

2019

Project Implementation Review (PIR)

**Drin River TDA/SAP**

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# Basic Data

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| **Project Information** | |
| UNDP PIMS ID | 4482 |
| GEF ID | 4483 |
| Title | Enabling transboundary cooperation and integrated water resources management in the extended Drin River Basin |
| Country(ies) | Albania, Albania, North Macedonia, Montenegro, New York - GEF |
| UNDP-GEF Technical Team | Water and Oceans |
| Project Implementing Partner | GWP |
| Joint Agencies | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Project Type | Full Size |

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| **Project Description** |
| The proposed project is fully consistent with the long term goal of the International Waters focal area, i.e.: the promotion of collective management for transboundary water systems and subsequent implementation of the full range of policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services. Its specific objectives fall under Objective 3 of the IW Focal Area: ÔÇ£Support foundational capacity building ÔÇª for ecosystem-based, joint management of transboundary water systemsÔÇØ, which includes dialogue, capacity building for legal reforms, and potential agreement for improved legal and governance matters at multiple levels from the transboundary to sub-basin, national, and local. Finally, the project, with its consideration of climatic variability and change, role of groundwater, and gender mainstreaming, responds to specific requirements of the GEF IW Strategy. |

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| Project Implementing Partner | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Other Partners | *(not set or not applicable)* |

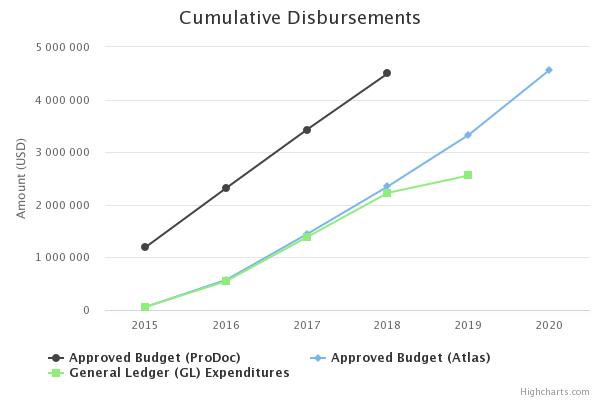
# Overall Ratings

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| --- | --- |
| Overall DO Rating | Satisfactory |
| Overall IP Rating | Satisfactory |
| Overall Risk Rating | Low |

# Development Progress

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| **Description** | | | | | | |
| **Objective**  **To foster the joint management of the shared water resources of the extended transboundary Drin River Basin, including coordination mechanisms among the various sub-basin commissions and committees (Lakes Prespa, Ohrid and Skadar).** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| N/A | N/A | *(not set or not applicable)* | N/A | *(not set or not applicable)* | N/A |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 1**  **Consensus among countries on key trans boundary concerns and drivers of change, including climate change and variability, reached through joint fact finding** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 1. The Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis of the Extended Drin River Basin, consistent with the projects in accordance with the WFD in sub-basins, and identifying main issues of transboundary concern and drivers of change, is completed and approved by countries. | 1. Project countries have pursued the management of the shared water resources of the Drin River Basin, both surface and groundwater, predominantly from a national perspective. Countries are at different levels with regard to the EU accession, and implementation of the WFD including the preparation of RBM plans; when RBM plans are being prepared, this is not done in coordination with neighbouring countries. Bilateral and multi-lateral agreements concerning lake sub-basins are in place (Ohrid, Prespa, Skadar), but coordination, recognition of transboundary issues at Drin basin level and overall IWRM approach are lacking. | *(not set or not applicable)* | 1. Approval of TDA by the Drin Core Group. | 1. Preparatory activities for the development of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis - Data and information.    1.1. Collection of data and information.    All best-available data and information that were feasible to be collected, were collected from data-owning institutions (responsible ministries for water and environment; Cadaster Offices; Hydrogeological/ Hydrogeological/ Meteorological Institutes; Environment Protection Agencies; etc.) in the beneficiary Drin Riparians and appropriately stored (see point 1.3 below). This was the outcome of an extensive in time, and intense effort including cooperation with on-going projects and initiatives supported by donors and institutions active in the area.    The process for the collection of data was used also as an activity:  - of awareness raising and ownership creation among institutions and stakeholders.  - that would facilitate the coordination role of the Drin Core Group (see Outcome 2) by: (i) Possessing all available technical information to facilitate its role and function within the framework of its mandate, including discussing/negotiating the initiation of activities for the development of a River Basin Management Plan; the latter extends beyond this project’s mandate, but it is provided in the Drin MoU (Tirana, November 2011) and as such the creation of the enabling conditions for its realization is being fostered. (ii) By coordinating activities under ongoing -major in the area- projects supported by other donors (see bullet point below).  - the creation of synergies as well as avoidance of overlaps and duplication of efforts between the Project and other projects and initiatives supported by the GIZ (“Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Lakes Prespa, Ohrid and Shkodra/Skadar” Project; “Climate Change Adaptation in Western Balkans” Project) and Sida (Development of the Management Plan for the Drini River basin in Albania; and Development of the Management Plan for the White Drin basin in Kosovo).    1.2. Development of data and information.    A. Sampling (chemical and biological) and analysis of samples.    Two monitoring campaigns across the Drin Basin have been implemented aiming to fill in the knowledge gaps. The monitoring network used, was defined in cooperation with the national institutions: (i) to cover the total of the Drin Basin; (ii) include routine sampling stations used by the Drin Riparians for their annual surface and underground water quality monitoring and additional monitoring stations for which routine sampling is not performed. The first took place in December 2016 and the second in July 2017.    The campaigns entailed collection and analysis of samples as follows:  (i) Chemical Monitoring (December 2016 and July 2017 monitoring campaigns): 4 Drin Riparians, 65 monitoring stations (additional stations were used for the second monitoring expedition in relation to the first); water samples from surface and groundwater as well as marine samples (sediments and water samples from various depths) have been analyzed for Physico-Chemical, Heavy Metals and Priority Substances (in accordance to the WFD).  (ii) Biological Monitoring (July 2017 monitoring campaign): 4 Drin Riparians, 25 monitoring stations; samples were analyzed for the following parameters: diatoms, macrophytes, macro-invertebrates (all three categories are used as indicators to define the ecological status of the basin (in accordance to the WFD)).    B. Hydrological flows.    The Drin Water Budget including flows and discharges in each one of the water bodies of the Drin Basin (delineation of water bodies in accordance to the WFD was done as part of the development of the hydrologic Thematic Report) have been generated in cooperation with the IGEWE (Hydromet institute of Albania) using a hydrological model that had been developed with the assistance of GIZ. It has been the first time ever that such information is generated/aggregated at the Drin Basin level. It is expected that the results will have an effect in the hydrological studies in the area and will positively affect the effort for the development of management plans in accordance to the WFD in the beneficiary countries.    This effort was deemed necessary for two reasons: the Hydro-met institutes of the beneficiary countries either wouldn’t share the hydrologic related data series or there has been discontinuity of related data in terms of time.    1.3. Organization of information – Drin Database.    The project opted of creating an added value for the beneficiary countries than just gathering information to be used in an one-off way for the TDA/SAP. In this regard all information and data gathered and developed to be used for the TDA are stored in a database developed in a way (structured in appropriate datasheets and attribute tables) that can feed Geographical Information System software thus used by the Drin Riparians for national policy making and the preparation of national and/or transboundary management plans. A GIS portal (https://arcg.is/101H0n; work is on-going) providing not just maps but also georeferenced information and data has been prepared for the development of the TDA. Provided that the Drin Core Group gives its consent, this portal -in its final form- hence the information it contains, will be freely available to the project’s website for all stakeholders. Related information will feed in the IWLEARN geoinformation website.    The Drin Project Database will feed in the Information Management System (IMS; see below under Outcome 1).    2. Development of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis.    The TDA is prepared as a synthesis report drawing on the content of the thematic reports listed below as well as on the Stakeholders Analysis that was concluded in early 2017; it will contain the causal chain analysis and the information necessary to substantiate the findings.    The TDA will contain many of the necessary building blocks (proposal for the delineation of water bodies, results of investigative monitoring, pollution assessment and pressures analysis etc.) for the future preparation of a management plan for the Drin Basin in accordance to the WFD; whatever could be produced in this regard with the available means and the level of provision of information and data by the countries was produced.    