Drin Dialogue

Consultation process for the establishment of a
Shared Vision for the management of the extended Drin Basin

1st National Consultation Meeting

Inex Gorica Hotel
Ohrid, 2 November 2010

Report

Organized with the support and collaboration of:
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean
Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee
Mediterranean Information Office for Environment Culture and Sustainable Development

Financially supported by the
Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

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

Prepared by the Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean Secretariat
Athens, December 2010

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
Web: www.gwpmed.org and www.watersee.net

The Petersberg Phase II Process / Athens Declaration Process (Process) for the South Eastern Europe is jointly coordinated by Germany, Greece and the World Bank.

The **Petersberg Process**, initiated in 1998, concerns cooperation on the management of transboundary waters. The Petersberg Process – Phase II is intended to provide support to translate into action the current developments and opportunities for future cooperation on transboundary river, lake and groundwater management in the SEE. It is supported by the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and the World Bank.

The **Athens Declaration Process** concerning *Shared Water, Shared Future and Shared Knowledge* was initiated in 2003. It provides a framework for a long-term process to support cooperative activities for the integrated management of shared water resources in the SEE and Mediterranean regions. It is jointly supported by the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the World Bank.

The two processes progressively came together in order to generate synergies and maximize the outcomes for the benefit of the SEE region. The Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med) is the technical facilitator of related activities.

The main joint objective is to build capacity and share experience on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), and to develop IWRM plans for shared water bodies as a response to the targets of the 2002 Johannesburg Summit. The Process supports a series of complementary activities that provide a forum for transboundary water management issues in SEE.

The Process complements the EU integration processes and other ongoing initiatives in the region. It 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.

For more information visit www.watersee.net

The **UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (UNECE Water Convention)** is the only existing international legal framework outside the EU in force for transboundary water cooperation. The Convention was signed in Helsinki in 1992 and entered into force in 1996. As of September 2008, 35 countries and the European Community are Parties to the Convention, including Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Romania and Slovenia.

The Convention aims to protect surface and ground water by preventing transboundary impacts on health, safety and nature, which in turn affect the quality of life. It also promotes ecologically sound management of transboundary waters, and their reasonable and equitable use as a way of avoiding conflicts.

Parties to the Convention are obliged to conclude specific bilateral or multilateral agreements providing for the establishment of joint bodies (institutional arrangements such as river basin commissions). These joint bodies must agree on a common action plan to reduce pollution, in addition to agreeing on water quality objectives and waste-water emission limits. They are also required to cooperate on information exchange and monitoring and assessment. Early warning systems must be established to warn neighbouring countries of any critical situation such as flooding or accidental pollution that may have a

transboundary impact. Parties to the Convention are also required to inform the general public of the state of transboundary waters and any prevailing or future measures.

The Convention provides a legal framework for regional cooperation on shared water resources. Several bilateral and multilateral agreements between UNECE countries are based on the principles and provisions of the Convention, including, in SEE, the Danube River Protection Convention and the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin.

Under the Convention, the Protocol on Water and Health and the Protocol on Civil Liability were adopted in 1999 and in 2003, respectively.

The programme of work adopted every three years by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention is a useful tool to support Parties' and non-Parties' implementation, identify joint priorities and address emerging challenges. SEE is considered a priority action area, thus the 2007-2009 programme of work includes a number of activities to support ratification by non-Parties and foster cooperation on transboundary waters in the region.

For more information visit www.unece.org/env/water

GEF IW:LEARN is supporting synergy in the Petersberg Process Phase II / Athens Declaration Process, and contributions of practical experience from GEF projects working in transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwater in the SEE region as well as elsewhere in the world.

For more information visit www.iwlearn.net

BACKGROUND – THE CONTEXT FOR THE DISCUSSIONS DURING THE NATIONAL CONSULTATION 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[1], Ohrid and Shkoder[2] Lakes and the Black Drin[3], White Drin[4], Drin[5] 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
Physically interconnected (through surface waters flow)		⟷	⟷	⟷	⟷
Physically interconnected (through ground-water flow)	⟷	⟷			
Shared by:	**Albania, FYR Macedonia, Greece**	**Albania, FYR Macedonia**	**Albania, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo**	**Albania, Montenegro**	

[1] The Prespa basin includes two lakes separated by a naturally formulated narrow strip of land: Macro Prespa and Micro Prespa. From this point forward we will be referred to the system of the two lakes as Prespa.

[2] The Lake is called "Skadar" in Montenegro and "Shkodër" or "Shkodra" and also sometimes "Scutari" in Albania.

[3] The River is called Drin i Zi in Albania and Crn Drim in FYR Macedonia. From now on the English name –Black Drin– will be used to avoid the usage of different names when referred to it.

[4] The River is called Drin i Bardhë in Albania and Beli Drin in Kosovo. From now on the English name –White Drin– will be used to avoid the usage of different names when referred to it.

[5] The River is called Drin i madh or Drini in Albania. From now on the name "Drin" will be used to avoid the usage of different names when referred to it.

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 II; 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 the 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. In 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 for the Environment, Energy and Climatic 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)

(i) 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 will last about 15 months, until 30 July 2011. *The project shares the same aims with the Drin Dialogue and is financially supported by the Swedish EPA.*

The envisaged 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 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.

(i) OVERVIEW

The National Consultation Meeting was organized with the support and collaboration of the Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean (GWP-Med) and Mediterranean Information Office for Environment Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE) on 2 November 2010. It was the first of the series of the Consultation Meetings within the Drin Dialogue; as such it was financially supported by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency.

