Drin Dialogue

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

2nd National Consultation Meeting

Tirana International Hotel
Tirana, 5 April 2011

Report

Organized with the support and collaboration of:
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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 neighboring 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

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 fulfillment 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, 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 riparians: 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 Sustainable Development and Tourism, Montenegro; Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, 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) are 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 until 30 November 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 Albanian National Consultation Meeting was organized with the support and collaboration of: Albanian Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med), Mediterranean Information Office for Environment Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE) and UNDP. The meeting was financially supported by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. It was the second of the Consultation Meetings within the Drin Dialogue following the one organized in 2010 in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The National Consultation Meeting:
- 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, Drin, Shkoder and Buna sub-basins, thus;
- facilitated the development of the Strategic Shared Vision for the management of the Drin Basin.

The findings of the Situation Analysis provided the background for the discussions.

The agenda of the meeting is given in Annex I.

The meeting was co-chaired by: H.E. *Mr. Arben Demeti,* Deputy Minister*,* Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration and; *Mr. Bo Libert*, Senior Adviser, UNECE.
Mr. Dimitris Faloutsos, Programme Coordinator for Southeastern Europe, 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 issues and problems (pressures and state of the

[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 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

environment according to the DPSIR framework) in the Drin sub-basins extending in the country as well as the impacts caused. Information about the driving forces as these are perceived by the stakeholders came up during the discussion. 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

The following Ministers and high level representatives participated in the meeting:
- H.E. Minister Fatmir Mediu, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration, Albania
- H.E. Minister Nexhati Jakupi, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, FYR Macedonia
- H.E. Minister Dardan Gashi, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Kosovo
- H.E. Minister Tarzan Milosevic, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Montenegro
- Mr. Ettore Sequi, Head of the Delegation of the European Union in Albania
- Ms. Kseniya Lvovsky, Country Manager, World Bank Office in Albania
- Mr. Marko Keiner, Director, Environment, Housing and Land Management Division at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
- Prof. Michael Scoullos, Chairman, Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean

A hundred and twenty six (126) 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. Minister Fatmir Mediu opened the meeting. He welcomed the Ministers and high level representatives as well as the participants of the meeting. He expressed the strong political support of the Albanian Government to the Drin Dialogue being an initiative contributing in the enhancement of cooperation among the riparians for the integrated management of the extended Drin Basin; he thanked the UNECE and GWP-Med for the assistance provided in this regard and the SEPA for its on-going support. Mr. Mediu made a reference to the successful example of cooperation among Albania, FYR Macedonia and Greece –the only EU member country in the region- regarding the Prespa Lakes, underlining the importance of the involvement of Greece in replicating this example in the Drin Basin.

Ministers Mr. Jakupi, Mr. Gashi and Mr. Tarzan Milosevic thanked Mr. Mediu for his invitation to participate in the meeting, underlined the importance of sustainable management of the Drin

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.)*

Basin and stated their support to the Drin Dialogue as an initiative that works towards this objective.

Mr. Ettore Sequi, Ms. Kseniya Lvovsky, Mr. Marko Keiner, Ms. Ulrika Stensdotter, Senior Scientific Advisor, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Mr. Michael Scoullos and Mr. Milan Vogrin, Board Member of the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment Culture and Sustainable Development thanked in their opening words Mr. Mediu as the host of the meeting and stressed the importance of the sustainable management of the extended Drin Basin as a pre-condition for sustainable development in the area. They all stated their support towards this aim.

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

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

The current frameworks for the management of the sub-watersheds of the Prespa, Ohrid, Drin, Shkoder and Buna at both transboundary and national levels need to be strengthened.

The riparian countries need to take the necessary actions to fulfill the obligations undertaken through the Agreements[7] for the management of the Prespa, Ohrid and Shkoder watersheds at the transboundary level. In addition they should provide sustained support to the management structures[8] to work towards integrated and coordinated management of these sub-basins. The establishment of a joint management body at the Drin Basin level was strongly suggested by the meeting.

At the national level, although some steps have been made, there is still a lot to be done towards integrated water resource management.

Related difficulties are attributed to the lack of adequate human and financial resources as well as to the inadequate coordination among the competent authorities at the national and local levels that lead to the insufficient implementation and enforcement of the legal and regulatory framework and pose major barriers to efforts for integrated planning and management. Efforts for the improvement of the overall institutional and legal capacity to deal with related challenges (i.e. recent re-organization of the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration and the establishment of a General Directorate for waters; the preparation of a new law that will transpose the EU WFD in the legal system of the country; the plan to update

[7] - "Protection and Sustainable Development of Lake Ohrid and its Watershed" (17 June 2004 – Albania, FYR Macedonia)
- "Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area" (3 February 2010 – Albania, FYR Macedonia, Greece)
- "Protection and Sustainable Development of the Skadar/Shkoder Lake" (28 December 2007 – Albania, Montenegro)

[8] Prespa Park Management Committee, Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee, Skadar/Shkoder Lake Commission

the Strategy for the exploitation of water reserves and to transpose the Flood directive etc.) should continue.