An International Expert has been contracted and initiated the preparation of the TDA synthesis report. The structure of the synthesis report prepared by the Project Coordinator/CTA in the form of table of contents (part of the ToR approved by the 11th Drin Core Group / 2nd meeting of the Steering Committee of the Project (Athens, 13 June 2016)) was reviewed, to be closer in structure and terminology with the report of the Article 5 of the WFD on the characterization of basins.    The draft Synthesis report is expected in early October. Validation focus group meetings will be organized in October. The TDA will be presented to the DCG in November 2018.    2.1 Thematic Reports.    a. Pollution Thematic Report.    Prepared by the Project team with the input of 3 National Experts and 1 International Expert. Report will be finished till the end of July.    b. Governance / Institutional and Legal Setting Thematic Report.    Final draft prepared by the Project team using input from 4 National Experts; it is approved by the 14th DCG / 5th SC meeting (Podgorica, 20 November 2017). Text of the report to be finalized by UNECE till the end of August.    c. Biodiversity and Ecosystems Thematic Report.    Prepared by a consultancy company. Approved by the 14th DCG / 5th SC meeting.    d. Socioeconomic Thematic Report.    Prepared by a consultancy company. Approved by the 14th DCG / 5th SC meeting.    e. Hydrology / Hydrogeology Thematic Report.    It is being prepared by the Hydrologist expert/Officer of the PCU with the assistance of the Seismological and Hydrological Institute of Montenegro and 3 National Experts. It is expected to be ready by the end of July.    f. Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus Thematic Report.    It is prepared by UNECE with the assistance of four National Experts, one for each of the beneficiary countries. There is an effort, through the Drin TDA, to combine and if possible to couple the TDA/SAP methodology with the Nexus assessment methodology. The thematic report will inform the TDA results. | 1. Finalization of the Thematic Report on Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus    The draft report is prepared by UNECE with the assistance of four (4) National Experts, one for each Drin Riparian. The draft was presented for validation to the EWG meetings (29 May 2019) and the 17th DCG-8th SC meeting (30-31 May 2019). The draft is based on the results of the rest of the thematic reports. Whilst complementing the other thematic reports for the TDA, the Nexus assessments will be of significant benefit in guiding the formulation of the SAP.    2. Preparation of TDA Synthesis Report    In addition to the Nexus report the analytical background of the TDA is provided by the following Thematic Reports:  • Socio-economic thematic report; it was developed in 2017 and adopted by the DCG (through a written process) in early 2018  • Biodiversity/Ecosystems thematic report; it was finalized and adopted by the DCG (through a written process) in early in 2018  • Institutional and Legal Setting thematic report; the draft was finalized in 2017 and adopted by the DCG in early in 2018  • Hydrology/Hydro-geology thematic report; adopted by the DCG (through a written process) in early 2019  • Pollution thematic report; adopted by the DCG (through a written process) in early 2019    The project opted to creating an added value for the beneficiary countries than just gathering information to be used in a one-off way for the TDA/SAP development (the following constitute catalytic outcomes of the project):  - The Drin Water Budget including flows and discharges in each one of the water bodies of the Drin Basin was generated. It has been the first time ever that such information is generated/aggregated at the Drin Basin level. It is expected that the results will have an effect in the hydrological studies in the area and will positively affect the effort for the development of management plans in accordance to the WFD in the beneficiary countries.  - The Thematic Reports had been designed and developed in a way to include the necessary elements to be used as building blocks for the development of a river basin management plan at the Drin Basin level (including: initial proposal for the delineation of water bodies in accordance to the EU WFD, calculation of water budget under different scenarios, analysis of pollution pressures, assessment of pollution loads generated, assessment of chemical pollution, identification of protected areas, analysis of the governance of water and environment in the basin, initial assessment of the condition of and the pressures to biodiversity etc.).  - The Riparians have decided during the 16th DCG Meeting to proceed with the preparation of the Drin River Basin Management Plan and requested the design of the next steps (see also below under Outcome #4)  - The level of detail of the pollution report is such that can be used by the authorities of the Riparians for policy making. The Analysis of Chemical Pollution Report (annex of the Pollution Thematic Report) can be used as reference for the academia/research institutes.    An International Expert was contracted to prepare the TDA synthesis report.    A draft Causal Chain Analysis (CCA), using information from the Thematic Reports was prepared and presented to the EWGs, DCG and the Stakeholders in November 2018. The CCA was adopted by the 16th DCG/7th SC meeting (Ohrid, 15-17 November 2018).    The draft of the TDA synthesis report -including the CCA- summarizes the 6 Thematic Reports, and focuses on the main transboundary problems with specific references to the details presented in the thematic reports.    The Draft TDA Synthesis Report -including the CCA- is presented to 173 representatives of stakeholders that participated in six focus group meetings in March 2019; 3 in Albania and 1 in each of the other Drin Riparians:  • 12 March 2019, Tirana, Albania  • 13 March 2019, Shkodra, Albania  • 14 March 2019, Podgorica, Montenegro  • 19 March 2019, Peja, Kosovo  • 20 March 2019 Skopje, North Macedonia  • 21 March 2019 Pogradec, Albania    The draft TDA Synthesis report is presented in the Expert Working Group and the 17th DCG-8th SC meeting (30-31 May 2019) that provided guidance for its finalization.    The TDA report will be finalized by the international consultant, edited and printed in second half 2019.    The delay in the preparation of the TDA synthesis report was dictated by the realities (delay in the preparation of the Hydrology report due to low delivery capacity of staff that was released from duties; subsequent delay in the report being approved by the DCG; subsequent adverse effect in the schedule of the international consultant for the preparation of the TDA synthesis report that couldn’t allocate time in the first half of 2019). This delay doesn’t jeopardize the delivery of the project results as the CCA is in place and adopted, feeding in the preparation of the SAP. |
| 2. Information management system containing data gathered through the TDA is established | 2. Information and data related to the management of Drin Basin are dispersed among countries and institutions. | *(not set or not applicable)* | 2. Establishment of an Information Management System (IMS) that will enable the DCG, and country users to collect, store, and share data and information in a consistent way. | A procurement and selection process for the consultant that will develop the Information Management System (IMS) software was planned for the second half of 2017. This was not feasible as the consultant that was preparing the background documentation to support the preparation of the ToR to be used for the development of the IMS, was requested to prepare again the “Detailed Analysis on Basin and Water Data Management in the Drin Riparians” as this was of inadequate quality. The revised report was delivered in November 2017 and presented to the 14th DCG / 5th SC meeting (Podgorica, 20 November 2017). It was sent to the representatives of the Riparians in the Expert Working Group on Monitoring and Information Exchange (EWG MIE) and the Drin Core Group along with additional outputs (outputs a-c below) by email in January 2018 for comments.    The state of delivery and approval of outputs (background documentation to support the preparation of the IMS ToR) by the Riparians are presented below:    a. “IMS thematic datasets and set of standards for exchanging basin and water management data” Report including: List and specifications of IMS themes, data-sets objects and layers; The feature catalogue; IMS data model; Standards to be used within IMS; IMS data exchange protocols. Delivered at the end of 2017; approved by the ad-hoc meeting of the 6th meeting of EWG MIE (Tirana, 20-21 February 2018);    b. Architecture - Operational concept for next phase(s) of IMS development. Delivered in first quarter 2018; discussed in the ad-hoc meeting of the EWG MIE (Tirana, 20-21 February 2018); revised by the consultant and presented and discussed at the 6th meeting of EWG MIE (Tirana, 6 June 2018) and the 15th DCG / 6th SC meeting (Tirana, 7 June 2018);    Prioritized categories and groups of information to be exchanged among the Riparians and be contained in the future IMS (part of the system Architecture): discussed and agreed upon in the ad-hoc meeting of the EWG MIE (Tirana, 20-21 February 2018) and the 15th meeting of the DCG / 6th SC meeting (Tirana, 7 June 2018);    c. Implementation plan for the development of the IMS: It was presented and discussed at the 6th meeting of EWG MIE (Tirana, 6 June 2018) and the 15th DCG / 6th SC meeting (Tirana, 7 June 2018);    d. Terms of Reference for the IMS: the draft will be sent to the DCG and EWG MIE members for review and eventual approval within July 2018.    