The National Consultation Meeting:
- involved the stakeholders of FYR Macedonia in the Drin Dialogue consultation process;
- discussed and elaborated on management issues, needs and actions for the sustainable management of the Drin Basin extended in the country i.e. Prespa, Ohrid and Black Drin sub-basins, thus;
- facilitated the development of a Strategic Shared Vision for the management of the Drin Basin.

The findings of the Situation Analysis were presented and provided the background for the discussions.

The agenda of the meeting is given in Annex I.

The meeting was co-chaired by:

- *Mr. Dejan Panovski,* Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning / Secretariat of the Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee
- *Mr. Bo Libert*, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- M*r. Michael Scoullos*, Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med)

Mr. Dimitris Faloutsos (GWP-Med) was the Rapporteur

(ii) STRUCTURE OF THE DISCUSSION

The discussion was designed to be participatory so as the:

- Drin Dialogue process is informed by the knowledge and experience of the stakeholders.
- Outcomes of the meeting reflect the aspirations of the stakeholders with regard to the management of the basin and its future state in terms of development and ecosystems quality.

The DPSIR framework[6] was used as a mean to facilitate the discussion. The stakeholders were called to identify the water-related environmental issues and problems (pressures and state of

[6] The DPSIR is a causal framework for describing the interactions between society and the environment adopted by the European Environment Agency (extension of the PSR model developed by OECD).
Driving forces: Socioeconomic and socio-cultural factors driving human activities which increase or mitigate pressures on the environment (e.g. EU accession, national regulatory framework, development planning, economic activities e.g. industrial

the environment according to the DPSIR framework) in the Drin sub-basins extending in the country, namely Prespa, Ohrid and Black Drin, as well as the impacts caused. This information will allow the experts that work on the Situation Analysis to identify key root causes ("driving forces" according to the DPSIR framework) through a causal chain analysis.

The discussion revolved also around the Vision of the stakeholders in relation to the future management and development of the Drin Basin including aspects such as ecosystem quality, economic development, quality of life and cooperation with the other riparian/littoral countries.

(iii) PARTICIPANTS

H.E. Mr. Nexhati Jakupi, Minister of Environment and Physical Planning and H.E. Mr. Erwan Fouere, Special Representative of the European Union and Head of the Delegation of the European Union in FYR Macedonia participated in the meeting.

Over sixty (60) targeted representatives of international, national and local stakeholders participated, including national, regional and local authorities, important economic sectors (such as agriculture, energy, industry, tourism etc.), academia, private sector, NGOs as well as donor countries and international organizations active in the Drin sub-basins extending in the country. The list of participants is given in Annex II.

(iv) THE CONSULTATION – MAIN OUTCOMES

H.E. Mr. Nexhati Jakupi opened the meeting. He welcomed the participants and expressed his satisfaction to see the vast majority of the stakeholder groups from the Prespa, Ohrid and Black Drin watersheds represented in the consultation; he stressed the importance of the fact that municipal authorities were present. He called the stakeholders to actively support the Drin Dialogue process since this contributes towards the sustainable management of the sub-basins at national as well at transboundary levels. Finally he expressed the support of the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning to this endeavour.

H.E. Mr. Erwan Fouere, Special Representative of the European Union and Head of the Delegation of the European Union in FYR Macedonia expressed his deep appreciation for the initiative and commended the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency for financially supporting the activities under the Drin Dialogue. He stressed the importance of the UNECE being involved adding that as the EU, it facilitates regional stability. Mr. Fouere referred to the EU Water Framework Directive being the major driver in the area in the field of water resources management. He underlined the importance of the Drin Dialogue towards transboundary cooperation in the field of shared water bodies on the basis of EU policies in the area. He noted the fact that the Drin Dialogue is a process driven by the countries and the stakeholders. Finally,

---

production). Pressures: Stresses that human activities place directly on the environment (e.g. pollution emissions). State of the environment: The condition of the environment (e.g. water quality in rivers and lakes). Impacts: The effects resulting from the condition of the environment on population, economy, ecosystems (e.g. water unsuitable for drinking, biodiversity loss, less overnight stays in hotels). **R**esponses: *Responses by the society to the environmental situation (e.g. laws and regulations, incentives and disincentives, integrated basin management planning etc.)*

Mr. Foueres thanked the Secretariat and stressed that the EU will provide all necessary support to this endeavour.

Mr. Dejan Panovsky, Secretary of the Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee, welcomed the participants. He underlined the importance of the Drin Dialogue process for the future management of the Drin sub-basins in the country. He reminded the meeting that the process was based on an idea developed through the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process and thanked the Secretariat for its support.

Ms. Ulrika Stensdotter Blomberg, Senior Scientific Advisor, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), mentioned that SEPA is happy to support the Drin Dialogue Process. She added that this meeting is a milestone. Finally, she expressed her satisfaction with the progress achieved so far.

Mr. Bo Libert, Senior Adviser, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, underlined the importance of the Drin Dialogue. The process is particularly significant while countries in the region are trying to address issues related to the climate change. He noted the complementarity of the UNECE Water Convention and the EU WFD as instruments for sustainable management of water resources. Finally, he stressed that the Drin Dialogue process is not just a project for UNECE but a commitment undertaken to work jointly with GWP-Med and the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process and achieve results with regard to enhanced cooperation among the riparian countries for the management of the extended Drin basin.