A major concern of the stakeholders was that any assessment of the state of the system is based on observations and scattered scientific evidence rather than on systematic and comprehensive scientific monitoring and research. As an instance in the case of the Prespa Lakes there are considerable data gaps with regard to flora and fauna; official monitoring data on the status as well as trends with regard to biodiversity is missing and in addition there are insufficient data with regard to the changes on forest coverage, land use, fish populations and habitat structure. Unfortunately the case of Prespa is not an exception. Overall, the spatial and time scales as well as the level of pressures across the Drin Basin cannot be easily assessed in a reliable way; this is also true with regard to their impacts. This makes the designing of response measures difficult.

The aforementioned are attributed to several factors. The scientific and research institutes responsible for the monitoring of the state -hydrological, physicochemical and biological- of the environment suffer substantial financial difficulties. The 2008 reorganization of the scientific institutes seem to have rather an adverse effect to the overall capacity of the system than actually addressing existing issues. At present the work of these institutes is financed in large by donor countries and international organizations. In addition, availability and dissemination of information generated is an issue; institutes do not always share their data. Finally, the administration mechanisms 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 need improvement. Cooperation with KESH (the electricity company that is responsible for the management of the dams along the Drin River) which possess hydrological data should be improved; this data should become available to interested parties.

The weaknesses with regard to the integrated basin management framework are coupled and reflect to a certain extend weaknesses in the spatial planning and management framework. These weaknesses in land management, particularly after the ’90s, have led to significant pressures on water bodies and 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 balance of the lake and riverine systems.

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

- Unsustainable solid waste management: lack of or insufficient solid waste collection systems; illegal solid waste disposal; lack of or inappropriate disposal sites.
- Unsustainable wastewater management: lack of wastewater collection and treatment systems.
- Unsustainable use of natural resources (water, land, forests etc.).
- Reclamation of land for agricultural purposes.
- Decrease of the water level of Prespa.

- The presence of dams in the Drin River affecting the hydrological system of Drin River - Shkoder Lake – Buna River and the transport of sediments. The management of the dams is one of the factors affecting the occurrence and scale of flood incidents.
- Deforestation in the Drin Basin due to unsustainable forest management, Illegal logging and over-grazing.
- Erosion across in the Drin and Buna sub-basins.
- Inappropriate land management, urban development and construction, especially in the Shkoder area and the coastal area of the Buna Basin.
- Hunting in the Shkoder and Buna sub-basins area.
- Agricultural activities in the Buna sub-basin.
- Unsustainable fisheries management in Shkoder Lake and Buna River including over-fishing, illegal fishing, use of inappropriate/illegal fishing means.
- The following pressures, geographically located outside the country, were mentioned by the stakeholders as having negative impacts on the resources of some of the shared water bodies:
  - Unsustainable agricultural practices in the FYR Macedonian part of the Prespa basin.
  - Pollution coming from the Montenegrin part of the Shkoder basin.

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

The effects of pressures exerted on the system are manifold. The degradation of sites, such as the wetlands adjacent to the three lakes, which are of paramount ecological importance from a European and international conservation perspective, should be noted.

- *Water Balance*

Water Level in Micro Prespa Lake

The diversion of a branch of Devoll River (in the 70's) to discharge water into the Lake during winter months and use it as an irrigation reservoir for the summer months (related activities stopped in 2001) has led to the permanent alteration of the hydrological system in this lake due to increased sedimentation (see also below under "Sediment balance"). It has been reported that underground springs have been blocked.

A significant decrease of the water level has resulted in an obvious shift in the habitats on the Albanian side and probably in some alteration in the composition of the ecosystem. This decrease is considered to be part of the natural hydrological cycle; pressures due to irrigation are currently minimal in Albania.

Water Level in Macro Prespa Lake

There has been an oscillation of the water level 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. Much of it is attributed to changes in precipitation in conjunction to the karstic geomorphology. Overuse of water for irrigation in the neighbouring FYR Macedonia –mostly through illegal groundwater abstractions- lead to additional losses that is believed to

have an effect on the water level. Water abstracted for irrigation and drinking purposes on the Albanian side has a rather insignificant effect in this regard.

The outcome has been loss of priority shoreline wetland habitats and biodiversity. Spawning areas have been lost, impacting the fish population, especially the one of carp. It further has caused changes in the food chain potentially endangering the overall balance of the aquatic ecosystem.

Furthermore, some parts of the area where the water level has decreased are used for the grazing of livestock, leading to a greater potential for organic pollution.

Flow patterns in Drin and Buna rivers and water level in Shkoder Lake

The connection of Drin River with Buna River which drains Shkoder Lake affects the hydrological regime of the area as well as the morphology and function of the Buna Delta in the Adriatic Sea. The flow of Buna itself is dependent on the level of water table in Shkoder Lake but also to the flow patterns and discharge of the Drin River.

The hydrology of Drin River had been dramatically altered by the construction of a cascade of dams for hydropower production; the significance of the river in this regard is high since the capacity of the plants installed equals about 70% of the total hydro and thermal installed capacity in the country. A new hydropower plant is currently under construction (Ashta area). Dam construction has caused the interruption of the bio-corridors in this area exerting major pressure on biodiversity. Furthermore, the flow patterns in Drin downstream the dams are influenced by both licensed as well as uncontrolled gravel extraction.