The establishment and operation of the IMS is linked with investment, maintenance and running costs. During the presentation of the updated version of the Implementation plan for the development of the IMS at the 6th meeting of EWG MIE and the 15th DCG / 6th SC meetings, the issue of costs was discussed by the Riparians. Investment costs will be beard by the project. The DCG was not ready to discuss and take decision on maintenance and running costs after the end of the project, prior to its members discuss this with the political leadership of the Ministries. Coverage of these costs by the Drin Riparians, seem to be an issue hence, the PCU was asked to investigate the possibility for a neutral partner organization to host the IMS and undertake related costs.    The DCG advised that the IMS is not procured until a suitable hosting institution is identified. The issue will be discussed again in the forthcoming DCG/SC meeting that will take place in the week 12 November. | 1. Maintenance of the Drin Database    Collection of most of the best-available (to the authorities and the projects active in the Drin area) data and information has been done during 2017 and 2018. In 2019 the database grew in content with additional data/information from the Pilot Demonstrations implemented under the Project (this will continue throughout the project implementation period). A GIS portal (  https://arcg.is/XGqXO; work is on-going) providing georeferenced information and data has been prepared for the needs of the TDA development. Related information will feed in the IWLEARN geoinformation website (that is using Geonode).    The DCG had agreed in first half 2018 on the categories and groups of information and data to be exchanged among the Riparians. The outputs prepared by the consultant hired to prepare the background studies for the development of the IMS including the architecture of a full scale integrated IMS, have been adopted by the DCG.    The 15th DCG / 6th SC meeting, discussed the issue of investment, maintenance and running costs for an IMS. Investment costs would be beard by the project. The PCU was asked to investigate the possibility for a neutral partner to host the IMS and undertake related costs. The GEF IWLEARN and UNEP as well as the UNECE were approached in this regard. Administrative and technical issues from the side of GEF IWLEARN, UNEP and UNECE prevented them from reaching a positive decision.    The 16th DCG/ 7th SC meeting revisited the development of an automated IMS that will interlink the IMSs of the beneficiary Drin Riparians and be the means of sharing agreed information and data will be part of the Drin SAP. The beneficiary Riparians decided that the IMSs in each of the beneficiary Drin Riparians are in different stage of development and operational maturity. The IMSs have not developed as much as expected since the initiation of the Project and have not reached a state of usage by the institutions in the Drin Riparians, that would justify the development of an integrated IMS. The DCG decided that the latter should be part of the Drin SAP.    The EWG recommended, and the DCG decided that the GIS portal is more than adequate to serve as an IMS until the conditions for the development of an integrated IMS are mature. The existing GIS portal will be further developed in 2019 to make use of all existing information in the Drin Project database, provide visualization services to users, downloading and possibly analysis of data services to authorized users. The aim is to facilitate: sharing of this information among the Drin Riparians; the everyday work of the environmental, water resources and other natural resources management institutions at the Riparian and local levels.    An international expert to provide technical assistance to the PCU for the development of the Drin GIS portal and IMS, has been hired. The international expert:    • has: (i) Defined the characteristics and the services that the Drin GIS/IMS will provide; (ii) Analysed already existing datasets/database and current GIS use and proposed changes and adjustments; (iii) Provided support in preparing procurement documents -including ToR- for the Drin GIS/IMS.  • will: Provide technical support to the Project to oversee the implementation of the ToR, the development and deployment of the Drin GIS/IMS.    The procurement for and the development of the Drin GIS portal and IMS will be initiated within second half of 2019. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 2**  **Visioning process opens the way for systematic cooperation in the management of the transboundary Drin River Basin** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 1. The Shared Vision contained in the Drin MoU - updated in consistency with the findings of the TDA, and containing indication of environmental quality objectives (horizon 20 years), relevant indicators, and strategic development lines and priorities - is agreed upon by the countries. | 1. Countries adopting fragmented approach to water resources utilization and environmental protection with little consideration of transboundary implications and freshwater ecosystems sustainability.  A Shared Vision for the management of the Drin Basin has been developed through a multi-stakeholders process and adopted by the Drin Riparians as part of the Drin MoU. Nevertheless, this Shared Vision needs to be developed further to include environmental quality objectives and relevant indicators. | *(not set or not applicable)* | 1. Agreement on updated Shared Vision formalized by countries. | While only some small-scale action was financed through Outcome 2 budget, as in 2017, activities under other Outcomes contribute in the achievement of this Outcome (2); these activities are designed and implemented to ensure:    - Shared Vision content is informed by national institutions and stakeholders in terms of actual basin management needs (broad engagement of stakeholders in TDA development; they are explained that the TDA will be used to form the SAP and a new Shared Vision for the management of the basin).    - That stakeholders have ownership of the Shared Vision through:  o see above bullet-point;  o frequent meetings with national institutions to cooperate or seek assistance and advise on project implementation issues;  o key stakeholders are explained the long-term objectives and the benefits and their engagement is attracted; examples are (see also under Outcome4): (i) Continuous contact with the political leadership of the Ministries; (ii) Cooperation process between the KESH (the Albanian Electricity Company), ELEM (FYR Macedonian Electricity Company) -that have major operations in the Drin- facilitated and technically supported by the Project. The PCU prepared an MoU to be signed by the two companies; still developments were slow the past year indicating the difficulties in reaching in an agreed cooperation modality between two hydropower companies situated along the same river. An issue that had been brought up for discussion was the agreement between the two countries on the allocation of the volume of water.    IIt is planned that the work for the development of the Environmental Quality Indicators (EQI) will be initiated in Q4 with the selection of the consultant. The aim is that the consultant initiates work immediately after the TDA is prepared i.e. in November. | The mid-term review suggested that the Outcome 2 Indicator #1 should be reworded to read “The Shared Vision contained in the 2011 Drin MoU is confirmed to be consistent with the findings of the TDA”, and its associated target to be changed accordingly. It further suggested that the respective budget should be used for other activities. The 16th DCG meeting adopted the suggestion. It decided that the end of project target should read “Expert opinion that the Shared Vision is consistent with the findings of the TDA”. The meeting agreed with the expert opinion presented by the international consultants that prepare the SAP that the Shared Vision contained in the Drin MoU is consistent with the findings of the TDA. |
| 2. A Strategic Action Program (SAP with horizon 5 years) consistent with the updated Shared Vision and the Drin MoU, addressing main issues of transboundary concern and containing concrete actions at the national and regional levels, is formulated. | 2. Lack of an overarching basin-wide science based framework for the implementation of the medium and long term priority actions in view of achieving the overall aims and objectives of the Drin MoU, and of the updated Vision hinders the formulation of coherent policies, legislative reforms and identification of investments targeted to the sustainable utilization of the Basin’s water resources and dependent ecosystems, and their integrated management. | *(not set or not applicable)* | 2. SAP formulated and endorsed by the Drin Core Group and adopted by the Meeting of the Parties to the Drin MoU (Ministerial Meeting – see Outcome 4.3). | A strategy and roadmap for the development of the SAP, that outlines the framework of action and the steps to be followed was adopted by the 13th DCG / 4th Steering Committee Meeting (Ohrid, 25 May 2017).    A consultant to prepare the SAP is planned to be hired till September 2018.    Aiming to the highest possible level of engagement of all stakeholders and the facilitation of the work of the SAP consultant, the PCU has already initiated discussions with institutions in the beneficiary countries responsible for basin, water and environmental management related to the actions that are considered of priority for them and the extent that these can be part of the SAP.    Solid waste management as well as floods management have been identified already as of priority; the related issues are evident also through the analysis done for the preparation of the TDA Thematic Reports.    Responding to this, the project has been facilitating the assessment of the state of play as well as necessary priority actions in the field of floods management. The consultant (see Component 4) engaged for the preparation of the ToR for the Demonstration activity on Floods is tasked also with the identification of financing sources to support flood management actions.    