Mr. Michael Scoullos, Chairman of Global Water Partnership Mediterranean, supplemented the words of Dejan Panovsky emphasizing the commitment of GWP-Med, the EU Water Initiative and all partners involved reminding the participants that the Drin Dialogue has its roots in an International Roundtable that was organized in 2006 in Ohrid within the framework of the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process. He expressed his optimism for the results of the Drin Dialogue since this has the support of the countries, the stakeholders, the UNECE and the EU.

The main outcomes of the facilitated discussion that followed the initial statements are given in the following pages.

- **The discussion about the <u>Drivers</u> revolved mainly around the management framework with regard to the part of the Drin Basin extending in the country.**

At the transboundary level there is already a basis for coordinated management of the Prespa and Ohrid watersheds provided by the Agreements[7] signed by the littoral countries and the management bodies that have been established (Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee) or to be established soon (Prespa Park Management Committee) through these. Gains achieved though, are still rather “fragile”. The countries have to take the actions necessary to fulfil the obligations undertaken through the two Agreements as well as consolidate the up to now achievements by providing sustained support to the management structures.

[7] - “Protection and Sustainable Development of Lake Ohrid and its Watershed” (17 June 2004)
- “Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area” (3 February 2010)

At the national level, the new Water Law transposes the EU Water Framework Directive; it calls for integration of the sectoral approaches for water resources management, which has to be performed at the basin level through decentralized and participatory processes. Although some steps have been taken, there is still a lot to be done towards the implementation of the Law and furthermore for the adoption of integrated water resources management. Difficulties are attributed to the overall insufficient institutional capacities; there are, in general, inadequate human and financial resources and insufficient coordination among the competent national authorities as well as between the national and local ones. The scientific and research institutes responsible for the monitoring of the state of the environment, the collection and interpretation of physicochemical and biological data suffer substantial financial shortcomings. Furthermore availability and dissemination of information generated is an issue; institutes do not always share their data. In addition, the administrative functions to coordinate the various institutes collect and integrate information so as to be used for decision making and reach out to the various sectors and stakeholders are in their infancy.

The inadequacy of an integrated basin management framework is paralleled with weak spatial planning and management framework. The latter results in inappropriate land management, which consequently leads to significant pressures upon the water bodies and the ecosystems. As a result of the lack of integrated approach, urban and economic development planning do not take into account the potential impacts of the consequent changes in the water balance and quality of the lake and riverine systems. For instance the fluctuations of the water level are not taken into account in the management of the Prespa area; this may have detrimental effects on the population as well as on the economic activities.

The major <u>Pressures</u> as these were identified through the discussion are presented below:

- The presence of dams in the Black Drin river; the regulation of the outflow from Ohrid lake as well as the flow of the Black Drin river for hydropower production purposes.
- Unsustainable solid waste management: insufficient solid waste collection systems; illegal solid waste disposal; inappropriate disposal sites.
- Unsustainable wastewater management: insufficient wastewater collection and treatment systems both in terms of population coverage and services provided due to technical / operational issues in Prespa and Ohrid watersheds; lack of wastewater treatment in the Black Drin watershed.
- Unsustainable agricultural practices in Prespa and Ohrid watersheds including inappropriate: (i) irrigation techniques (over)using both surface and ground waters - in Prespa illegal groundwater abstraction is widely practiced (ii) use of fertilizers (iii) use of pesticides and herbicides.
- Unsustainable fisheries management in Prespa and Ohrid Lakes including over-fishing, illegal fishing, use of inappropriate/illegal fishing means, inadequate or inappropriate restocking (concessionaires not restocking the lakes / alien species has been used in this regard).
- Hazardous substances pollution from mines in the Black Drin watershed.
- Deforestation due to unsustainable forest management, Illegal logging and over-grazing.
- Illegal gravel extraction in Black Drin and Sateska riverbeds.
- Urban expansion and construction exerting pressure to the shoreline habitats mainly around the Lake Ohrid.

- Climate variability including increased average temperatures and extreme weather phenomena occurring more frequently, were mentioned as factors that exacerbate the effects of some of the aforementioned pressures both with regard to the quality of water in the watersheds as well as its (extremely increased or reduced) availability in space and time.
- The following pressures, geographically located outside the country, were mentioned by the stakeholders as having major negative impacts on the resources of some of the shared water bodies:
  - Unsustainable fishing practices due to the insufficient fishing management measures and/or lack of enforcement of existing measures in Albania.
  - Inefficient urban wastewater management in Pogradec in Ohrid Lake, leading to pollution.
  - Unsustainable management of mining tailings and remaining stockpiles in the Albanian side of Lake Ohrid, leading to pollution by hazardous substances.
- The underground connection between the Prespa and Ohrid watersheds was mentioned as (i) a factor linked with the oscillation of water level in Prespa Lake; (ii) a route for the flow of phosphorous loads from the first to the latter.

A broader discussion linked the pressures with the subsequent resulting <u>State</u> of the environment, as well as the <u>Impacts</u> caused.

A major concern is that the assessment of the state of the system is based on observations and "*ad hoc"* scientific evidence rather than on systematic and comprehensive scientific monitoring and research. The spatial and time scales as well as intensities of the pressures cannot be accurately assessed due to the lack of continuous physicochemical and biological monitoring. This is also true with regard to their impacts. There are unquestioned observations (e.g. pollution and shoreline habitat destruction in some areas are obvious) as well as some results of scientific research that reveal specific problems e.g. decline of populations of certain species, and/or shifts in species' composition; nevertheless, the overall effects on the environment and the ecosystems cannot be assessed and documented with accuracy.

