

Drin Core Group

5th Meeting

**24 November 2011
Tirana, ALBANIA**

Report of the Meeting

Within the frameworks of
UNECE Water Convention
and
Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process

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

The meeting was financially supported by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency.

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A. BACKGROUND – THE CONTEXT FOR THE DISCUSSIONS DURING THE DRIN CORE GROUP MEETING



THE “EXTENDED” DRIN BASIN (Basin):

A complex water system, linking together lakes, rivers, wetlands and other aquatic habitats into a single ecosystem of major importance.

The “extended” Drin Basin comprises the watersheds of the Prespa, Ohrid and Shkoder Lakes and the Black Drin, White Drin, Drin and Buna/Bojana Rivers.

The Drin River is the “connecting body” of a water system, linking the lakes, wetlands, rivers and other aquatic habitats into a single ecosystem of major importance. The water bodies and their watersheds are spread in a geographical area that includes Albania, Greece, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (from this point forward referred to as FYR Macedonia), Montenegro and Kosovo (*UN administered territory under UN Security Council resolution 1244*). Flowing from Lake Ohrid, which itself receives part of its waters from Lake Prespa through underground karstic formations, the Black Drin eventually leaves FYR Macedonia and enters Albania. The White Drin rises in Kosovo and flows into Albania where it meets the Black Drin to form the Drin River. Flowing through Albania, one arm of the Drin joins the Buna/Bojana River (a watercourse which drains Lake Shkoder and, shared between Albania and Montenegro forms part of their border before finally flowing into the Adriatic Sea) near the city of Shkodra and the other arm drains directly into the Adriatic Sea south of Shkodra near the city of Lezhe. Each of these water bodies has a number of tributaries, small rivers and streams. The following table depicts the hydrographic connections:

Table 1: Shared water bodies in the South Western Balkan Peninsula

Water bodies	Prespa Lake	Ohrid Lake	Drin River	Shkoder Lake	Buna/Bojana River
<i>Physically interconnected (through surface waters flow)</i>					
<i>Physically interconnected (through ground-water flow)</i>					
<i>Shared by:</i>	Albania, FYR Macedonia, Greece	Albania, FYR Macedonia	Albania, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo	Albania, Montenegro	

An example of interdependences across countries/territories and sectors.

The Drin regional transboundary system is a fine example that illustrates the interdependences created between different uses (agriculture, hydropower generation, industry, fisheries, urban, tourism etc.) in four major inter-connected inland water bodies and a receiving sea (the Adriatic), and a number of countries with, many times, different priorities and interests. It can also be used to illustrate the complexity of the management of water resources in the region which goes beyond the possible achievement of a suitable and effective management in a single sovereign state.

A system extending across national boundaries, being managed through a series of quite different and often incoherent management approaches.

The riparian countries are in different stages of development. In most of the cases, a history of fragmented, sometimes overlapping or even contradictory legislation, generally weak

environmental administration, limited financial resources as well as low public participation and awareness, also affects the current situation. Non-sustainable management of the environment and natural resources as a result of struggling for economic growth also contributes to reality. Nevertheless, the policies as well as their legal and institutional frameworks are undergoing a revision process driven mainly by the EU accession prospect. The riparian countries that are not EU members have all declared accession to the EU to be their main strategic goal, thus accepting the EU Sustainable Development Strategy as a guiding framework for their development. This is the main political driver for changes in these riparian countries. This process runs on a country by country basis depending on the individual fulfilment of the Copenhagen criteria for EU membership. Evidently, re-organisation and furthermore a full approximation to EU standards will need time and resources.

Cooperation among countries at the sub-Basin level has been initiated, demonstrating the political will of the Governments.

Importantly, a level of cooperation is already in place for the three Lakes; Prespa, Ohrid and Shkoder/Skadar. Related Agreements have been signed by the littoral countries.

The assistance of the International Community.