The PCU will continue related discussions with the beneficiary countries in cooperation with the SAP consultant. The development of the SAP is planned for 2019. | The mid-term review suggested that the Outcome 2 Indicator #2 should read “A Strategic Action Programme (SAP with a 5 year time horizon) consistent with the 2011 Drin Shared Vision MoU and based on TDA findings, is approved by the DCG. It should address main issues of transboundary concern and contain concrete actions at the national and regional levels, as well as environmental quality objectives (horizon of 20 years), relevant indicators, and strategic development lines and priorities”. The DCG agreed with the suggestion.    Meetings with DCG members during missions in all Riparian countries as well as during the Marrakesh GEF IWLEARN conference aimed to identify priority actions and seek ways to: (i) streamline these in the SAP and (ii) check for financial means to support their implementation.    A consultant to prepare the SAP is hired following a procurement process that run in December 2019.    The SAP is being developed under the guidance of the Project Coordinator / Chief Technical Advisor (participates also in the drafting) by two international experts using input by three international experts, two PCU members and fourteen national experts (all involved also in the development of the TDA Thematic Reports). Two team meetings were used:  • Athens, 4-5 December 2018; the experts brainstormed on innovative ideas, opportunities and solutions and organized these in a set of targets and interventions under each of the Transboundary Issues identified through the CCA to meet the MoU Goals.  • Tirana, 23-24 April, 2019; the experts provided input for the preparation of the first Draft SAP    In between the two technical meetings, a highly participatory process was followed to develop the list of actions to be included in the SAP involving 173 representatives of stakeholders through six focus group meetings:  • 12 March 2019, Tirana, Albania  • 13 March 2019, Shkodra, Albania  • 14 March 2019, Podgorica, Montenegro  • 19 March 2019, Peja, Kosovo  • 20 March 2019 Skopje, North Macedonia  • 21 March 2019 Pogradec, Albania    Meetings took place also with the DCG members, the heads of authorities of water resources management and environment and the Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning of Kosovo, the Deputy Minister of Environment and Physical Planning and the Advisor to the Dpty Prime Minister of North Macedonia.    The first Draft SAP was presented to the:  • EWGs meeting (29 May 2019, Tirana); the EWGs worked on the content to prepare a new version of the first Draft SAP;  • 17th DCG-8th SC meeting that provided concrete guidance regarding the enhancement of the content of the SAP. It was decided that a second Draft SAP will be prepared by August 2019 and sent to the DCG members for comments. An ad-hoc meeting on October will be organized to discuss the second Draft SAP; should agreement be reached among the Riparians, the SAP will be signed by the Ministers in December, in a meeting to take place in Tirana.    Floods is among the priority issues indicated in the MoU. The priority has been reaffirmed by the reality (occurring floods), the findings of the TDA as well as through discussions with the Riparians.    An Adaptation Fund/UNDP project prepared with the support of the PCU under the guidance of the DCG (being the SC of that project) includes -structural and structural activities -of total value of ~$10 M. The activities are in-line with the Drin MoU and, further, are approved by the Drin Riparians; they will form part of the Drin SAP related to flood management.    (See also Outcome 5, Indicator 1 - part related to flood risk management) |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 3**  **Countries and donors commit to sustain joint cooperation mechanisms and to undertake priority reforms and investments** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 1. Partnership Conference, aimed at raising awareness and interest of the international community and ODA providers on sustaining countries commitment to SAP implementation. | 1. Donor interest in the region, technical assistance and investments do not respond to a strategic vision to address transboundary issues in the Drin Basin and sub-basins in an integrated manner. | *(not set or not applicable)* | 1. Partnership Conference held. | The partnership conference is planned to be organized in the final year of the Project. | The partnership conference is planned to be organized in the final year of the Project. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 4**  **The operationalization and strengthening of the institutional and legal frameworks for transboundary cooperation will facilitate balancing of water uses and sustaining environmental quality throughout the extended Drin Basin** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 1. The three Drin Core Group (DCG) Expert Working Groups (EWG) become fully operational making it possible for the DCG to assume the full range of responsibilities stemming from the Drin MoU and act as a Joint Commission.  2. Inter-ministerial Committees (or equivalent bodies) are established in each project country tasked with the coordination of country response to guidance of the DCG.  3. A Strategic Action Program (SAP with horizon 5 years) is adopted by the countries.  4. DCG members, DCG working group members, water and land managers, policy makers and other practitioners are trained in surface/groundwater management, IWRM, implementation of international policy instruments (WFD, UNECE Water Convention), and other relevant disciplines and technologies | The institutional structure for the implementation of the Drin MoU comprise of:  - Meeting of the Parties (MOP; Parties are represented by Ministers). The MOP takes place on an annual basis.  - Drin Core Group, established as a result of the Drin Dialogue Project (UNDP/UNECE/GWP-Med). Its success has fostered the formulation and approval of the present project.  - Three Expert Working Groups (1. Implementation of Water Framework Directive; 2. Monitoring and Information Exchange; 3. Biodiversity and Ecosystems). The EWGs have been established but are not yet operational hence can’t provide the necessary assistance to the DCG for the latter to assume the full range of responsibilities stemming from the Drin MoU.  Lack of an overarching basin-wide science based framework for the implementation of the medium and long term priority actions in view of achieving the overall aims and objectives of the Drin MoU, and of the updated Vision hinders the formulation of coherent policies, legislative reforms and identification of investments targeted to the sustainable utilization of the Basin’s water resources and dependent ecosystems, and their integrated management | *(not set or not applicable)* | 1. The DCG Expert Working Groups become operational in assisting the DCG to assume the full range of responsibilities stemming from the Drin MoU.  2. The Inter-ministerial Committees established.  3. SAP adopted by the Meeting of the Parties to the Drin MoU (Ministerial Meeting).  4. Full and successful participation of all DCG members and expert groups, and of qualified representatives of land-water managers and practitioners in training activities. | 1. The Drin Core Group (DCG) and three Expert Working Groups (EWG) are operational, with all members appointed.    The DCG operated with the assistance of the EWGs in line with its mandate (see Annex 1 of the Drin MoU) and: a. Acted as main beneficiary of and guided the GEF project acting as its Steering Committee (in accordance to the related decision of the 1st Meeting of the Parties, at Ministerial level, (Tirana, 28 May 2013)). b. Coordinated actions among Riparians for the implementation of the MoU. c. Facilitated and enabled cooperation among the Riparians, the international institutions, initiatives and donors active in the area and beyond.    To further facilitate its work on the latter, the Drin Core Group (DCG) decided to establish an additional Expert Working Group on Floods. Terms of Reference were prepared by the PCU, discussed in the 14th DCG / 5th SC meeting (Podgorica, 20 November 2017) and adopted by the 15th DCG / 6th SC meeting (Tirana, 7 June 2018). The PCU will take action for its operationalization. The EWG on Floods will be used -among others- to facilitate coordination of activities supported by different donors including GIZ.    The DCG is becoming the reference point for a range of management actions supported by various donors and initiatives.    The operation of the overall institutional structure for the implementation of the Drin MoU was supported:    - Actions were undertaken for the implementation of the decisions of the DCG and EWGs; Technical support including but not restricted to the preparation of background documents, concept notes, strategic papers, ToRs was provided.    - Communication with and among members of the DCG/SC as well as the members of the EWGs to enable their operation (of DCG and EWG) fulfilling their role as coordinating bodies and responding to ad-hoc requests in this regard was facilitated.    - Opportunities were identified for deepening and enhancing cooperation.    Apart from the overall coordination and cooperation at Drin basin level, coordination between/among Drin Riparians at sub-basin level is an additional means to strengthening integrated management of joint water resources. In this regard activities to facilitate coordination between Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for the management of the Lake Ohrid were undertaken. In a meeting among representatives of the two littoral countries (15 May 2018; back to back with the Inception workshop for the development of the Lake Ohrid Management Plan; see under Outcome 5 below) it was agreed to re-initiate the operation of the Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee that was established through an international agreement ratified by the two countries in 2005. Action in this regard is on-going.    - The following meetings were organized: Ordinary meetings of the Expert Working Groups of the DCG (Podgorica, 19 November 2017 and Tirana, 6 June 2018); Ad-hoc meeting of the EWG on Monitoring and Information Exchange (Tirana, 20-21 February 2018); 14th DCG / 5th SC meeting (Podgorica, 20 November 2017); 15th DCG / 6th SC meeting (Tirana, 7 June 2018).    2. Inter-ministerial Committees:    Kosovo (as per UN resolution 1244): The IMC in Kosovo is established as subsidiary body of the Inter-Ministerial Water Council. The latter convenes at the Ministers’ level. The same Ministries as in the Inter-Ministerial Water Council are represented in the IMC; the latter convenes at the level of Directors of Ministries. The 1st IMC meeting was organized on 28 March 2017, in Pristina. The 2nd IMC meeting was organized on 25 April 2018 in Pristina.    Montenegro: The National Council for Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Integrated Coastal Zone Management, chaired by the President of Montenegro (NCSDCCICZM- hosted within the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism), has assumed the role of the IMC for Montenegro. The PCU presented developments and received guidance on the sessions of the NCSDCCICZM held on June 2016 and 16th June 2017. The next meeting is planned for September 2018.    Albania: An official letter requesting the establishment of an IMC for Albania was sent to the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration (MARDWA), and to the Secretary of the National Water Council in Q1 2017. As unofficially agreed with the Albanian authorities, the letter proposed the Commission for the Administration of Transboundary Waters (CATW) to undertake the role of the IMC in the country. As a response, the Deputy Minister -that heads the Commission- would bring the proposal as item for discussion in the next meeting of the CATW. According to available information, the CATW hasn’t convened since. During the June 2017-June 2018 period the environmental and water management institutions in Albania have been under a restructuring process. The Technical Secretariat of the Water Council has recently -officially- assumed responsibilities as the water responsible institution. It has been -unofficially- agreed that action will be taken to establish the IMC.    the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: The political situation in the country until mid-2017 did not allow for the establishment of an IMC. There was no response to the letter sent to the Deputy Prime Minister regarding the establishment of the IMC (Q4 2016). The establishment of the IMC was one of the issues discussed in the meeting of the PCU with the cabinet of Deputy Prime Minister and the Deputy Minister of Environment in late 2017 and in Q1 2018. The message conveyed was that the establishment of an IMC will be discussed in the next meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Council for Sustainable Development.    3. N/A    4. Selected stakeholders and members of the DCG and EWG have been engaged in the following capacity building activities:    - Training on priority substances sampling and analysis.    Twelve (12) members of staff of institutions from the beneficiary Drin Riparians (7 women and 5 men) that are responsible for monitoring, participated in a training aimed to increase the capacity of national authorities responsible for monitoring, in the field of collection and analysis of samples for priority substances in accordance to the EU Water Framework Directive.    The trainees participated in the Summer 2017 Monitoring Campaign (June 2017) and were trained on sampling of surface water and groundwater that would be analysed for Physico-Chemical, Heavy Metals and Priority Substances. (For more details regarding the sampling expeditions see under Outcome 1).    A training on the analysis of samples for Priority Substances was conducted in the period 4-7 December in the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (Greece).    - Training II on analyses of water samples with emphasis on priority substances.    A follow up of the above-mentioned training is organized in Tirana (27-29 June), at the laboratories of the National Environmental Agency of Albania and in Pristina (11-13 July) at the premises of the Hydrometeorological Institute, as per request of the 15th DCG / 6th SC meeting. The event has the form of an on-the-job-training. The participants are trained in the analysis of samples using Gas Chromatography – Mass spectrometry.    - Training on biological monitoring, including sampling, species identification, indices’ calculation and interpretation.    Eighteen (18) members (12 women and 6 men) of staff of institutions from the beneficiary Drin Riparians that are responsible for monitoring participated in: (i) the Summer 2017 Monitoring Campaign and were trained on the collection of biological samples to be used for the assessment of the biological status of a water body; (ii) a two days training in Q3 (participants from Albania and Montenegro) and Q4 (participants from Kosovo and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) in analysing samples (for diatoms, macrophytes, macro-invertebrates) and using Biological Indices.    - One representative of each one of the ELEM and KESH (Power Companies of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania respectively) participated in the workshop “Water allocation in transboundary basins: a global workshop on the status and good practices” that took place in Geneva, 16-17 October 2017. The workshop was organized by the UNECE secretariat of the Water Convention in cooperation with the GEF Project “International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network” (IWLEARN), the Geneva Water Hub, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. | 1. The Drin Core Group (DCG) and three Expert Working Groups (EWG) are fully operational making it possible for the DCG to assume the full range of responsibilities stemming from the Drin MoU and act as a (de facto) Joint Commission.    To further facilitate its work, the Drin Core Group (DCG) established an additional Expert Working Group on Floods. Terms of Reference prepared in 2017 by the PCU were discussed in the 14th DCG / 5th SC meeting (Podgorica, 20 November 2017) as well in the 15th DCG / 6th SC meeting (Tirana, 7 June 2018) when it was adopted. The countries are in the process of appointing representatives. The EWG will convene as soon as members are appointed.    In line with its mandate, the Drin Core Group (DCG):  - Acted during the reporting period as main beneficiary of and guide the GEF project acting as its Steering Committee (in accordance to the related decision of the 1st Meeting of the Parties, at Ministerial level, (Tirana, 28 May 2013)).  - Facilitated and enabled cooperation among the Riparians, the international institutions, initiatives and donors active in the area and beyond. The DCG is becoming the reference point for a range of management actions supported by various donors and initiatives.    The DCG assumed -at operational level- responsibility of two projects that are spin-offs of and provide co-financing to the GEF Drin Project:  - Part of the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) supported Project “Promoting the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in Southeastern Europe, through the use of the Nexus approach” focusing on Drin.  - Adaptation Fund supported and UNDP implemented project “Integrated climate-resilient transboundary flood risk management in the Drin River basin in the Western Balkans”.    Two regular and one additional ad-hoc DCG meetings were organized:  - 14th DCG / 5th SC meeting (Podgorica, 15 November 2018);  - Ad-hoc DCG meeting (over Skype; 8 March 2019)  - 15th DCG / 6th SC meeting (Tirana, 7 June 2019).    Two regular meetings of all three EWGs, and one additional ad-hoc meeting of EWG on Monitoring and Information Exchange (MIE) were organized:  - The 6th Meeting of the Expert Working Groups (all three EWGs convened in a joint meeting) was organized in Tirana, on 6 June 2018.  - An ad-hoc meeting of the EWG MIE was organized in Tirana, on 20-21 February 2018.  - The 7th Meeting of the Expert Working Groups (all three EWGs convened in a joint meeting) was organized in Ohrid, on 13 November 2018.    Opportunities were identified for deepening and enhancing cooperation at the sub-basin level. The decision reached by Albania and North Macedonia to re-initiate the operation of the Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee that was established through an international agreement ratified by the two countries in 2005, is the Project’s catalytic result. The facilitation of the two countries to implement this decision is the next step; it is expected that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of North Macedonia will communicate with the MFA in Albania to initiate related process.    An analysis prepared by the PCU after request from Albania revealed that ~90% of the provisions of the Drin MoU were either implemented already through the GEF Drin Project or to be implemented till the end of the Project.    There were two Drin MoU provisions that there were no activities planned as part of the Project (due to their political nature):  (i) The preparation of a Drin Basin Management Plan  (ii) The establishment of a Drin Joint Commission through the signing of an International Agreement.    As a result of its successful operation the DCG requested the PCU during its 17th meeting (Pristina 30-31 May 2019) to:  (i) Initiate actions for the preparation of a Drin River Basin Management Plan  (ii) To use the budget under the Shared Vision (Outcome 2) that will not be used after the revision of the related indicator for the studies on options to enhance mechanisms of cooperation in the Drin Basin.    