- *Water Balance*

<u>Water level in Macro Prespa Lake</u>

There has been an oscillation of the water level in the Macro Prespa during the past decades - an increase of about 1 meter during the recent 1-2 years followed a considerable decrease of water level during the previous 30 years.

The lowering of the water level in Macro Prespa has resulted in the shifting or loss of priority shoreline and wetland habitats. Spawning areas have been lost, impacting the fish population, especially of the carp. It further has caused changes in the food chain potentially endangering the overall balance of the aquatic ecosystem.

Additionally, it has led to the exploitation of former wetlands transformed into agricultural or pasture lands leading to a greater potential for pollution from agrochemicals or increase of organic carbon loads from the excreta of grazing animals.

Much of the lowering of water level is attributed to changes in rainfall in conjunction to the karstic geomorphology; it was stressed that the quantity of the underground water flow from

Prespa to Ohrid watershed should not be considered as constant. Moreover, overuse of water for irrigation –mostly through illegal groundwater abstractions- is a significant factor that should be urgently addressed in order to minimise additional losses affecting the water level.

Water level in Ohrid Lake and flow patterns in the Black Drin

In the last few years, there have been attempts to increase water withdrawals from Lake Ohrid in order to increase hydropower generation in the downstream HP plants causing concern and reactions mainly on the Albanian side.

Variation in the water level in Ohrid linked with the function of the dams and the associated HP production stations downstream combined with extreme weather phenomena affect the ecological, economic and cultural values in the lake. Permanent decrease or significant fluctuations of the water level may cause the deterioration or shifting or even the elimination of the wetlands and littoral zone habitats hence, the deterioration of biodiversity. Commercial fishing will be also negatively affected since these habitats provide the spawning grounds for four commercial species, including the endemic Ohrid trout (*Salmo letnica*) and the smaller size *belvica* species (*Salmo ohridana*).

Furthermore, floods in the Ohrid area due to extreme rainfall incidents is an associated to the aforementioned phenomenon.

Floods in the Black Drin basin is partially attributed to the decrease of the forest cover in Jablanica mountain in the past. However, a lower economic activity has led to the reversal of this negative trend.

Apart from the lake, water flow regime both upstream and downstream of the dams affects the habitats in the Black Drin River.

In addition to habitat fragmentation, preventing fish from migrating upstream to spawn is the result of the construction of dams and the associated with them occasional low flows of Drin and very low to virtually zero flow in some of its tributaries. A characteristic example is the Atlantic eel (*Anguilla anguilla*), which historically used the Drin River to migrate between Lake Ohrid and the Adriatic Sea. This species has disappeared from the lake. Other riverine species have also been affected by the dams and the altered flow patterns throughout the watershed.

An initial water balance was developed for the linked Lake Ohrid and Lake Prespa watersheds as part of the Lake Ohrid Conservation Project (ended in 2004). The results of that work suggested that the changes in water flows in the system, which are the result of drought and/or of withdrawals for irrigation or energy production, could significantly impact the system's water balance, the shallow water aquatic habitat quality, and potentially the biodiversity of the area. If needs for water increase, conflicts over water allocations across sectors and countries are inevitable. The water balance in the connected Prespa, Ohrid and Black Drin River watersheds needs to be studied in depth so as to provide a basis for water allocation decisions in line with the legal framework and the development planning in the country as well as with the needs in the other riparian countries. The establishment of acceptable variation of the water level in the lakes as well as minimum flows in accordance to the ecosystem approach needs to be

considered in this regard. Climate change implications also need to be taken into account in the overall water resources management planning. With regard to Ohrid Lake, studies have already indicated the sensitivity of the lake system to warming; this among other impacts is expected to amplify the effects of nutrient input in the lake.

- *Sediment Balance*

Sediment Transport in Prespa Lake

Sediment loads, in addition to the normal input, enter the lake. Further to the increased sedimentation, nutrients and micro-pollutants can be transported in the water body adsorbed and absorbed on particulate matter. This is the result of inappropriate agricultural practices and poor forest management leading to erosion.

Sediment Balance in Ohrid Lake and Black Drin River

It seems that the main problem in terms of excessive sediment loads entering the Ohrid Lake lies mostly with the sub watershed of the Sateska River. Up to 1961, the Sateska River discharged into the Black Drin River, about 3 km beyond its outflow from Lake Ohrid. In 1962, Sateska was diverted to discharge directly into the Lake for reasons linked with hydroelectric power generation in the Black Drin and in order to drain the Struga marshland to be used for farming.

Currently, there is illegal extraction of sand and gravel from the Sateska riverbed influencing water flow patterns and the sediment load. Deforestation in its watershed is a major pressure. The resulting erosion and disturbance of the riverbed hence, degradation of the river "corridor" is substantially affecting the fish stocks in the river. Reforestation is an effective anti-erosion measure already used within LOCP in the upper part of the watershed but not enough to address the problem. The load of silt entering the Lake Ohrid is large and a delta including a small island has been formed where the river flows into the lake. Increased sediment loads and soil erosion due to deforestation and agricultural activities is an issue in other parts of the Ohrid watershed as well.

Increased sediment loads into the Black Drin River is a result of uncontrolled grazing and logging throughout the region. The previous decrease of the forest cover in the Jablanica mountain has been an issue in this regard.

Illegal gravel extraction from the Black Drin riverbed is a problem, not only because of the sediment and habitat disturbance described above, but also because it has resulted in altered river flow patterns causing increased in frequency flooding incidents as well as erosion of the adjacent land. The changes in river channel shape and location undermine infrastructure, bridges and roads, and carry away productive land.