The international community has greatly assisted towards this direction and remains active in the region through financing or implementation of a series of projects on a number of water-related themes and sectors. Moreover the, EU accession prospect driven, on-going reforms in the countries will gradually lead to a *de facto* harmonized legal framework. In addition, initiatives such as the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process and the UNECE Water Convention are facilitating the creation of a “common vision” among the stakeholders of the riparian countries. The GEF’s engagement in Ohrid (completed), Prespa and Shkoder (on-going), creates the conditions for the enhancement of cooperation towards the integrated management of the Basin.

Nevertheless, cooperation among countries at the Basin level has not been initiated yet.

However, little action has been taken for the coordination among the countries for the management of the System’s rivers (the Drin River and its tributaries, the Black Drin and White Drin, and Buna/Bojana Rivers) as well as for the “extended” Drin Basin itself. The coordinated management of this inter-connected hydrological system, using the principles of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), will have positive effects in the Basin as well as in the adjacent coastal area of the Adriatic Sea (an area of special focus also for the GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem), and be beneficial for the sustainable development in the entire region. Relevant examples of cooperation exist in the European continent which can be of inspiration for the way forward in the Drin River system (Danube, Rhine, Sava River basins).

 **THE DRIN DIALOGUE**

The Drin Basin Dialogue has its roots in the regional dialogue for transboundary water resources management in SEE under the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process as well as the UNECE Water Convention, supported by GEF IW:LEARN; A **Consultation Meeting on Integrated Management of the extended Drin River Basin** jointly organized by the Albanian Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration, UNECE and GWP-Med in Tirana, Albania, 24 November 2008 with the financial support of the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the German Ministry for Environment, Nature

Conservation and Nuclear Safety, gathered key stakeholders from all riparian countries including representatives of the water competent ministries. The meeting gave a mandate to the Partners in the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process and UNECE to facilitate the initiation of a consultation process among key stakeholders at the national and transboundary levels towards the establishment of a Shared Vision for the coordinated and sustainable management of the Drin basin.

This consultation process, the **Drin Dialogue**, was formally launched during a meeting organized on **1 December 2009, in Podgorica, Montenegro** (Podgorica Meeting / 1st Drin Core Group Meeting) with the support and collaboration of the Government of Montenegro, the UNECE, GWP-Med and the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), and the financial support of the Swedish EPA. The meeting brought together representatives of the water resources management competent Ministries of Albania, FYR Macedonia and Montenegro as well as the existing joint Commissions/Committees in the sub-basins. It was decided that the UNECE and the GWP-Med will provide assistance, facilitating the implementation of the Drin Dialogue. UNDP actively supports the Drin Dialogue process by providing technical support and methodologies for the development of the Drin transboundary assessment. At the same time UNDP together with all the partners has initiated the development of the new GEF International Waters project for the Drin basin.

The following were among the decisions of the Podgorica meeting:

- The **aim** of the **Drin Dialogue** is to develop a Shared Vision for the sustainable management of the Drin Basin and to explore ways towards enhancing transboundary cooperation in this regard, in compliance with the provisions of the UNECE Water Convention and other related multi-lateral Agreements, as well as the EU Water Framework Directive. The Dialogue will be conducted within the frameworks of the UNECE Water Convention and the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process. Activities implemented and to be developed in support of the Drin Dialogue contribute directly to and are part of the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative and of the GEF Med Partnership.
 - The **Drin Dialogue involves** in a coordinated and structured consultation process the competent Ministries of the Drin Basin riparians (Albania, FYR Macedonia, Greece, Kosovo, Montenegro) with competence on water resources management, the joint Commissions/Committees in place in the sub-basins (Prespa Park Management Committee, Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee, Lake Skadar-Shkoder Commission) and key stakeholders at national and transboundary levels.
- For the communication and cooperation among the riparian countries and the key stakeholders and for the coordination and the facilitation of implementation of the Drin Dialogue, an informal structure under the name **Drin Core Group (DCG)** is formed. As decided, the DCG will comprise of duly nominated representatives (“focal points”) of the:
 1. Competent Ministries of the riparian countries: Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration, Albania; Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change, Greece; Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, the FYR Macedonia; Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment, Montenegro; Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Montenegro; Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Kosovo
 2. Joint Commissions/Committees in place in the sub-basins of the Drin Basin, namely the: Prespa Park Management Committee; Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee; Lake Skadar-Shkoder Commission
 3. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

4. Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med), as the secretariat of the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process (GWP-Med will also serve as the Secretariat of the DCG providing technical and administrative support in cooperation with the existing secretariats of the sub-basins)
5. Mediterranean Information Office for Environment Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE)

The European Commission, Swedish EPA, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) / Global Environment Facility (GEF) will be invited to participate as observers. Any other parts could be co-opted as members or invited as observers on the decision of the Drin Core Group.