Ministerial Meeting  - The political situation in North Macedonia and the elections in Albania in 2018 did not form a favourable environment for the organization of a Ministerial meeting. The organization of a ministerial meeting was discussed by the 16th DCG meeting (15-16 November 2018). The 17th DCG meeting (30-31 May 2019) decided that the meeting will be organised in early December 2019 to discuss the implementation of the Drin MoU and sign the Drin SAP.      2. Inter-ministerial Committees  • In Albania the Thematic Group for “Water Resources”, that has been established at national level to facilitate cooperation with development partners, will serve as the IMC for the Project. A meeting took place on 29 May 2019.  • In North Macedonia there has been a decision for the National Council for Sustainable Development that convenes at the level of ministers, to serve as an IMC for the country. The meeting planned for 11 May 2019 was postponed for September 2019 due to changes in the synthesis of the government.  • In Montenegro the national Council for Sustainable Development acts as the IMC. The Council meets twice per year. No meeting was organized during the reporting period. A meeting is planned for Q3 2019.  • In Kosovo the IMC established (having the same synthesis as the National Water Council in terms of participating ministries; convening at the level of Directors of Ministries) will meet the second half 2019.    3. The DCG has decided that should the SAP be ready and approved by the DCG that is going to take place on 9 October 2019, the SAP will be signed the Meeting of the Parties to the Drin MoU (Ministerial Meeting) to take place in December.    4. Training activities    a. Organization of two (2) Capacity Building Workshops    Capacity building activity 1 – Training II on analyses of water samples with emphasis on priority substances.    This activity was organized as a follow up of a training workshop organised in 2017 by the Laboratories of Environmental Chemistry (LEC) and Analytical Chemistry (LAC) of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA). The training focused on the technique of Gas Chromatography – Mass Spectroscopy for the analysis of priority substances as per the EU Water Framework Directive (EU WFD 2000/60/EC) and pertaining guidelines and standards. The training was formulated in collaboration with the beneficiary Riparians. The activity was a hands-on training during which -for three days- the trainers and trainees treated samples and analysed these. The trainings took place in:  (i) Tirana (27-29 June 2018) in the premises of the laboratory of the National Environment Agency; 6 participants (of which 5 women and 1 man) attended the training (part of the previous PIR; given here for providing the complete picture related to the organization of the training).  (ii) Pristina (11-13 July 2018) in the premises of the Hydro-meteorological Institute of Kosovo (HMIK); 7 participants from the HMIK and 3 participants from the Hydro-meteorological Service of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia participated (of which 6 women and 5 men).    b. Capacity building activity 2 – Training on how to prepare bankable projects for financing climate change adaptation in Drin transboundary basin.    Eighteen (18) members (of which 13 women and 5 men) of staff of institutions from the beneficiary Drin Riparians enhanced their capacity and were equipped with knowledge and skills required to develop bankable transboundary water and climate change adaptation projects.    The training was developed in cooperation with the UNECE. The training was held in Tirana, on 26-27 November 2018.    c. Participation of representatives of the Drin Riparians in regional and international workshops and conferences    - Four (4) DCG members represented the Project and had the chance to enhance their capacities in the field of TWRM through their participation in the 9th GEF International Water Conference (IWC9; Marrakesh, 5-8 November 2018).  - Three (3) DCG members representing Albania, Kosovo and North Macedonia as well as PCU representatives participated in the UNECE Meeting of the Parties (Astana, 10-12 October 2018). |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 5**  **Benefits demonstrated on the ground by environmentally sound approaches and technologies new to the region** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 1. Program of Pilot Demonstrations, responding to the Drin MoU approved by countries during inception period is implemented resulting in:  - Management Plan for Ohrid Lake is prepared;  - Integrated modelling tool is developed assisting in: appropriate quality for treated effluents and appropriate wastewater management solution for Shkodra city in Albania to be determined.  - Facility, equipment and scheme for production of fuel-briquettes from Skadar Lake macrophytes biomass are established as means for the reduction of nutrient load in Shkoder/Skadar lake.  - Ad hoc Flood Expert Working Group is established and Catchment Flood Risk Management Plan is prepared including emergency operation rules for dams.  - A centralized fish market is established in Montenegrin part of Skadar lake. | 1. Regional experience so far does not include testing of IWRM in a large basin, coping measures for climate variability and change, nutrient management, amongst others.  - A Basin Management Plan is not in place in Lake Ohrid; the preparation, in accordance to the WFD, of a basin management plan for a shared water body is not tested in the Drin Basin.  - Shkodra city is a pollution hotspot affecting areas of paramount ecological importance.  - Nutrients enter the Shkoder/Skadar lake through its tributary, Moraca. De-forestation takes places in the Montenegrin part and collected wood is used for heating purposes.  - Floods have been having detrinmental effects across the Drin Basin. The issue can’t be dealt with effectively with unilateral action. Related intruments/approaches and cooperation among Drin riparians is necessary but absent  - Illegal fishing exerts pressure to the fisheries in Shkoder/Skadar, and despite the continuous efforts, institutional capacities are weak to address the issue. | *(not set or not applicable)* | Program fully implemented by the end of the project.  - The Ohrid Basin Management Plan is prepared and the WFD approach for the preparation of a management plan in a Drin’s transboundary sub-basin is tested.  - Scientific sound and cost-effective solutions to address unsustainable wastewater management are identified; the tool used in this regard can be used in other ecologically sensitive areas facing similar pollution issues.  - A solution for the removal of nutrients loads from the lake and the reduction of pressure on forests is tested.  - Facilitate cooperation among Drin riparians for the the management of flood risk implementing approaches new to the area.  - A solution to reduce illegal fishing in Lake Skadar is tested; this involves selling the catch of legal fishermen through a central fish market as incentive for peer control of illegal fishermen. | The Pilot Demonstration activities are at various stages of implementation.    1. Lake Ohrid Management Plan.    ToR -fully harmonized with the provisions of the EU Water Framework Directive- was prepared incorporating comments of the Expert Working Groups (Pristina, December 2016) and the responsible institutions of the two Lake Ohrid Littoral countries (MARDWA and the Technical Secretariat of the Water Council in Albania; Ministry of Environment in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). The procurement activities were completed and an international consortium (consultant) was contracted in late 2017.    An International Expert on WFD to provide technical assistance to the PCU was hired in early 2018.    An inception report was prepared and discussed with the stakeholders including the Deputy Minister of Environment of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in the Inception Meeting held in Ohrid on 14 May 2017. The meeting validated the report.    The progress of the work of the consultant is linked to the initiation/completion of the investigative monitoring that is to be procured by the PCU. The results of the monitoring will assist in the assessment of the environmental status (“ecological characterization” is the WFD term) of the basin hence, the development of the management measures to be taken. Being a transboundary management plan, the laboratory that will perform the monitoring expedition should be accepted and trusted by both countries.    The PCU has requested guidance from the countries on the selection of the laboratory. Guidance is pending causing delays in the preparation of the management plan by the consultant.    2. Preparation of a wastewater management decision support tool - Wastewater treatment in Shkodra city area.    The procurement activities were completed and the consultant was contracted in December 2017.    The inception report was submitted by the consultant including a workplan of action on December 2017.    Missions of the consultant in Albania and Montenegro to collect information have been realized in February 2018.    The consultant is in process of developing a data gap analysis to enable provision of assistance by the PCU and the institutions in covering these data gaps.    3. Reduction of nutrient load and forest preservation through biomass collection and production of fuel briquettes in the Montenegrin part of Skadar Lake.    A report entitled “Assessment of Biomass Source to Be Used” was prepared in September 2017 (approved by the EWG in the meeting on June 15th, 2017 in Skopje, commented by the National Park Authorities (NP) in August 2017).    The “Feasibility study for use of biomass for development of briquettes scheme” is prepared (submitted on 11 September 2017 by the consultant and shared with the NP authority for comments; the delay in receiving the opinion of the NP authority resulted in the overall delay of this phase of the pilot activity).    