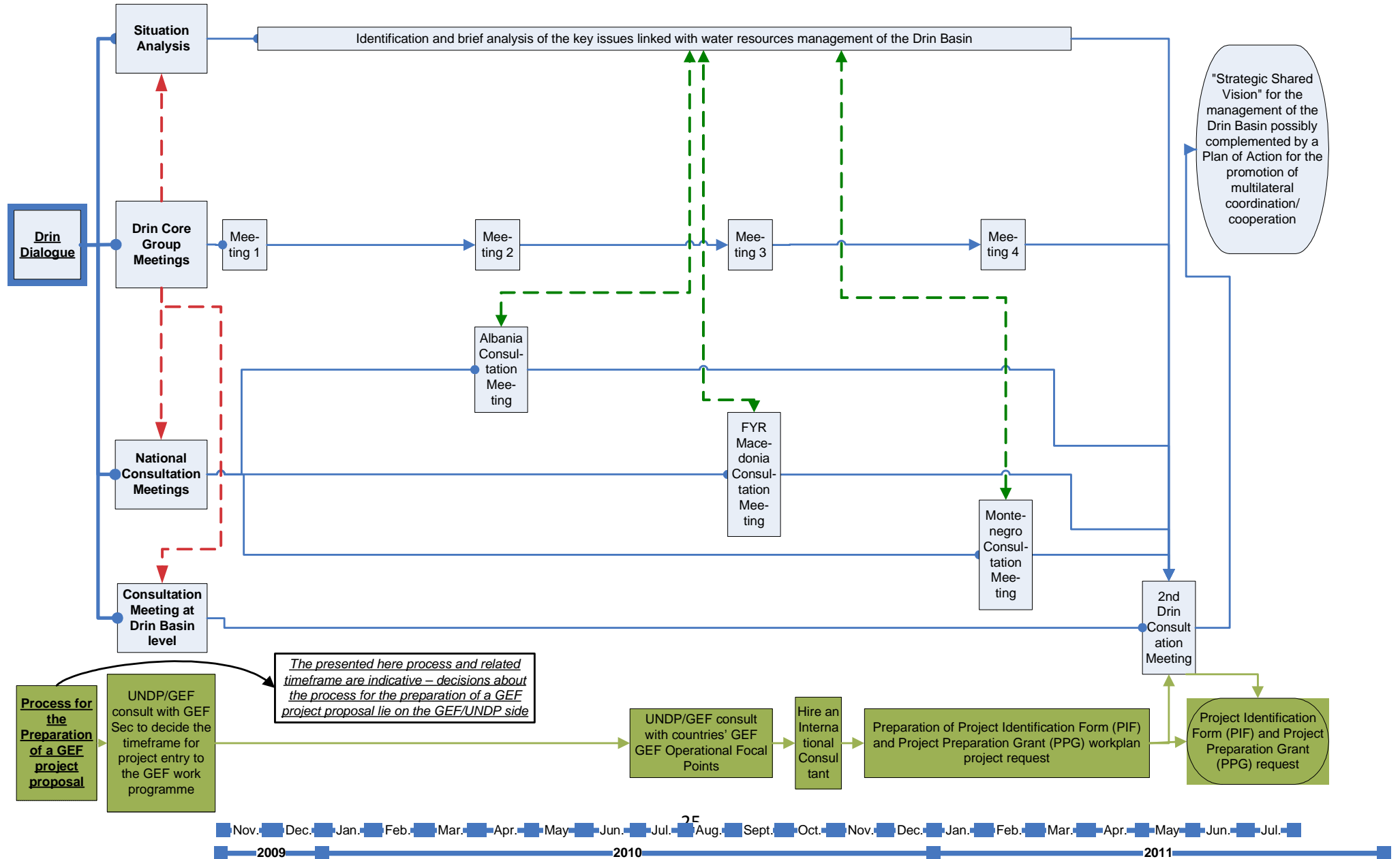
- Review of the report of the first Drin Core Group Meeting;
- Work with UNECE and GWP-Med for the nomination/appointment of “focal points” by the competent Ministries of the riparian countries and by the informal and formal joint Commissions/Committees of the sub-basins of the Drin that will represent these bodies in the Drin Core Group;
- Provide guidance regarding the sources of information for the preparation of the “Situation Analysis”;
- Provide assistance for the preliminary identification of competent stakeholders at national level (including contact details);
- Provide assistance for the organization of the National Consultation Meetings starting with the one in Albania.

Three Drin Core Group meetings (within the Drin Dialogue process) will be organized back to back with the National Consultation Meetings scheduled for Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro. Additional meetings may be organized, as needed, following a respective decision by the Drin Core Group.