The alteration of the physical characteristics of the Drin has a number of effects: it leads to erosion of land adjacent to the river; it has an impact on the distribution of sediments hence it is a contributing factor with regard to the erosion of the Adriatic coast (see below under “Sediment balance”); it results in disturbances to the supported ecosystems.

Interventions in the watershed are the main reason for the high oscillations in the water level of Lake Shkoder; the lake’s outflow through the Buna River is impeded during periods of high waters in the Drin River (a result of water releases from the artificial lakes upstream). This results to frequent alterations of the coastal habitats in the lake and is also reflected in the state of flora and fauna, as well as in the agriculture and the microclimate around the lake.

Increased in frequency and intensity flooding in the Shkoder – Buna area during the past two-three years have had detrimental socioeconomic effects in the region; the latest was one in 80 years flood. While there is a need for these phenomena to be further studied it is believed that they come as a result of the combined effect of the following:

- high sediment input through the tributaries of Drin downstream the dams due to erosion caused by gravel extraction and loss of plant coverage;
- accumulation of alluvium in the tributaries of Drin, Drin itself and Buna. In the case of Drin this is due to the decreased sediment transport capacity as a result of the controlled

outflow from the artificial lakes; in the case of Buna[9] the latter is combined with the low gradient of the riverbed;
- aforementioned water releases from the dams on Drin River;
- blockage of the natural secondary channels of the Buna river that existed in the past in the delta area; the pick flows exceed the capacity of the main (existing) channel.

Climate change variability leading to the increase of the frequency of extreme precipitation events should be taken into consideration while flooding phenomena in that area are to be explained.

Lack of close coordination between Albania and FYR Macedonia with regard to the management of the outflow from the dams in both countries is an additional factor to be taken into account. It should be noted though, that deficiencies in the basin management in Albania could have direct and indirect impacts in upstream countries. For instance, at least in one case during the winter of 2009-2010, the reduction of the flow of water from Ohrid to Black Drin in FYR Macedonia as a precautionary measure to avoid floods in Albania led to the raising of the water level in the Lake Ohrid by 50 cm affecting negatively the anthropogenic and natural environment.

- *Sediment balance*

Prespa Lakes

The diversion of Devoll River (in the 70's) into Micro Prespa has lead to the deposition of considerable amounts of solid material along the coast of the lake covering a zone of 1-1.5 km. The diversion has caused a permanent alteration of the character and functions of the site, transforming it from a shallow lake into a marshland. The impacts on the properties, quality and functioning of habitats had been substantial. Furthermore, it has had a negative effect on the local economy.

Increased sediment loads entering both lakes has been the outcome of deforestation and overgrazing.

Drin and Buna Rivers

Soil erosion is a complicated issue; its main causes are the deterioration and destruction of plant coverage as a result of grazing, illegal logging, forest fires etc. It leads to high sediment loads, in addition to normal inputs, in the Drin River. According to estimates, erosion from mismanaged high altitude land, reach 300 tons/ha/year at 2 cm depth; the average rate of land erosion for Albania is 30 tons/ha/year. High levels of erosion result in significant loads of material transported into the lake of the Hydro-Power Station of Vau i Dejes may result in the increase of the rate of filling up of the lake.

[9] Natural sediment accumulation in the bed of Buna River result to frequent flooding of nearby land; change in the land uses in the adjacent to the river channel area had led to downsized floodplain hence alteration of the ecosystem structure. Before the intensive drainage and melioration of the area, almost 50 percent of the whole Buna/Bojana River and Delta region was regularly flooded (over 280 km^2). Nearly 90 km^2 are still regularly flooded; flooding in coastal and lagoon areas depends on precipitation in the lowlands.

Erosion in the lowlands followed by increased sediment input is a result of the deterioration of vegetation due to grazing, overexploitation of forests and shrubs to be used for fuel wood and fodder and unsustainable agricultural practices including inappropriate irrigation methods. Gravel extraction along Drin and its tributaries as well as the damaging of the flood protection constructions (barriers) in the channels of Drin coupled with the steep gradient of their bed exacerbates erosion phenomena.

Coastal erosion in the delta of the river Buna is mainly the result of the entrapment of alluvium of the upper part of Drin in the dams. The quantity of alluvium that results from erosion in the tributaries of Buna and Drin as well as in the downstream part of the latter is not enough to invert the coastal erosion process. In addition, the reduction of the sediment transport capacity of the Drin in combination with the natural low gradient of the channel of Buna River result in the accumulation of alluvium from erosion in the bed of Drin and Buna preventing this from reaching the Buna mouth at the Adriatic Sea. The progression of the sea along Buna mouth has been about 500 m. since 1936 and about 50m. the past 20 years.

The sea line has progressed by 400 m during the same period along the Lezha seashore where the other branch of Drin flows into the Adriatic Sea. This is attributed to the lowered alluvium transport capacity of Drin coupled with the fact that the dams trap inert material.

The changes in the coastline affect drastically the ecosystems in the Buna Delta and the Kune Vain lagoon.