The “Design for a Pilot Activity to test the briquettes/pellet production and usage scheme” along with specifications for the implementation of the second phase of the biomass collection and production of fuel briquettes scheme were prepared in December 2017. It will be used to procure the services and purchase the necessary equipment for the next phase of the demonstration activity that will test on the field, the feasibility of the scheme.    Consultation meetings are on-going with the NP authorities and the Ministry to discuss the final implementation plan as well as the conditions and requirements in accordance to the law for the establishment of the necessary small scale constructions (warehouse).    The Ministry will include the warehouse in the Plan of temporary objects of the National park in September 2018. The procurement for the purchase of the necessary equipment (tractor, boat, biomass collection machinery etc.) will follow.    4. Establishment and testing of Transboundary Monitoring in Skadar/Shkoder and Buna/Bojana.    All administrative obstacles that were delaying the establishment of a contract between UNESCO and GWP-Med were addressed. The implementation of the pilot has been formally initiated.    An inception report was presented by UNESCO during the DCG/SC meeting (7 June 2018). Coordination calls with the participation of the DCG members from Albania and Montenegro, UNESCO and the PCU for the finalization of the Inception report have taken place. A revised report will be prepared. The ToR for the consultants to be hired by UNESCO have been prepared and will be commented by Albania and Montenegro.    5. Cooperation on Flood Risk Management in the Drin Basin.    - Establishment of EWG on Floods.    The ToR for the establishment of the EWG on Floods were discussed and approved by the DCG (see also above under Outcome 2).    - Preparation of Concept Note/ToR for the pilot activity.    The preparation of the Concept Note/ToR will be based on an analysis of the state of play in the field of flood risk management in the Drin Basin. The consultant -already hired- further to the preparation of the Concept Note/ToR will use the analysis to identify management issues and needs as well as financial sources to address these. The outcomes of the work of the consultant will feed in the preparation of the SAP.    The field missions to meet stakeholders for the acquisition of information for the preparation of the Concept Note/ToR are organized in all Drin Riparians during June. The ToR are expected in end of July. | 1. Lake Ohrid Management Plan.    The LOWMP is developed fully in accordance with the EU WFD (2000/60/EC) and the pertinent national legislation of Albania and North Macedonia.    The work is divided into five major Phases:  • Inception phase (Inception Report) that is finished  • Data collection and analysis of the current in the watershed – pressure-impact analysis; on-going.  • Definition of the current status of surface and ground water bodies in the watershed – watershed characterization; on-going.  • Setting up of environmental objectives, analysis of future trend of pressures and impact, and development of a specific Programme of Measures to meet defined environmental objectives  • Draft and Final LOWMP preparation    The following were done or finalized during the reporting period:  • Data collection, January – August 2018: desk research and direct meetings  • Legal and institutional analysis: Albania and North Macedonia; continuing activity to capture any possible changes  • Socio-economic analysis  • Hydrology, hydraulic and climate change analysis: State-of-the-art modeling tools to determine the hydrological cycle in the watershed are used (Separate models for analysis of water use/availability for electricity generation downstream in the watershed; Models for assessment of flood risks in the basin; All combined with comprehensive analysis to assess and demonstrate how climate change projections are expected to influence water resources.)  • Land-use and analysis of drivers and pressures  • Lake’s ecosystem services analysis: a number of valuation techniques and methods applied – Market price, Avoided cost, Travel cost and Willingness-to-pay. Two types of tailored questionnaires developed, for tourist/visitors and the local population. The survey took place in the four municipalities in the basin (Pogradec, Ohrid, Struga and Debarca), and included roughly 400 respondents. A separate report shall be submitted in Sept/Oct 2019.  • Summary of Basin Characteristics report, draft submitted in December 2018.  • Development of GIS database: created since the very early stages of the project and continuously updated.  • Public participation and awareness raising: (1) over 20 meetings with municipal authorities, public utilities, regulatory bodies and other public organizations over the period; (2) Focus Group Discussions held in Ohrid (May 14) and Struga (May 15 2019) with tourist businesses, civil society NGOs, and public institutions; (3) FGDs in Pogradec planned for early June 2019; (4) Second round of FGDs to be organized in all basin municipalities after first Draft of WMP will be developed (Oct/Nov 2019).  • A surveillance monitoring program includes three monitoring expeditions and analysis of samples for the determination of the level of parameters listed in the WFD for the assessment of the environmental status (“ecological characterization” in WFD terms) of the basin. Actions during the reporting period included: (i) Two monitoring expeditions (winter and spring ’19) were organised on the basis of ToR for the surveillance monitoring program that was decided by the countries. (ii) Preparation of the report of the first monitoring expedition (winter) including the results of the analysis of the physicochemical and biological parameters.    2. Preparation of a wastewater management decision support tool - Wastewater treatment in Shkodra city area.    a. Fieldwork and collection of necessary data    A stakeholder analysis was submitted on the 2nd of February 2018. Communication related to data collection was established with the Riparians’ relevant institutions. Missions of the consultant in the Riparians were carried out during the period January-April 2018.    A report on the data acquired and a data gap analysis was prepared. Advise and additional data (datasets on hydrology and pollution) were provided to the consultant by the Secretariat/PCU.    b. Development of the Modelling Tool (MT)    The pre-final version of the Modelling Tool (MT) calculating pollution loads from wastewater in the Drin Basin is developed. The MT is being calibrated.    The internet-based interface of the decision support tool (Wastewater Management Decision Support Tool (WMDST)) that will be based on the MT is ready depicting the agglomerations in the Drin Basin as well as the existing wastewater treatment plants. The MT was showcased to interested stakeholders during the Stakeholders Conference (Ohrid, 14-15 November 2018).    Testing of the Drin WMDST in the case of Shkodra city in Albania to indicate the optimum wastewater treatment solution for the Shkodra city is on-going; it is expected to be finalized in second half 2019 or beginning of 2020.    The Hydrology/hydraulic module for storm water that will be used for providing recommendations on urban drainage in the city of Shkodra is under preparation expected to be finalised in second half 2019.    A technical meeting held in Shkodra on 26 November 2018 provided input (different scenarios were discussed and the ones most relevant for the city were selected) for the development of both tools to be used for suggesting solutions on drainage and wastewater management in Shkodra.    3. Wastewater management in Kosovo    The treatment plant is constructed. The Minister of Environment, the UN Resident Representative and the Mayor of Rahovec inaugurated the plant on 19 November 2018 in a ceremony in which representatives of the local community and other relevant stakeholders participated.    The operation of the plant is tested before is handed over by the company to the local authorities.    4. Reduction of nutrient load and forest preservation through biomass collection and production of fuel briquettes in the Montenegrin part of Skadar Lake.    An MoU was signed (28.01.2018) between the National Park authority and the Project regarding the implementation of the demonstration activity including the donation of the Mechanical equipment purchased/to be purchased by the Project for the needs of the demonstration activity.    A technical proposal was prepared and submitted to the Ministry to enable inclusion of a shed (to be used for the storage of the mechanical equipment) in the Plan of temporary objects for the National park Skadar lake). The plan was not adopted (25.09.18) by the parliament of Montenegro. The issue was discussed again with the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism in June 2019.    The Mechanical equipment necessary includes: 1) Mechanical equipment for reed harvesting on land including a tractor, trailer and reed cutting attachment; 2) Mechanical equipment for reed harvesting on water; 3) Machines for reed chopping; 4) Machines for pellet production.    Item 1 was purchased and donated to the Park on 25 March 2019. The rest of the equipment will be purchased within second half 2019 (delays occurred in the purchasing of the equipment is because this is specialized and not easily available in the market). This will enable the harvesting of biomass, production of pellets and monitoring of results during the same period.    5. Establishment and testing of Transboundary Monitoring in Skadar/Shkoder and Buna/Bojana.    