A project supporting the Drin Dialogue started on 15 May 2010 and lasted until 30 November 2011. ***The project shared the same aims with the Drin Dialogue and is financially supported by the Swedish EPA.***

The outputs of this project are:

- Organization of the Drin Core Group (DCG) Meetings;
- Preparation of a Situation Analysis - to identify the key issues and problems linked with water resources management as well as to identify the key stakeholders at the national and transboundary levels and feed in the Consultation process;
- Three (3) National Consultation Meetings (FYR Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro) and one (1) Transboundary Consultation Meeting at the Drin Basin level;
- A “Strategic Shared Vision” document for the management of the Drin Basin and a Plan of Action for the promotion of multilateral coordination and cooperation.

THE 5TH DRIN CORE GROUP MEETING

The **fifth meeting of the Drin Core Group was organized on 24 November 2011, in Tirana, Albania** with the support and collaboration of: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med), the Albanian Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration and 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 II.

B. MINUTES IN BRIEF¹

The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Marco Keiner (Director, Environment Division, UNECE) and Mr. Dimitris Faloutsos (Programme Coordinator for Southeastern Europe, GWP-Med).

Agenda item 1. Opening – Welcome

Mr. Keiner welcomed the members of the Drin Core Group and the rest of the participants pointing out that the Drin Dialogue Process will soon be formalized as the Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as MoU) is scheduled to be signed by the Ministers of the Riparians and their representatives, the following day (25 November 2011). Mr. Keiner expressed the hope that this will signal the implementation of joint actions in the Drin River Basin.

Mr. Sajmir Hoxha (Director for Biodiversity, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration, Albania) welcomed the participants of the 5th Drin Core Group on behalf of the host country. He expressed the firm belief that the MoU to be signed will be a platform for cooperation between the Drin Riparians. Furthermore, Mr. Hoxha thanked the members of the Drin Core Group as well as UNECE, GWP-Med, MIO-ECSDE and the Swedish EPA for their effort and support.

Agenda item 2. Tour de table - Opening brief statements

The participants introduced themselves.

Agenda item 3. Adoption of the Agenda

Mr. Keiner proposed the following changes in the agenda that were accepted by the meeting: Item 8 “Regional projects related to the management of the Drin Basin” to become Item 5; “Developments regarding management activities in the Drin sub-basins” to be added as Item 6; Item 7 “MoU Strategic Shared Vision for the management of the Drin – steps for its implementation” would be the last item to be discussed; the order of the rest of the Items to remain the same.

Agenda item 4. Purpose of the meeting

Dimitris Faloutsos made a brief overview of the adopted agenda and presented the scope of the meeting:

- Discuss the issues identified through the Drin Situation Analysis to be presented in the Consultation Meeting at the Transboundary level (25 November 2011, Tirana).
- Go through the agenda of the Ministerial meeting and discuss: (i) the roles of the delegations of the countries during the high level segment; (ii) latest developments and; (iii) eventual issues to be addressed.
- Discuss steps towards the implementation of the MoU to be signed on 25 November 2011, including the establishment of working groups of experts to assist the work of the Drin Core Group.
- Be informed by representatives of donor countries about on-going and planned regional projects related to the management of the sub-basins of Drin. Discuss options for the coordination of action among initiatives and projects at the national and transboundary levels towards the sustainable management of the Drin Basin.
- Discuss the proposed Communication Activities in the forthcoming period in support of the MoU realization.

¹ Prepared by Dimitris Faloutsos and Anna Maria Papaioannou, Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean

Agenda Item 5. Regional projects related to the management of the Drin Basin

Mr. Hermann Plumm (Programme Director, GIZ office in Albania) was invited to inform the Drin Core Group about ongoing and planned projects supported by the GIZ in the Drin River Basin.