The eroding banks, incising channels, emerging sand bars, and generally increased fine sediment load that characterize unstable rivers may also have impacts on fish and wildlife habitats, even in the absence of other water pollution problems.

- *Water Quality*

Both surface and groundwater in the watersheds of the two lakes are affected by pollution by nutrients, organic matter, and some hazardous substances and microbia due to inappropriate agricultural practices, inadequate municipal and industrial solid waste and wastewater management. This results in reduced quality of water and impacts the ecosystems and potentially the health of people.

Pressures from inadequate solid waste management are of particular importance. In all three sub-basins domestic waste as well as building rubble are deposited in inappropriate communal disposal sites as well as in illegal dumpsites. The hazardous and non-hazardous industrial wastes are usually deposited in locations at close to the industrial complexes; there are cases that these are deposited "mixed" with urban solid wastes in the communal disposal sites and the same is true for the medical waste (as for the one that serves the Ohrid area). In addition to the risk of fire due to spontaneous combustion of waste, current waste disposal practices may lead to pollution and contamination of soils, groundwater and surface waters. According to an evaluation made, the communal disposal site in the Ohrid area poses "high risk" to the environment in general and Ohrid Lake more particular. The disposal site that serves Resen (Prespa watershed) is ranked as of posing "medium risk".

Prespa Lake

Nutrient enrichment can lead to eutrophication phenomena or even alter the trophic state of a lake. It can cause accelerated growth of algae and higher forms of plant life resulting in undesirable disturbance of the balance of aquatic ecosystems and negative effects on the quality of the water body concerned.

There is conflicting information regarding the trophic state of the lake. Macro Prespa has been classified as oligotrophic in the past; nevertheless more recent research in the country indicates that the lake is predominantly in a mesotrophic state, with a tendency of becoming potentially eutrophic in the future. Although a final conclusion about its trophic state as well as the related trends cannot be reached due to lack of adequate systematic monitoring for both the lake and its tributaries, there are indications of degradation of the water quality including:

- relatively low oxygen concentrations during the summer months in the deep-water zones (depth bigger than 15 m - hypolimnion);
- increased algae and aquatic vegetation growth in the littoral zone (epilimnion) leading to low transparency and discoloration (the lake becoming reportedly green).

Wastewater (from human settlements and industry), and fertilisers entering the lake through runoff are the main sources of nutrients (also at transboundary level).

80% of the inhabitants of the town of Resen and 40-50% of the neighbouring village of Jankovec are served by the existing wastewater management system which provides secondary treatment. Financial issues have an effect on the treatment station capacity hence the quality of the water entering the lake. Rivers and other smaller watercourses are pathways for the industrial waste streams to enter the lake. Industrial wastewater generated in the vicinity of Resen is directly discharged in the Golema Reka; most of the industrial plants do not have any treatment facilities.

The intensive agriculture (mostly apple production) is believed to be the most significant contributor of nutrient loads in the basin (also at the transboundary level) to certain extent due to the improper use of fertilizers. In addition erosion can be a source of nutrient inputs due to the poor land management (e.g. agriculture and forestry).

Organic pollution leads to depleted dissolved oxygen concentrations –particularly in summer months- contributing to the aforementioned degradation of water quality with a potential impact on aquatic life. The main source of organic pollution is believed to be the town of Resen and the industry in the same region. Furthermore, unsold apple production usually ends up in the streams entering the lake increasing their organic carbon loads.

There is virtually no information available regarding the concentrations of hazardous and toxic substances in the aquatic system (water column, sediment or biota). Nevertheless, it is evident that a range of pesticides and herbicides are used by farmers; the practices followed for their application may pose a threat to the lakes ecosystem. As for the seriousness of the threat while only rough estimates can be made about the quantities or the types used; ecotoxicology studies of runoff from fruit orchards in the region indicate significant sub-lethal impacts of insecticides on fish larvae. Studies show that fish may not be able to recover quickly from the toxic effects of insecticides, and that exposure to pesticide runoff may cause increased mortality and decrease of fish populations. Other studies show the potential for certain herbicides to have sub-lethal effect on endocrine function in wildlife and humans, affecting sex determination, growth rates, and fecundity. There are views that hazardous substances use has resulted to the alteration of the structure of the ecosystem.

Ohrid Lake and Black Drin

There is some preliminary evidence in Ohrid Lake with regard to hazardous substance pollution: pesticides used by farmers in the watershed –only outdated data on the use of agrochemicals are available- may threaten fish in the Ohrid lake; traces have been found in the tissues of some fish collected from the lake. In addition, there have been inflows of toxic wastes from industrial facilities in Ohrid. Economic reasons have forced the closure of many industrial plants in the past two decades thus these sources of major pollution have been “de facto” greatly reduced. However, a recent study indicated an elevated level of PCB in edible fish. Heavy metal contaminations are also known and concern mainly the Albanian side of the lake. It has been estimated that up to 56,000 tons per year of waste from Cr and Fe-Ni mines have been discharged into the lake (1999 data). High metal contents can be still traced in sediments of the lake. Remaining stockpiles in abandoned mines and adjacent sites are a remaining threat.