- *Water Quality*

Prespa Lakes

The Albanian part of Micro Prespa Lake is currently heading towards eutrophication. According to reports from local population, water transparency has decreased to only a few centimetres. This exerts major pressure on fish. Overall, it has an effect on the balance of the ecosystem; the lake provides habitat for many species including endangered ones. Inadequate waste collection and lack of wastewater treatment is an issue; wastewater is discharged untreated in surface waters or underground. The level of diffuse pollution can not be estimated.

Macro Prespa has been classified as oligotrophic in the past; nevertheless according to available water quality data, its actual state today is mesotrophic to eutrophic and this has an impact to the ecosystem of the lake. Transboundary pollution due to nutrients input as a result of agricultural activities (apple production) and lack of sufficient wastewater management is considered to be the main cause.

Diffuse pollution from agriculture in the Albanian part is minimal and where present it should be of local character; chemical fertilizers are very little used. There is no available information to the authors with regard to pollution caused by cattle breeding. Wastewater is predominately discharged untreated to the lake or underground. The nutrient and organic loads entering the lake in this regard is a factor of pollution that may have –data are not available- an impact of

local character with regard to the water quality and the ecosystems; it should be of less importance if compared to the transboundary pollution.

In contrast, the impact of wastewater discharge practices is major in the Albanian part in terms of bacteriological pollution; the situation becomes critical at certain locations during particular periods of the year. The health risks are high for people who use untreated water abstracted from the lake for drinking purposes or when using the lake for recreation.

Disposal of solid waste in improper landfill sites (20 locations in Macro Prespa and 7 locations in Micro Prespa) close to the shore or directly to the streams lead to a quantity of solid waste entering the surface waters throughout the system; in addition, leaching may affect groundwater. Nevertheless, taking into account the quantities of solid waste deposited, it is believed that the effect should not be very significant due to the high dilution potential of the lake.

Ohrid Lake

Nutrient loading from both littoral countries exert pressure to the system causing eutrophication , accelerating the "aging" process of the lake. Concentrations of phosphorus and nitrogen have been increasing over time. Both the phytoplankton and zooplankton communities are shifting to a species composition more characteristic of a mesotrophic condition and so do the macrophytes and benthic fauna in the shallow-water zone. Water quality deterioration is most intense at the littoral zone, especially at sites adjacent to the urban area of Pogradec city and in the shoreline where recreational activities take place (Drilon, Pojska, Lin).

Urban wastewater discharge has been the main source of nutrients from the Albanian side leading also to organic and bacterial pollution –of local importance- at the littoral zone. This input has been adding up to the considerable nutrient loads deriving from the FYR Macedonian side of the watershed.

The treatment of urban wastewaters of the Pogradec area, since 2009, has had a positive effect with regard to the organic matter and phosphorous concentration trends as well as to the bacterial contamination of water. According to observations some improvement in the water quality in the adjacent part of the lake is evident.

Mining activities at the Albanian shoreline has been a source of heavy metals pollution (e.g., chromium, copper, cobalt, nickel as well as iron, etc.). Residue landfills and slag piles drainage had ended untreated directly or through groundwater to the lake. Currently, from nine in total mines located within a range of 10 km from the lakeshore -six of them as well as one mineral enrichment plant are found within a range of 2.5 km- only one is still in function. Nevertheless, large depositions of residual material left in open pits in abandoned mines and adjacent sites are exposed in rainfall and constitute a constant pollution source. A potentially significant risk to living organisms is still present in this regard.

Sediments in the littoral zone in adjacent to the mines areas are substantially polluted, presenting a potential toxic risk for the aquatic life and through the food chain also to humans. According to publications, flora and fauna (especially some fish species) of the lake have been

seriously affected in the Guri i Kuq adjacent lake area. Furthermore, there is a potential risk for the drinking water resources to be polluted. After the closing down of mining activities and the clean up of the mineral stock in Guri Kuq, published data indicate an improvement with regard to the concentration of heavy metals in the water column.

Drin River

Overall, there is no adequate information with regard to water quality especially in the upper part of the Drin river basin (from the point it enters Albania to the Vau i Dejes dam).

The main sources of pollution are considered to be the following:

- Domestic sewage that is discharged untreated along the course of the river as well as in the artificial lakes; unsustainable wastewater management may impact groundwater as well. Sewage from the Skhodra city is collected into a pool and then pumped into the Drin River in a small distance before its confluence with Buna. Spills due to inappropriate functioning of the sewerage system pose a threat to the quality of groundwater.
- Inappropriate disposal of solid waste throughout the watershed; deposits are present on the river banks and lake shores in residential areas. Considerable quantities of urban solid wastes end up on the banks of both Black Drin and White Drin as well as in the Fierza and Koman artificial Lakes. In the case of the latter these include also some hospital waste. The amount of waste transported and deposited there increases during periods of high rainfall and runoff (spring and autumn).
- Agriculture.
- Mining and industrial activities throughout the watershed and in particular in the Kukes region where mining industries are placed.

According to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration the overall water quality in the Drin River is good.

There is no sufficient data with regard to impacts due to pollution; nevertheless, the nature of pressures as well as their intensity in some cases, lead to the conclusion that there has been a threat to local population as well as to the ecosystem at local level. It is also evident that solid waste pollution seriously undermines the potential of tourism in the area.