Mr. Plumm presented briefly the following on-going projects:

- Water Sector Reform, Albania (2011 to 2015).
The project aims at enhancing the institutional, regulatory and management capacities in the Albanian water sector. It comprises of the following three components:
 1. Component 1, providing assistance to the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunications in successfully implementing reforms in the water sector.
 2. Component 2, providing assistance to the General Directorate of Water Supply and Sewerage in introducing operating standards and providing training for staff.
 3. Component 3, providing assistance to the Albanian Water Regulatory Authority to function more efficiently.
- Protection and sustainable utilization of the biodiversity in the area of Lakes Prespa, Ohrid and Shkoder (12.2011- 06.2014).
The beneficiary countries are Albania, Montenegro and FYR Macedonia. It comprises of the following four components:
 1. Monitoring of the fauna and flora in Shkoder/ Skadar and Prespa Lakes according to the Water Framework Directive, the Fauna, Flora and Habitats Directive and the Council Directive on the conservation of wild birds.
 2. Regulation and control of catches in Prespa Lake on the basis of population and reproduction data.
 3. Implementation of protection measures formulated in management plans for the Ezerani, Ohndsko-Bllato, Dnloni-Ligatina and Strushko-Bllato wetlands.
 4. Characterization of Prespa, Ohrid and Shkoder/ Skadar Lakes according to the Water Framework Directive and presentation of related environmental goals to the governments of Albania, FYR Macedonia and Montenegro for adoption.
- Climate change adaptation in the Drin River Basin (2012- 2017).
The project emphasizes on flood and drought risk management. The beneficiary countries are Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro and FYR Macedonia. It comprises of the following five components:
 1. Setting up of a regional Flood Monitoring Centre, providing information to responsible institutions for protection against floods and flood prevention.
 2. Endorsement of a regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy by the involved countries.
 3. Development of local Flood Protection Management Plans.
 4. Enforcement of water resources utilization by-laws.
 5. Conceptual development of an inter-regional water resources management plan for the Western Balkans.

Mr. Keiner, concluded that there is space for synergies. The projects supported by the GIZ will greatly benefit the process for the enhanced management of the Drin Basin which is the aim of the Drin Dialogue as well as of the work under the Drin Core Group. Furthermore, these projects can be benefited by the work of the Drin Core Group, as this will, through the

to-be-signed MoU, have the mandate to coordinate actions among the Riparians for the coordinated management of the Drin Basin.

Agenda Item 6. Developments regarding management activities in the Drin sub-basins

Mr. Ylber Mirta (Head of Department for Waters, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, FYR Macedonia) referred to the progress in the implementation of the Water Framework Directive and the assistance that has been provided in this regard by the GIZ. The drafting of River Basin Management Plans for all River Basin Districts in the country is planned for the following year. The preparation of a Water Strategy, as part of a project funded by the government of Slovenia, is underway.

Mr. Shiqueri Dermaku (Head of the Water Resources Management Department, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Kosovo) informed the Drin Core Group that the Ministry is currently exploring opportunities for building small hydropower plants along the White Drin River.

Mr. Fidaim Sahiti (Head of the Water Information System, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Kosovo) referred to a new Twinning Project, related to Kosovo's water strategy, that will commence in December 2011. Furthermore, KfW is currently drafting a pre-feasibility study for the White Drin River in Kosovo.

Mr. Radosav Rasovic (Senior Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Montenegro) informed the meeting that the drafting of ToR for the preparation of a River Basin Management Plan for the Moracca River has been completed. The Ministry intends to proceed among others with the development of a Basin Management Plan for Shkoder/Skadar Lake. The characterization of the Lake in accordance to the EU WFD will be done through the, mentioned by Mr. Plumm, GIZ supported Project on Biodiversity. Mr. Rasovic concluded by referring to the delay in the signing of Montenegro's new Biodiversity Law due to the change of government in the country.