Nutrient pollution is one of the main threats to the Lake Ohrid ecosystem. The concentration of phosphorus in the middle of the lake is still low but it has been increasing over time. Considering the very large volume of water in the lake this increase represents a very significant change. Lake Ohrid is being “fertilized” by runoff from the intensively fertilised land and sewage. With regard to the latter, according to available information about 65% of the wastewater produced in the Ohrid- Struga region is collected and treated. Nevertheless, there are issues of technical nature with regard to the wastewater collection system; there are wastewater leakages into the lake. In addition, the collection system –it is combined with rainwater from streets- is occasionally overloaded and flooded due to heavy rain. Moreover the wastewater

treatment plant functions at 40-60% capacity while it was designed to serve less people than it currently does. Finally, most of the major tributaries flow through populated areas with nonexistent or inefficient sewage collection systems.

Water quality deterioration is most intense at the littoral zone, especially in areas adjacent to the urban centers of Struga and Ohrid, and the shoreline to the south of Saint Naum. This is true also in the areas that the larger tributaries discharge into the lake, especially the Sateska, Daljan, Grasnica and Koselska Rivers.

Inefficient wastewater treatment in Pogradec area, on the Albanian side of the basin, is believed by stakeholders in FYR Macedonia to have detrimental effects on the quality of the water in the lake as well as on the fish stocks.

According to studies, phosphorous transported via the karstic underground connection from Prespa watershed, already affects and may jeopardise the trophic state of Ohrid Lake in the future.

There is no adequate information with regard to the level of pollution in the in Black Drin River. The main sources of pollution are considered to be the following:

- Domestic sewage and solid waste;
- Agriculture;
- Mining activities throughout the watershed.

Crin Drim receives untreated sewage from the villages in its watershed; pollution in Black Drin from Struga to Debar is visible. In addition mines in Radika (right tributary to the Black Drin) results in direct pollution to the river.

- *Other issues*

Deforestation and changes in forestry

Deforestation and changes in forestry, due to inappropriate management practices (forests have been managed with a view to resource production -timber and firewood- and only with limited attention to ecosystem management) and illegal activities are major issues in the three watersheds. This leads to erosion hence sedimentation and additional eutrophication pressures. Furthermore, there is an impact on the biodiversity in the region dependent on woodland habitats.

Unsustainable fishing practices and introduction of alien species

Further to water pollution and degradation of shoreline habitats there are additional potential pressures that could lead to the decline of the native fish stocks as well as of the overall biodiversity in both Prespa and Ohrid lakes.

Lack or inadequate regulation and/or enforcement with regard to over-fishing, inappropriate means of harvesting and fishing during the spawning periods, coupled with competition from alien species are all considered to be significant factors leading to the decline of native fish stocks in Prespa with potential loss of revenue for fishermen and decline of biodiversity. There are limited statistics on fish numbers and catches in the Prespa Basin. A key conclusion of a

recent detailed study on fish stocks of the basin (under the UNDP-GEF Prespa project) is that while the overall fish biomass may be constant (or even increasing) commercial fish stocks are under threat due to over-fishing. As an outcome of all three littoral countries having experimented with restocking native species and fish farming, nine non-native fish species have been "introduced" to the Lake Prespa. The number of alien species mentioned during the National Consultation Meeting in Ohrid (2 November 2010) was 12 against 11 endemic species. The latter represent the 70% of the fish stock in the lake.

In Lake Ohrid the native fish populations are also under pressure due to over-fishing, illegal fishing, use of inappropriate means of fishing and introduction of non-native species. With regard to the latter, the introduced golden trout (Oncorhynchus mykkis aquabonita) represents a threat to the native Ohrid trout. The Ohrid trout and belvica as well as carp and bleak are the main commercial species for which decline in their catch has been observed. The socio-economic pressures that have led to over-fishing have impacted the trout more than other species because of the greater demand and higher economic value of this fish. The ban on the harvest of trout in force in FYROM is not always respected. There is no such ban on the Albanian side.

The fishing regulations are not compatible between the two countries. This is an issue that should be addressed to establish a common basis for the sustainable management of fisheries.

Residential and tourism infrastructure development

Residential and infrastructure development for tourism is a pressure exerted mainly along the lakes shores. Summer/weekend houses and tourism facilities and infrastructure construction and in general land occupancy for construction has expanded rapidly during the last decade and is a still ongoing process in the Ohrid area. Illegal construction in the littoral zone of Ohrid exacerbates the problem. These developments result in soil sealing hence amplification of runoff processes into the lake as well as in localised microbial pollution from septic tanks and alteration or loss of shoreline habitats. Even though the pre-treatment of wastewater by hotels is not considered to be very efficient, the impact of tourism infrastructure to the quality of the Lake Ohrid water is not believed to be important.

Boat traffic, linked with tourism activities, may lead to the disturbance of ecosystems.

- **The Vision including the Responses needed**

The meeting was concluded with Mr. Scoullos summarizing the outcomes of the discussion regarding the vision of the stakeholders for the management of and the development in the sub-basins of the Drin basin. In addition a short overview of some additional Driving Forces recognised by the stakeholders was made.

- The development in the area is driven by the policies developed by the authorities at different levels.

Furthermore, it is driven by the obligations of the country regarding multilateral and bilateral agreements of which the country is a Party, as well by the legal framework related to the management of natural resources which incorporates related EU directives including the EU

WFD. In this respect, development needs to be achieved in a way that minimum ecological standards are being met.

- These standards form a basis on which the decisions for development need to be taken. The related choices could be made following different roots / options depending on the level and type of development that the stakeholders aim at and in accordance to the guiding decisions and planning of the authorities.