Shkoder Lake and Buna River

Available information does not allow for the identification of a well defined pollution trend. However existing information for Shkoder Lake suggests that water quality has been varying in space and time. While hazardous substances pollution (heavy metals, PAHs, PCBs, etc.) had been observed in the period prior to 2000, in the most recent years water quality in this regard seems to have improved. The pollutants that have reached the lake in the past seem to have been accumulated in the sediments; moderate and, in few cases, high concentrations of heavy metals and nutrients have been (monitored) identified at specific sites of the lake in the sediments. Poorly treated wastewaters from cities, communes and industries in the Montenegrin part have been entering the hydrological system ending up in the lake through the tributaries or through underground karstic connections; diffuse pollution has been following the same paths.

Overall, the quality of the lake's water is considered to be reasonably good due to the high renewal rate (2-3 times per year), the inaccessibility of the higher parts of the catchments and the sharp reduction in the industrial effluents discharged and the agricultural run-off (due to collapse of industries and large agricultural enterprises in the basin). According to opinions of experts, the Lake Shkoder is in better environmental condition than the Prespa Lake.

Inappropriate wastewater management result in pollutants entering the Shkoder Lake - Buna River system. While related infrastructure is under construction, at the moment wastewater from Shkoder city discharged in the Drin affects the Buna River – there are incidents where high nutrient values have been identified. Bacteriological contamination of local importance is also an issue. In periods of high waters in Drin and floods (see above "*Flow patterns in Drin and Buna rivers and water level in Shkoder Lake"*) the lake is affected as well. According to some stakeholders (information can't be checked) the Drin contributes, to some extent, with trace metals originating from mining activities upstream.

Insufficient solid waste management has led, in many cases, to the use of lakeshore, canals, and river banks as convenient sites for illegal disposal of wastes. Flood incidents exacerbate the situation. Solid waste (mostly plastic - including also in some cases hospital waste) negatively impacts the fresh water as well as the coastal marine ecosystems and pose a threat to local population. It has been reported that significant amounts of solid wastes reaching the sea through the river are occasionally further transferred by currents to the coast of Montenegro and Croatia.

- *Other issues*

Deforestation

Severe degradation of extensive forest areas in the watershed of the Prespa Lakes –in some cases the natural regeneration capacity of the forest has been lost- have been caused by illegal logging as well as by wood cutting for firewood and for fodder, all practiced for subsistence economy and income generation. Uncontrolled grazing exacerbates the situation; nevertheless, the declining trend of livestock is a positive development in this regard.

The districts of Diber, Kukes, Puke and Malesia e Madhe, in the Drin watershed, host the largest areas of forest in Albania and their role in water balance and prevention of erosion is crucial. Deforestation, wild fires and illegal logging, coupled with inappropriate management practices (forests have been managed with a view to resource production -timber and firewood- with only limited attention to ecosystem management) are major issues.

Further to the erosion mentioned above that can lead to sedimentation and additional eutrophication pressures, degradation of forests have an impact on the biodiversity of the region dependent on woodland habitats as well as on the economic value of the timber available.

Unsustainable fishing practices

Further to water pollution and degradation of shoreline habitats there are additional pressures that may lead to the decline of the native fish stocks as well as of the biodiversity in the extended Drin watershed in Albania.

In Prespa lakes fishing is exercised by part of the population to complement their income or for food. Illegal fishing, inappropriate means of harvesting and fishing during spawning coupled with competition from alien species introduced in the past are considered to be significant factors leading to the decline of native fish stocks, changes in the structure of fish populations and species composition, loss of biodiversity and risk of potential loss of revenue for fishermen.

The total catch is not known for either of the lakes.

The statistics on fish numbers and catches are limited in the Prespa Basin as whole. A key conclusion of a recent detailed study on the fish stocks of the basin (under the UNDP-GEF Prespa project) is that whilst the overall fish biomass may be constant (or even increasing) there is concern that commercial fish stocks are under threat due to over-fishing. As the result of all three littoral countries having experimented with restocking native species and fish farming, 9 non-native species of fish have been "introduced" to the Lake Prespa Basin.

In Lake Ohrid the native fish populations are under pressure as a result of over-fishing, illegal fishing and introduction of non-native species. Pressure is major to the Ohrid trout that has a higher commercial value; it is believed that conservation measures in the FYR Macedonian side are more efficient and that pressures exerted in the Albanian side has an impact at transboundary level. The introduced golden trout (Oncorhynchus mykkis aquabonita) represents a threat to the native Ohrid trout.

Although the commercial value of fishing is not very high in the Drin river, the use of non-discriminatory and destructive fishing methods lead to the decline of fish stocks.