# Annex IV. Drin Situation Analysis Workflow Diagram



# Annex V. Drin Dialogue Workflow Diagram (as presented in the Drin Dialogue Concept Note and Plan of Activities)



## **Annex VI. List of Participants**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Address/ Contacts</b>
1.	Sajmir	Hoxha	Director for Nature Protection Policies	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration	Albania	Address: Rruga e durrshit, Nr 27, Tirana Tel.: +355 42270624 Fax: +355 42270624 Email:shoxha@moe.gov.al
2.	Skender	Hasa	Water Director	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration	Albania	Address: Rruga e durrshit, Nr 27, Tirana Tel.: +355 (0) 682081 223, 355 4 270 630 Fax: +355 42270624, 355 4270627 Email: shasa@moe.gov.al
3.	Agim	Shimaj	Coordinator	GEF/WB "Lake Skadar/Shkoder Integrated Ecosystem Management" Project	Albania	Address: Godina E Prefektures Shkoder/Kati I Dyte Tel.: +355 6920 85090 Email:a_shimaj@yahoo.com
4.	Arian	Merolli	Secretary	Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee /Secretariat	Albania	Address: Vilat Qeveritare" No.2 , Pogradec Tel.: +355 683771636, 38971443023 Fax: +355 832 49-66 Email: arianmeroli@yahoo.com
5.	Dejan	Panovski	Secretary	Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee/Sekretariat - Ministry for Environment and Physical Planning	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Address: ul. Dimitar Vlahov 57, 6000 Ohrid Tel.: +389 75402504 Fax: +389 46263 743 Email: dejan@yahoo.com
6.	Aleksandar	Ivanovski	Project Specialist	UNDP/GEF Integrated Ecosystem Management of Prespa Lakes Basin in Albania, FYR Macedonia and Greece	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Address: bul. Goce Delcev b.6, Zgrada na MTV, 1000 Skopje Tel.: +389 70367232 Fax: +389 2 3289269 Email:

						aleksandar.ivanovski@undp.org
7.	Nikola	Zdraveski	Project Specialist	UNDP/GEF Integrated Ecosystem Management of Prespa Lakes Basin in Albania, FYR Macedonia and Greece	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Address: Municipality of Resen Marshal Tito Square No.20 7310 Resen Tel.: +389 78434445 Fax: +389 47455195 Email:nikola.zdraveski@undp.org
8.	Jelena	Knezevic	Advisor to the Minister - Head of Division for Strategic and Integration Processes	Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment	Montenegro	Address: Rimski trg 46, Podgorica Tel.: +382 20228516, -67225604 Fax: +382 20228511 Email: jelena.knezevic@gov.me
9.	Novak	Cadjenovic	Advisor	Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment	Montenegro	Address: Rimski trg 46, 81000 Podgorica Tel.: +382 20228511 Fax: +382 20228512 Email: novak.cadjenovic@gov.me
10.	Zdenka	Ivanovic	Water Director	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management	Montenegro	Address: bd Revolucije 24, Podgorica Tel.: +382 20224593 Fax: +382 20224594 Email: zdenka.ivanovic@uzv.gov.me
11.	Milica	Lekic	Pr. Officer	Ministry for Spatial Planning and Environment	Montenegro	Address: Rimski trg 46, 81000 Podgorica Tel.: +382 67597 497 Fax: +382 20234 131 Email: milica.lekic@gov.me
12.	Viktor	Subotic	Coordinator	GEF/WB "Lake Skadar/Shkoder Integrated Ecosystem Management" Project	Montenegro	Address: Rimski trg 46, 81000 Podgorica Tel.: +382 67 231142 Fax: +382 20234168 Email: viktor.subotic@gov.me
13.	Gordana	Oovovic	Advisor	Office of Sustainable Development Montenegro	Montenegro	Address: Jovana Tomosevica 2a, Podgorica

						Tel.: +382 20203190, -171 Fax: +382 203191 Email: kor@t-com.me
14.	Tatjana	Djokovic	Advisor	Environmental Protection Agency	Montenegro	Address: IV Proleterske 19, Podgorica Tel.: +382 20618550 Fax: +382 20618246, -48 Email: tatjana.djokovic@epa.org.me
15.	Milena	Bataković	Advisor	Environmental Protection Agency	Montenegro	Address: IV Proleterske 19, Podgorica Tel.: +382 67225504, 20618255 Fax: +382 20618246 Email: milena.batakovic@epa.org.me
16.	Tamara	Brajović		Environmental Protection Agency	Montenegro	Address: IV Proleterske 19, Podgorica Tel.: +382 20618550 Fax: +382 20618246, -48 Email: tatjana.djokovic@epa.org.me
17.	Bo	Libert	Regional Adviser on Environment	UN Economic Commission for Europe		Address: 1211 Palais des Nations, Geneva Tel.: +41 229172396, +41 794444180 Fax: +41 229170621 Email: bo.libert@unece.org
18.	Michael	Scoullós	Chairman	Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean		Address: Kyrristou 12, 10556 Athens Tel.: +30 2103247490 Fax: +30 210 3317127 Email: secretariat@gwp-med.org
19.	Dimitris	Faloutsos	Programme Coordinator for Southeastern Europe	Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean		Address: Kyrristou 12, 10556 Athens Tel.: +30 2103247490 Fax: +30 210 3317127 Email: dimitris@gwpmmed.org
20.	Konstantina	Toli	Programme Officer	Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean		Address: Kyrristou 12, 10556 Athens Tel.: +30 2103247490 Fax: +30 210 3317127 Email: konstantina@gwpmmed.org

21.	Milan	Vogrin	Member of the Executive Bureau	Mediterranean Information Office for Environment Culture and Sustainable Development		Address: Kyrristou 12, 10556 Athens Tel.: +30 2103247490 Fax: +30 210 3317127 Email: milan.vogrin@guest.arnes.si
22.	Thomie	Vlachogianni	Programme Officer	Mediterranean Information Office for Environment Culture and Sustainable Development		Address: Kyrristou 12, 10556 Athens Tel.: +30 2103247490 Fax: +30 210 3317127 Email: vlachogianni@mio-ecsde.org