On the basis of the above and in terms of development in the area the collective vision is that:
- The potential for Tourism should be sustained. Tourism currently is and is expected to remain a very important sector; it is based on the natural capital of the region that should be sustained if related to tourism activities are to be continued and further developed.
- In this respect the trends with regard to the loss of biodiversity should be reversed.
- Hydropower generation is another important economic sector, more important for the overall economy of the country than for the region. Related activities should be adjusted to satisfy the need for preserving the natural capital as well as not to undermine the developmental potential of other sectors that are vital for the economy of the area. This is also true regarding potential development in this sector i.e. new dams.

- The dialogue among stakeholders and economic sectors initiated through this meeting, should continue. There is a need to further identify those patterns of development and of managing the natural resources that are unsustainable. Similarly it will be necessary to examine why some economic activities result in the overall development of the area to be unsustainable. "Priority" pressures should be identified that should be removed or alleviated as soon as possible; the pressures identified in this meeting (see above) could offer a preliminary priority list.

- A number of **Responses** were identified:
  - The current frameworks for the management of Prespa, Ohrid and Black Drin watersheds at both national and transboundary levels need to be strengthened.
  - The flow regime of the Black Drin from its outflow at the Ohrid Lake to downstream the dams need to follow the ecosystem approach and respect the ecological flows.
  - Fish ladders should be built to enable fish migration to spawn.
  - A comprehensive monitoring of fish stocks should be established.
  - A continuous and informed over time knowledge basis should be established and used for integrated water resources management planning. In this respect: (i) an (integrated) monitoring system for all water bodies in accordance to the EU WFD should be established; (ii) the water balance in the interconnected Prespa/Ohrid/Black Drin watersheds should be thoroughly studied.
  - Adequate measures including the possible building of small dams in the tributaries of the Prespa Lake should be investigated as part of a solution to address the lowering of the water level of the lake.
  - Appropriate reforestation needs to be continued and enhanced. In addition there is a need for the establishment of sustainable management of forests.

- Efficient wastewater as well as solid waste management should be established in the three sub-basins. Appropriate measures for the sustainable financing for the operation and maintenance of the related facilities should be examined and applied.
- Sustainable financing of the management of the basins at the transboundary level should be based on the: (i) establishment of tariffs for the use of natural resources as appropriate and in line with medium and long term planning of the governments in this respect; (ii) resources allocated by the governments; (iii) transfers (grants, soft loans etc.) from international donors and funding agencies.
- Environmental awareness should be raised also through appropriate educational activities.
- Flood management in the Ohrid and Black Drin areas should be seen as part of an overall resources management effort at the “extended” Drin basin level.
- Cooperation with neighbouring countries should be systematically enhanced so as to achieve coherent and mutually respected rules for the management of the shared resources. The contribution of the Drin Dialogue in this regard is important and activities under this should be continued, enforced and supported.

Annex I. Agenda

Chair: *Mr. Dejan Panovski,* Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning / Secretariat of the Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee

Co-Chairs: *Mr. Bo Libert,* United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Mr. Michael Scoullos, Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean

10.00 – 10.30 Opening – Welcome

- *H.E. Mr. Nexhati Jakupi,* Minister of Environment and Physical Planning
- *H.E. Mr. Erwan Fouéré,* Special Representative of the European Union and Head of the Delegation of the European Union
- *Mr. Dejan Panovski,* Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning / Secretariat of the Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee
- *Ms. Ulrika Stensdotter Blomberg,* Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
- *Mr. Bo Libert,* United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
- *Mr. Michael Scoullos,* Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean

10.30 – 10.45 Setting the framework for the Consultation: The Drin Dialogue Process

The aim of the presentation is to explain the framework within which the consultation is being organized. It will focus on the aims of the Dialogue and the activities to achieve these (the present consultation meeting is one of the activities) as well as on the timeframe and future steps.

- *Mr. Dimitris Faloutsos,* Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean

10.45 – 11.00 Providing the basis for the Consultation: The Drin Situation Analysis

The presentation will explain the methodology and process followed for the description of the Drin Basin with regard to its state and management. It will also briefly refer to the existent information gaps.

- *Ms. Konstantina Toli,* Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean

11.00 – 11.15 The Consultation
Aims and Objectives - The structure of the discussion to follow

- *Mr. Michael Scoullos,* Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean
- *Mr. Dimitris Faloutsos,* Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean

11.15 – 16.50 Discussion

Moderators**:** *Mr. Michael Scoullos,* Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean
Mr. Bo Libert, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Rapporteur**:** *Mr. Dimitris Faloutsos,* Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean

11.55 – 12.10 Coffee Break

14.10 – 15.10 Lunch Break

15.50 – 16.10 Coffee Break

16.50 – 17.30 Wrap up and conclusions

Annex II. List of participants

	Title	SURNAME	NAME	POSITION	ORGANISATION / BODY
1	Mr.	Ajro	Vait	Director, Struga Region	PROAQUA
2	Mr.	Angeloski	Zoran	Director	Public Institution National Park Galicica
3	Mr.	Anovski	Todor	Professor	Faculty Of Technology And Metallurgy, University Of St Cyril And Methodius, Skopje
4	Mr.	Arsov	Ljubomir	Professor	Faculty of Technology and metallurgy, Skopje
5	Mr.	Cami	Omer	Manager	JKP "STANDARD"
6	Mr.	Cubric	Drajan	Journalist	Vest Newspaper
7	Mr.	Densky	Holger	GTZ Expert	German Technical Cooperation (GTZ)
8	Mr.	Dimitrievksi	Radovan		
9	Ms.	Dimoska-Zajkov	Ljupka	Head of Division for water management	Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning
10	Mr.	Durnev	Bojan	Head of Sector for Water Master Plan	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Water Economy
11	Ms.	Dzamtoska	Tanja	National Long-term Consultant	GFA Consulting Group, project "Support to NP Galicica"
12	Mr.	Faloutsos	Dimitris	Programme Coordinator for Southeastern Europe	Global Water Partnership Mediterranean (GWP MED)
13	Mr.	Fida	Argetim	Mayor	Municipality of Debar
14	H.E. Mr.	Fouere	Erwan	Special Representative of the European Union and Head of the Delegation of the European Union	EU Delegation in FYR Macedonia
15	Mr.	Glavinceski	Marjan	Technical monitoring and maintenance at dams and other civil objects, Responsible engineer	Ad ELEM Hpp Globocica Struga
16	Ms.	Ilik-Boeva	Dusica	Department of applied fishery and aquaculture	PSI Hydrobiological Institute
17	Ms.	Ivanova	Jadranka	Head of Department for EU	Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning
18	Mr.	Ivanovski	Aleksandar	Project Specialist	UNDP/GEF Transboundary Prespa Project
19	Ms.	Jakimova Filipovska	Nevenka	Head of Development Division	ELEM
20	H.E. Mr.	Jakupi	Nexhati	Minister	Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning
21	Mr.	Jakuposki	Oner	Director of Public Institution	National Park Mavrovo
22	Mr.	Kuhn	Hoachim	GTZ Expert	German Technical Cooperation (GTZ)
23	Mr.	Latifi	Mehmed		Agencija INA

24	Mr.	Libert	Bo	Regional Adviser on Environment	UNECE
25	Mr.	Lozankoski	Vasil		Municipality of Ohrid
26	Mr.	Mateski	Boris	President	Green Centar-Ohrid, Scout Club-Ohrid
27	Mr.	Micevski	Saso	Manager	National Park Pelister
28	Mr.	Mihailov	Atanasko	Director	Public Health Center Ohrid
29	Mr.	Milevski	Slavko	Responsible for dam safety in Electro Power Plants	JSC, Branch HPP "Globochica" Struga
30	Mr.	Mirta	Ylber	Head Of Department For Waters	Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning
31	Mr.	Mishe	Riste	Analyst	Ministry of Foreign Investments - Cabinet of the Minister V.Samak
32	Mr.	Momiroski	Goran	Journalist	Telma TV, www.ohridnews.com
33	Mr.	Murati	Muzafer	Director	Public Communal Enterprise " Proleter "
34	Mr.	Naumoski	Trajce	Prof., Research fellow	Hydrobiological Institute Ohrid
35	Mr.	Nikolov	Igor	Chief Engineer For RES	ELEM
36	Ms.	Pandovska	Aleksandra	Project Manager	Public Institution Pelister National Park
37	Mr.	Panovski	Dejan	Secretary	Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee
38	Mr.	Pavlov	Zoran	Head Of Department	Ministry of Culture - Cultural Heritage Protection Office
39	Ms.	Pavlovska	Danica	Head of department	Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning
40	Prof.	Scoullos	Michael	Chairman	Global Water Partnership Mediterranean
41	Mr.	Sekovski	Dimitrija	Project Manager	UNDP / GEF "Integrated Ecosystem Management in the Prespa Lakes Basin" Project
42	Mr.	Sekuloski	Zoran	Chief Of Exploration Of Forest Economy Unit	P.E. "Makedonski Sumi" – Skopje; PSS "Galicica" - Ohrid
43	Mr.	Skeparoski	Tihomir	Manager	ELEM, HPP Globochica
44	Ms.	Spirovska	Menka	Manager	Consulting Company-Environmental Management Associates DEKONS-EMA
45	Ms.	Stamouli	Evelina	Officer, Dpt of International Relations & EU Affairs	Ministry of Environment Energy & Climate Change, Greece
46	Ms.	Stensdotter Blomberg	Ulrika	Senior scientific advisor	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
47	Mr.	Stojanoski	Boris	President	Ecological Society "Grashnica" - Ohrid
48	Ms.	Stojkovska	Katarina	Director of Country Office	Regional Env Center (REC) for CEE
49	Ms.	Talevska	Marina	Prof. D-R Head Of Department Of Hydrobotany	Hydrobiological Institute
50	Mr.	Talevski	Trajce	Prof. D-R Head Of Department Of Cyprinid Fish	Hydrobiological Institute

51	Mr.	Tanevski	Doncho	Executive Director	Balkan Alliance Of Hotel Associations - Baha
52	Mr.	Tochkov	Sashko	Chief of Chemical laboratory	Public Health Center Ohrid
53	Ms.	Toli	Konstantina	Programme Officer	Global Water Partnership Mediterranean (GWP MED)
54	Ms.	Trajkovska-Momiroska	Jasminka	Official in environmental protection sector	Ohrid Municipality
55	Mr.	Trajkoski	Igor	State Inspector Environment in Ohrid	Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning - State Inspectorate
56	Ms.	Trpenoska	Lidja	Coordinator	Spatial Planning Agency
57	Mr.	Trpceski	Branislav	General Director	PROAQUA
58	Mr.	Trpeski	Ivan	Responsible officer for regulative	ELEM
59	Ms.	Vlachogianni	Thomais	Programme Officer	MIO-ECSDE
60	Mr.	Vogrin	Milan	Vice-President	MIO-ECSDE,
61	Mr.	Zdraveski	Nikola	Project Specialist	UNDP/GEF Prespa project