Mr. Hoxha informed the meeting that the representatives from Albania, Montenegro and FYR Macedonia had met in October to discuss the GIZ supported projects.

Mr. Idir Gumbardhi (Chief of Water Resources Sector, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration, Albania) informed that the final draft of the new Water Law is completed. Furthermore, he underlined the need of an in depth assessment of the Albanian water management sector. The cooperation between the Albanian Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration and the competent Montenegrin Ministries -the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism- has proven to be fruitful on the issue of flood incidents in the greater area of Shkoder/Skadar Lake. On the same issue, a private consulting company has already been appointed to prepare a study on the prevention of floods in the area.

Agenda Item 7. Drin Dialogue – Drin Situation Analysis

Mr. Faloutsos made a presentation summarizing the outcomes of the Drin Situation Analysis (the presentation is available upon request). The same presentation would be made on the 25th of November 2011, during the Consultation Meeting at Transboundary Level. Mr. Faloutsos explained that the information and data of the Drin Situation Analysis derived from contributions from local experts hired in this regard and existing bibliography, and combined with input from stakeholders participating in three National Consultation Meetings in FYR Macedonia, Albania and Montenegro.

Mr. Libert invited the members of the Drin Core Group to comment on the presentation.

Mr. Hoxha agreed with the outcomes of the Situation Analysis as presented. In addition Mr. Hoxha underlined the need for a more detailed reference to the progress made so far as an outcome of the efforts made by the countries.

Mr. Dejan Panovski (Head, Drim River Management Unit / Lake Ohrid Watershed Commission, FYR Macedonia) commented that the Drin Situation Analysis would serve as a tool drawing the attention of the Riparians –authorities and stakeholders- to important issues completely unacknowledged until now. The bilateral agreements between the Riparians need revision and the Drin Core Group could play a significant role in promoting this agenda.

Mr. Faloutsos stressed that the Drin Core Group, although able to facilitate such a process, has the mandate to promote a multilateral approach.

Mr. Arian Merolli (Lake Ohrid Watershed Commission, Albania) proposed to include in the Drin Situation Analysis the lack of official definition of the Ohrid Lake shoreline, as a result of which uncontrolled construction is taking place on both sides, in Albania and FYR Macedonia. Mr. Merolli also informed the Drin Core Group that the mining activities in the Albanian Drin River sub-basin, constituting an environmental pressure, have ceased since the 1990s.

Mr. Skender Hasa (Water Resources Specialist, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration), referring to the existing bilateral agreements, stated that the agreements between Albania, and FYR Macedonia and Montenegro will need to remain in force. With regard to the lack of the officially defined shoreline of Ohrid Lake, Mr. Hasa mentioned that it constitutes a barrier in enforcing the water law in the Albanian side.

Mr. Gumbardhi, expressed the opinion that dams in Albania offer a tool that regulates the rivers' water flow and sediments movement downstream and furthermore that the dams have often proved to be useful during flooding incidents. Mr. Gumbardhi added that there are still several disadvantages with regard to sustainable water management.

The Drin Core Group endorsed the outcomes of the Situation Analysis.

Agenda Item 8. Drin Dialogue – Consultation Meeting at Transboundary level

The representatives of the Riparians informed on the synthesis of the delegations that would be attending the Consultation Meeting at Transboundary Level.

Agenda Item 9. Communication Activities

Ms. Thomie Vlachogianni (MIO-ECSDE) informed the Drin Core Group about the Communication activities document that MIO-ECSDE prepared to assist to the promotion of the Drin Dialogue Process.

Thomie Vlachogianni presented the proposal of MIO-ECSDE with regard to the communication activities. The objectives of the communication activities include: (i) building of trust among stakeholders in the transboundary basin; (ii) facilitating communication; (iii) ensuring visibility of the Process; (iv) strengthening the dialogue and (v) consensus building.

The proposed activities would involve:

- An website, through which information on the Process will be made available to all stakeholders;
- A restricted portal in the aforementioned site for better communication and coordination among the members of the Drin Core Group;
- A brochure to disseminate information and raise awareness;
- Participation of Drin Core Group representatives to key environmental events in the Region and beyond; and
- A TV spot on the Drin Dialogue Process to attract the interest of stakeholders.