Fisheries in the hydrological system including the water reservoir of Vau Dejes on Drin, the Buna River, tributaries of both rivers, Shkoder Lake and the marine area from the Buna outlet until the town of Velipoja, has been also subject to over-fishing, over-harvesting of commercial species and the use of non-discriminatory and destructive fishing methods (including explosives and high voltage electrical shock and poisons). This had led to considerable decline of fish stocks and reduction in the number of fish species; some non-commercial fish species are also under threat. In the case of Buna River and Shkoder Lake additional pressures include: destruction of reproduction sites; water regime disturbances and manmade barriers for fishing purposes along the migration routes to the Adriatic Sea; introduction of alien species (1/3 of the species and subspecies of the lake are alocthone); potential toxic contamination; habitat alterations. The commercially valuable fish populations have declined in favor of less valuable species and there was also a significant decline on migratory fish in the overall production. Socioeconomic challenges in the near past, growing populations in coastal settlements and growing tourism as well as lack of law enforcement are major driving forces in this regard.

Residential and tourism infrastructure development

Residential and infrastructure development for tourism is a pressure exerted mainly along the lakes shores and the coastal area. Summer/weekend houses, tourism facilities and infrastructure construction and in general allocation of land for construction is an ongoing process in the most touristic zones of the extended Drin Basin in Albania. These developments result in soil sealing hence amplification of runoff processes into the lakes as well as in localised microbial pollution and alteration or loss of shoreline habitats. The system of sand dunes in the coastal areas at the Buna mouth is under threat.

Uncontrolled development leads to the deterioration of the shoreline habitats in the Shkoder Lake. Illegal construction exerts pressure on the immediate shore zone. It is noteworthy that 32 percent of the population of the area lives in illegal settlements.

In Velipoja in the coastal zone, immigration has led at an increase of construction at the expense of the pine forest; the forest area has been significantly reduced (presently about 19 ha remain). Sanitation infrastructure in the area is inadequate with consequent problems.

Hunting

Unsustainable legal and illegal hunting is an issue for the entire ecosystem of the Shkoder Lake and the Buna River and delta that has affected the populations of birds –some species are endangered- and mammals. There are violations with regard to both the hunting period and the protection status of certain areas. The exact impact cannot be assessed since data on the status of several fauna groups are limited due to the lack of a regular and coordinated monitoring both at national and transboundary level. Hunting, also during the hunting ban period, seems to be an activity related to tourism (foreigners).

Plans for Development

The area has considerable potential for economic and social development and several services. Communities and individuals have made proposals for a variety of activities. Since the system is not fully assessed and at least parts of it are considered “vulnerable” the impacts of any development proposals in the Drin-Buna-Shkoder area -involving eventually alternative uses of the waters and the water bodies of the region- need to be thoroughly assessed and clearly understood before any final decisions are taken. The interventions could potentially seriously affect the hydrological, physicochemical and ultimately ecological characteristics of the system and may have adverse effects to the long term developmental potential of the area.

The Vision including the Responses needed

The meeting was concluded with the rapporteur 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.

- Development in the Drin basin needs to be achieved in a way that minimum ecological standards are being met. This is dictated by the (i) obligations of the country stemming from

multilateral and bilateral agreements of which the country is a Party; (ii) legal framework related to the management of natural resources which incorporates related EU directives including the EU WFD.

It is understood by the stakeholders that this approach will facilitate sustainability with regard to the development in the Basin.

In this respect, management should be multipurpose - it should take into account / balance: the current economic activities and developmental potentials; the need to preserve ecosystems and the natural values; realities, in terms of feasibility of actions –focusing on development as well as on ecosystem preservation- in the current socioeconomic context.

The aforementioned 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 especially in Prespa, Ohrid and Shkoder lakes and the Buna river/delta areas should be sustained. Low intensity tourism will assist in sustaining the natural capital in these sub-basins and the tourism development potential to be further developed. The touristic product should be of transboundary nature –i.e. focus on the water body as a whole and not on the part that extends at one of the riparians- and should incorporate a combination of the environmental and the cultural assets. Action at the transboundary level to foster the creation of synergies should be sought.

- In this respect the trends with regard to the loss of biodiversity should be reversed.

- Mismanagement of the system in the past has led to a new equilibrium that needs to be taken into account in the planning process. For instance the siltation in the Micro Prespa has created a wetland that should be preserved.

- Hydropower generation is a very important economic sector for the country. 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.

- A number of **Responses** were identified:

(a) Cooperation with neighbouring countries should be systematically enhanced. The contribution of the Drin Dialogue in this regard is important and activities under the dialogue should be continued, supported and strengthened.

(b) The current bilateral technical cooperation on water resources management issues between Albania and the Drin riparians should be extended at the Drin Basin level. The technical cooperation should complement cooperation at the political level.

(c) A joint management body for the management of extended Drin Basin should be established.
(d) The institutional capacity to deal with water related challenges in the sub-basins of the Drin should be strengthened; the related re-organization of the Ministry is a positive development in this regard.
(e) Activities supported by international organizations and donors to increase the capacity of the institutions as well as the professionals in the field of integrated waters resources management should continue.
(f) Environmental awareness should be raised also through appropriate educational activities.
(g) Additional effort should be put by the State for the coordination of the work of the scientific institutions; the institutions should assist the Ministry making informed decisions.
(h) 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; the current monitoring system should be improved in the meantime; (ii) the water balance in the interconnected Prespa/Ohrid/Black Drin/Drin/Shkoder/Buna watersheds should be thoroughly studied (iii) the sediment balance in the Drin/Shkoder/Buna watersheds should be thoroughly studied.
(i) The aforementioned (point (h)) should be part of joint action of the riparians to address the issue of floods. Flood management should be seen as part of an overall resources management effort at the “extended” Drin basin level.
(j) The management of the dams should be optimized to avoid extreme water releases/flows downstream.
(k) The restoration of the floodplains in Buna should be considered as part of an integrated solution for the floods; the benefits that will emerge due to the services that floodplains provide should be taken into account while such a solution is being considered.
(l) Appropriate reforestation at the lower part of the Drin Basin as a means to address erosion, should be considered.
(m) Efficient wastewater as well as solid waste management should be established.
(n) Land management policy should be integrated with water resources management policy; spatial planning should define uses in the sub-basins.

Drin Dialogue

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

Albanian National Consultation Meeting

Tirana, Tuesday 5 April 2011

Tirana International Hotel

Agenda

Chair: *H.E. Mr. Arben Demeti,* Deputy Minister of Environment, Forests and Water Administration, Albania

Co-Chair: *Mr. Bo Libert,* Senior Adviser, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

10.00-11.00 **Opening – Welcome**

- *H.E. Mr. Fatmir Mediu,* Minister of Environment, Forests and Water Administration, Albania
- *H.E. Mr. Nexhati Jakupi,* Minister of Environment and Physical Planning, FYR Macedonia
- *H.E. Mr. Dardan Gashi,* Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning, Kosovo
- *H.E. Mr. Tarzan Milosevic,* Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Montenegro

- *Mr. Marco Keiner,* Director, Environment, Housing and Land Management Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
- *Mr. Ettore Sequi,* Head of Delegation, European Union Delegation to Albania
- *Ms. Kseniya Lvovsky,* Country Manager,World Bank Office in Albania
- *Mr. Michael Scoullos,* Chairman, Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean
- *Mr. Milan Vogrin,* Board Member, Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development
- *Ms. Ulrika Stensdotter Blomberg,* Scientific Advisor, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

11.00 – 11.20 **Setting the framework for the Consultation: The Drin Dialogue Process**

The aim of the presentation is to explain the framework of the consultation process. 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.

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

11.20 – 11.30 The Consultation
Aims and Objectives - The structure of the discussion to follow
- *Mr. Bo Libert,* United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

11.30 – 16.00 The Consultation
Discussion
Moderator**:** *Mr. Bo Libert,* United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Rapporteur**:** *Mr. Dimitris Faloutsos,* Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean

12.30 – 12.45 Coffee Break
14.15 – 15.15 Lunch Break

16.00 – 16.15 Wrap up and conclusions
- *Mr. Dimitris Faloutsos,* Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean
- *Mr. Marco Keiner,* United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
- *Mr. Michael Scoullos,* Chairman, Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean
- *H.E. Mr. Arben Demeti*, Deputy Minister of Environment, Forests and Water Administration, Albania

Annex II. List of participants

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

Albanian National Consultation Meeting
Tirana, 5 April 2011
Final list of participants

	Title	NAME	SURNAME	POSITION	ORGANISATION / BODY	COUNTRY
1.	Ms.	Emirjeta	ADHAMI	Technical Assistant	UNDP Climate Change Programme	
2.	Mr.	Sokrat	AMATAJ	Professor, Centre of Applied Nuclear Physics, Division of Natural And Artificial Tracers, Faculty Of Natural Sciences	University of Tirana	ALBANIA
3.	Mr.	Antoine	AVIGNON	Sector Manager, Environment, Energy, Civil Protection and Local Governance	European Union Delegation to Albania	
4.	Mr.	Redi	BADUNI	Directorate of Environmental Protection	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration	ALBANIA
5.	Mr.	Penponiun	BAJNAKTANI	Inspector	ARM	ALBANIA
6.	Ms.	Miranda	BASHI	Chief of Projects, Concession Sector	Ministry of Energetic	ALBANIA
7.	Ms.	Fjoralba	BEGEJA		Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration	ALBANIA
8.	Mr.	Fatmir	BIBA			ALBANIA
9.	Mr.	Taulant	BINO	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration	ALBANIA
10.	Ms.	Miriam	BOGDANI-NDINI	Hydrologist, Department of Water-Hydrology, Institute of Energy, Water and Environment	Polytechnic University of Tirana	ALBANIA
11.	Ms.	Eglantina	BRUCI	Project Coordinator, Climate Change Programme	UNDP	ALBANIA
12.	Mr.	Eduart	CANI	Senior Project Manager	The Regional Environmental Center Albania	ALBANIA