Furthermore, Ms. Vlachogianni presented to the members of the Drin Core Group a preliminary version of the logo, the eel.

The members of the Drin Core Group thanked MIO-ECSDE and agreed that further discussion would be necessary.

With regard to promoting the visibility of the Drin Core Group, Bo Libert proposed the following: (i) to change the Agenda of the Consultation Meeting at Transboundary Level, so that a representative of the Drin Core Group can address the stakeholders after the Ministers and High Level representatives of the Riparians; and (ii) to prepare a press release on behalf of the Drin Core Group and distribute it during the Consultation Meeting. The proposals were accepted by the members of the Drin Core Group.

Agenda Item 10. MoU Strategic Shared Vision for the management of the Drin – steps for its implementation

Mr. Faloutsos proposed the establishment of Expert Working Groups to assist the work of Drin Core Group in line with the mandate to be received through the MoU to be signed. This work would aim at the realization of the provisions of the MoU towards the sustainable management of the Drin Basin.

Mr. Keiner underlined the need for the Drin Core Group to remain the decision body. A set of small Working Groups can be given the mandate to assist in addressing specific issues, within a predetermined timeframe, by providing specific deliverables.

Mr. Libert informed that the efforts of UNECE and GWP-Med to assist the Riparians to secure funding for the continuation of the Drin Dialogue Process and in particular to support the Drin Core Group and two/three Working Groups under it, is on-going.

Mr. Hoxha proposed to create an Expert Working Group on data exchange and characterization, having a coordinative role on related issues.

Mr. Panovski proposed the creation of a Working Group on Climate Change.

The Drin Core Group agreed for three Expert Working Groups (EWG) to be established:

- EWG on Water Framework Directive;
- EWG on Monitoring and Information Exchange;
- EWG on Biodiversity and Ecosystems.

Mr. Faloutsos proposed the first meeting of the Drin Core Group as a formal institution within the Drin Dialogue Process to be organized in late March to early April and invited Hermann Plumm to participate. His proposal was accepted by the Drin Core Group.

Agenda Item 11. Wrap up - Any other business

Mr. Marco Keiner thanked the members of the Drin Core Group and the other participants for their contribution to the fruitful discussions.

Annex I. Agenda of the 5th Drin Core Group Meeting

5th Drin Core Group Meeting
Tirana
24 November 2011

TIRANA INTERNATIONAL HOTEL
Scanderbeg Square, 8, Tirana, ALBANIA

Chair: *Mr. Marco Keiner, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)*

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

1. Opening – Welcome (10 min)

Mr. Sajmir Hoxha, Director of Biodiversity, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration, Albania

2. Tour de table – Opening brief statements by the members of the Drin Core Group (10 min)

3. Adoption of the Agenda (5 min)

4. Purpose of the meeting (5 min)

5. Regional projects related to the management of the Drin Basin (60 min)

<i>Action</i>	<i>Background</i>
<i>Representatives of the Drin Riparians (DCG members) as well as representatives of donor countries will inform the Drin Core Group about on-going and planned regional projects related to the management of the sub-basins of Drin. The aim will be to coordinate action among initiatives and projects at the national and transboundary levels towards the sustainable management of the Drin Basin.</i>	<i>- Draft Concept note; Project proposal for the German government on “Adaptation to climate change in the Drin river basin”</i>
<i>Introduction: Representatives of the Drin Riparians - GIZ Discussion: All</i>	

6. Developments regarding management activities in the Drin sub-basins (30 min)

<i>Action</i>	<i>Background</i>
<i>The members of the Drin Core Group representing the Drin riparian countries and the existing joint management bodies will briefly present developments with regard to the management of the sub-basins at the national and transboundary level.</i>	

7. Drin Dialogue – Drin Situation Analysis (40 min)

<i>Action</i>	<i>Background</i>
<i>The Drin Core Group will discuss the issues identified through the Drin Situation Analysis and will be presented in the Consultation Meeting at the Transboundary level, 25 November 2011 in Tirana.</i>	<i>- Issues in the “extended” Drin Basin</i>