13.	Mr.	Hasan	CANI		Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration	ALBANIA
14.	Ms.	Dorina	CAPUNI	Inspector	Water Agency/ Ishem-Erzen Basin	ALBANIA
15.	Ms.	Aida	CENA		Water Agency/ Ishem-Erzen Basin	ALBANIA
16.	Mr.	Raymond	CHAFFORT	Attaché for cooperation	Embassy of France in Albania	FRANCE
17.	Mr.	Nehat	COLLAKU	Project Manager, Natural Resources Development Project	Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration	ALBANIA
18.	Mr.	Skender	COTA	Deputy General Director	General Road Directory	ALBANIA
19.	Mr.	Maxhid	CUNGU	Head	Prefecture of Shkodra Region	ALBANIA
20.	Mr.	Gazmend	DACI	Energy Specialist	World Bank Office in Albania	
21.	Ms.	Drita	DADE	Senior Operations Officer	World Bank Office in Albania	
22.	Ms.	Drita	DALIPAJ	Specialist	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration	ALBANIA
23.	Ms.	Zamira	DAMA	Chief of Laboratory, Lab and References Directory, Agency of Environment and Forestry	Agricultural University of Kamza	ALBANIA
24.	Mr.	Zamir	DEDEJ	President	Institute for Nature Conservation in Albania	ALBANIA
25.	Mr.	Arben	DEMETI	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration	ALBANIA
26.	Mr.	Anvi	DERVISHI	Chairman	Water Regulatory Authority of Albania (ERRU)	ALBANIA
27.	Ms.	Laureta	DIBRA	Chief, Air, Water and Climate Change Sector	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration	ALBANIA
28.	Mr.	Elton	DUNI	Research Specialist	Agriculture Technology Transfer Center (ATTC Korca)	ALBANIA
29.	Mr.	Romeo	EFTIMI	Director	ITA Consult	ALBANIA
30.	Mr.	Dimitris	FALOUTSOS	Programme Coordinator for Southeastern Europe	GWP-Med	
31.	Mr.	Lavdosh	FERRUNI	Executive Director	Organic Agriculture Association	ALBANIA

32.	Mr.	Atlant	FRASHERI	Associate Professor	University of Elbasan	ALBANIA
33.	Mr.	Dardan	GASHI	Minister	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning	KOSOVO
34.	Mr.	Naim	GAZIDEDE	Chairman	Diber Regional Council	ALBANIA
35.	Mr.	Aranit	GELAJ	Head of Hydrogeology Section, Hydrogeological Department	Albanian Geological Survey	ALBANIA
36.	Mr.	Fadil	GIUTA		Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration	ALBANIA
37.	Ms.	Danka	GJERGJI		Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration	ALBANIA
38.	Ms.	Ardita	GJEZORI		Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration	ALBANIA
39.	Ms.	Enkelejda	GJINALI	Advisor to the Prime Minister on Water Policy Issues		ALBANIA
40.	Mr.	Nikolla	GJINI		Water Agency	ALBANIA
41.	Mr.	Arben	GJURAJ	Head	Dajc Municipality	ALBANIA
42.	Ms.	Kozeta	GOGA	Specialist of Integration	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration	ALBANIA
43.	Mr.	Kujtim	GOKAJ	Specialist	Water Agency / Drini-Buna Basin	ALBANIA
44.	Ms.	Ljutvilda	GUGUSHKA	Director	Ministry of Public Works and Transportation	ALBANIA
45.	Mr.	Haska	HAJRI	Associate Professor	Forest and Pasture Research Institute	ALBANIA
46.	Mr.	Ermal	HALIMI	Head, Flora, Fauna and Soil Sector	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration	ALBANIA
47.	Mr.	Emver	HALIPAJ	Environment Inspector	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration	ALBANIA
48.	Mr.	Marsida	HARIZAJ	Secretary to the Minister	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration	ALBANIA
49.	Mr.	Skender	HASA	Water Resources Specialist	Ministry of Environment, Forests	ALBANIA

					and Water Administration	
50.	Ms.	Arbina	HAXHIREXHA	Specialist	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration	ALBANIA
51.	Mr.	Sajmir	HOXHA	Director of Biodiversity	Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration	ALBANIA
52.	Mr.	Liljan	IRIZAJ		Shkodra Environment Agency	ALBANIA
53.	Mr.	Nexhat	JAKUPI	Minister	Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning	FYR MACEDONIA
54.	Ms.	Kledia	JANAQI		Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration	ALBANIA
55.	Ms.	Elvita	KABASHI	Environment Programme Officer	UNDP	
56.	Ms.	Zoe	KARKA	Administration and Networking Officer	GWP-Med	
57.	Mr.	Marco	KEINER	Director, Environment, Housing and Land Management Division	UNECE	
58.	Ms.	Madalena	KOJA	Specialist, Legislation Approximation Sector	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration	ALBANIA
59.	Mr.	Molnar	KOLANECI	Hydrologist, Institute of Energy, Water and Environment	Polytechnic University of Tirana	ALBANIA
60.	Mr.	Arjan	KOLUSHI	Inspector	Water Agency/ Ishem-Erzen Basin	ALBANIA
61.	Mr.	Bashkim	KUKA	Chief	Water Agency / Ishem-Erzen Basin	ALBANIA
62.	Ms.	Xhume	KUMANOVA	Director of Chemicals Laboratory	Albanian Geological Survey	ALBANIA
63.	Ms.	Esida	LEKBELLO	Water Supply and Environmental Engineer	Valu Add Management Services	ALBANIA
64.	Mr.	Bo	LIBERT	Regional Adviser on Environment, Environment, Housing and Land Management Division	UNECE	
65.	Ms.	Kseniya	LVOVSKY	Country Manager	World Bank Office in Albania	
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