- Introduction: GWP-Med - Discussion (All)	
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8. Drin Dialogue – Consultation Meeting at Transboundary level (20 min)

<i>Action</i>	<i>Background</i>
<p><i>The Drin Core Group will go through the agenda of the meeting and discuss: (i) the roles of the delegations of the countries during the high level segment; (ii) latest developments and; (iii) eventual issues to be addressed.</i></p> <p>- Introduction: UNECE and GWP-Med - Discussion (All)</p>	<p>- Agenda of the Consultation Meeting at Transboundary level meeting</p>

9. Communication Activities (30 min)

<i>Action</i>	<i>Background</i>
<p><i>The DCG will discuss the proposed Communication Activities in the forthcoming period in support of the MoU realization.</i></p> <p>Introduction: MIO-ECSDE Discussion: All</p>	<p>- Draft Communication Strategy</p>

10. MoU Strategic Shared Vision for the management of the Drin – steps for its implementation (60 min)

<i>Action</i>	<i>Background</i>
<p><i>The Group will discuss steps towards the implementation of the MoU to be signed on 25 November 2011, including the establishment of working groups of experts to assist the work of the Drin Core Group in this regard.</i></p> <p>- Introduction: UNECE and GWP-Med - Discussion (All)</p>	<p>- Draft MoU document</p>

11. Wrap up - Any Other Business (10 min)

Annex II. List of Participants

Title	Name	Surname	Position	Organization	
Members of the Drin Core Group					
Mr.	Sajmir	HOXHA	Director of Biodiversity	Ministry of Environment, Forestry & Water Administration	ALBANIA
Mr.	Dejan	PANOVSKI	Head of Unit / Secretary	Drim River Management Unit / Lake Ohrid Watershed Commission	FYR MACEDONIA
Ms.	Evelina	STAMOULI	Advisor to the Secretary General of the Environment	Ministry of Environment, Energy & Climate Change	GREECE
Mr.	Arian	MEROLLI	Secretary	Lake Ohrid Watershed Commission	ALBANIA
Mr.	Ilir	KRAJA	Secretary, Lake Shkoder/Skadar Integrated Ecosystem Management Project	Skadar/Shkoder Lake Commission	ALBANIA
Mr.	Radosav	RASOVIC	Senior Advisor	Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development	MONTENEGRO
Mr.	Bo	LIBERT	Regional Advisor	UNECE	
Mr.	Dimitris	FALOUTSOS	Programme Coordinator for Southeastern Europe	Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean	
Mr.	Milan	VOGRIN	Board member	MIO-ECSDE	

Participants					
Mr.	Idlir	GUMBARDHI	Chief of Water Resources Sector	Ministry of Environment, Forestry & Water Administration	ALBANIA
Mr.	Skender	HASA	Water Resources Specialist	Ministry of Environment, Forestry & Water Administration	ALBANIA
Mr.	Arduen	KARAGJOZI	Water Resources Specialist	Ministry of Environment, Forestry & Water Administration	ALBANIA
Mr.	Ylber	MIRTA	Head of Department for Waters	Ministry of Environment & Physical Planning	FYR MACEDONIA
Mr.	Shiqeri	DERMAKU	Head of Water Resources Management Department	Ministry of Environment & Spatial Planning	KOSOVO
Mr.	Manduha	GOJANI	Coordinator of River Basin Drini Bardh	Ministry of Environment & Spatial Planning	KOSOVO
Mr.	Fidaim	SAHITI	Head of Water Information System	Ministry of Environment & Spatial Planning	KOSOVO
Ms.	Anne	ANDERSSON	Programme Coordinator for the Western Balkans	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	SWEDEN
Mr.	Hermann	PLUMM	Programme Director	GIZ office in Albania	GERMANY
Mr.	Marco	KEINER	Director of Environment Division	UNECE	
Ms.	Thomais	VLACHOGIANNI	Programme Officer	MIO-ECSDE	

Ms.	Anna Maria	PAPAIOANNOU	Project Assistant	Global Water Partnership- Mediterranean	
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