During the first phase of the Pilot project and following the inception phase, two national experts (one per project country) were hired based on the approved by the countries ToRs. Their work focused on the provision of baseline data related to the transboundary aquifers in the project area. An initial desk-study regarding the status of the aquifer’s groundwater resources, based on existing information, as well as on information related to surface waters, freshwater ecosystems, and coastal environment was prepared. Research was conducted to obtain information on the transboundary aquifers mainly based on bibliography and on the data provided by the reports of the National experts of each riparian country.    A mission trip to Albania and Montenegro took place in December 2018. UNESCO presented the results of the initial study for the hydrogeological conceptual model, of the aquifer’s comprehensive vulnerability analysis (examining both vertical and horizontal) and a general overview of the status of the aquifer’s groundwater resources.    Data of higher resolution regarding Topography, Geology, Hydrogeology are currently being obtained for the development of the final hydrogeological conceptual model and the comprehensive vulnerability map of the aquifers, which will -in turn- provide the basis for the design of the groundwater monitoring network. National experts from the Geological Survey of Montenegro and of Albania were engaged to obtain these.  Minor delays are attributed to data processing and translation needs.    UNESCO has been working with the Geological Survey of Montenegro and IGRAC to purchase and equip two existing (or if necessary drilled new) wells, with newly acquired instrumentation. The two wells will be used for testing targeted parameters of the previously defined proposal of the program of monitoring of groundwater and for training purposes. Purchased equipment will remain property of the countries.    A second 6-day mission trip will be scheduled end of August - beginning of September 2019. The international experts will present to the local authorities of both countries the: final overall and detailed design of the aquifer’s monitoring network, for the Buna/Bojana delta area and Skadar/Shkodra Lake; and the proposal of the program of groundwater monitoring which will be tested by the local experts, and will be compliant with WFD and GWD requirements.    5. Cooperation on Flood Risk Management in the Drin Basin.    a. Establishment of EWG on Floods    The ToR of the Expert Working Group on Floods was discussed, amended and finalized during the 15th DCG / 6th SC meeting (Tirana, 7 June 2018). The first step undertaken for the operationalisation of the EWG was to request the Riparians to appoint their representatives; the process is on-going. The EWG will convene as soon as members are appointed.    b. Preparation of Concept Note/ToR for the pilot activity    An expert was engaged by UNDP with support from the Project, as per decision of the DCG, to analyse the status in the Drin Basin in terms of flood risk management and use the results for the development of the ToR for a pilot action to be implemented as part of the Drin Project. In addition, the expert was tasked to identify financing sources to address flood risk related management issues and assist in securing related funds.    The information gathered through field missions and the analysis done was used for the preparation of the Concept Note/ToR for the pilot on Floods. The Concept Note was discussed in the 16th DCG - 7th SC Meeting (November 2018); the DCG requested more time to go through the Concept Note and decide on their adoption at a later stage. The Concept Note was approved in the ad-hoc DCG meeting (over skype; 8 March 2019).    The ToR for the pilot project were finalized in May 2019. Procurement will be concluded within second half 2019.    The Adaptation Fund (AF) was identified as a vehicle to finance flood risk management related activities. A project including non-structural and structural activities -of a total value of $10 M- was approved. This represents an additional catalytic outcome of the project. The DCG is the Steering Committee of the project. The UNDP is the implementing agency. The activities therein are in-line with the Drin MoU and, further, are approved by the Riparians. In this regard, these activities will form part of the SAP. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 6**  **Public support and participation to IWRM and joint multi-country management enhanced through stakeholder involvement and gender mainstreaming** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 1. Stakeholder Involvement and Gender Mainstreaming Strategy is defined and adopted by Drin Core Group. | 1. Level of public participation in decision-making is unclear in all countries, with efforts being made to introduce/implement legislation leading to increased stakeholder involvement and public participation. Gender issues not yet considered. | *(not set or not applicable)* | 1. Drin Core Group approval of Stakeholder Involvement and Gender Mainstreaming Strategies. | - A Stakeholders Involvement Strategy is prepared and approved by the DCG; it is implemented with actions that run -most of them- horizontally the project components.    More than 120 stakeholders participated in the 4th Stakeholders Conference that took place on 14-15 December 2016, in Pristina.    A total of 120 representatives of Drin Riparians institutions as well as representatives of other stakeholders such as local authorities, important economic sectors, academia, civil society and NGOs, donor countries, regional and international organizations etc. participated in the 5th annual Stakeholders Conference took that took place on 21-22 November 2017 in Podgorica.    The conference informed the stakeholders about the developments regarding the implementation of the Drin MoU as well as the on-going and planned activities under the Drin CORDA and Project. It also raised awareness and gained input on a priority issue, this of the flood risk management planning, prevention & preparedness.    Stakeholder involvement activities were organized through the consultation process in the framework of the development of the Lake Ohrid Management Plan, and the Preparation of a wastewater management decision support tool - Wastewater treatment in Shkodra city area (see above under Outcome 5).    Communication of the PCU with representatives of institutions and key stakeholders is continuous, as part of actions for the implementation of Project activities (see related text under Outcome 1, indicator 1 and Outcome 2, indicator 1).    - A Gender Mainstreaming Strategy is prepared and implemented. The draft Strategy was presented in the 12th DCG/ 3rd SC meeting (Pristina, 15 December 2016) while the final draft has been approved by the DCG, by a means of no-objection via email communication.    The GWP-Med’s Gender Focal Point and the Project Manager, as responsible officers are following up the implementation of the Strategy.    The Drin Core Group, and the Expert Working Groups are balanced in terms of Gender. | a. Implementation of the Participation and Stakeholders Involvement Strategy    Stakeholder involvement activities were organized through the consultation processes in the framework of the development of the SAP, the Lake Ohrid Management Plan, and the Preparation of a wastewater management decision support tool - Wastewater treatment in Shkodra city area.    Communication of the PCU with representatives of institutions and key stakeholders is continuous, as part of actions for the implementation of Project activities.    b. Consultation with stakeholders    A full-fledged consultation process on the CCA validation and the SAP development included six focus groups meeting, in all Riparians that are beneficiary to the project, involving 173 representatives of stakeholders (see also under Outcome 1 on TDA and Outcome 2 on SAP development).    Meetings with responsible institutions including municipalities and consultations with stakeholders were organized as part of the implementation of the demonstration activities (see Outcome 5).    c. Organization of the annual Stakeholders Conference at transboundary level    A total of 131 participants including representatives of Drin Riparians’ institutions as well as representatives of other stakeholders such as local authorities, important economic sectors, academia, civil society and NGOs, donor countries, regional and international organizations took part in the 6th annual Stakeholders Conference for the Drin Basin organized on 14-15 November in Ohrid.  The conference: (1) Informed the stakeholders about the developments regarding the implementation of the Drin MoU as well as the on-going and planned activities under the Project. This year the stakeholders were presented the draft Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) including the CCA and provided input. (2) Focused in addition on the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in the Drin basin.    d. Implementation of Gender Mainstreaming Strategy  The Project is implementing the Strategy. The GWP-Med’s Gender Focal Point is the responsible officer. All the events organized during 2018, are gender balanced. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 7**  **Political awareness at all levels and private sector participation strengthened through higher visibility of the project‘s developments and targeted outreach initiatives** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 1. Information, Communication and Outreach Strategy is prepared and implemented. | 1. Public awareness of natural resource sustainability issues and of water governance and management is generally scarce. | *(not set or not applicable)* | 1. Communication activities support the preparation and adoption of the TDA and the SAP.  All the project‘s main events, findings and achievements recorded and disseminated through media events and ICT.  Project’s active participation to IW LEARN activities and events using at least 1% of GEF grant. | Communication activities have been continuously implemented allowing awareness raising among stakeholders as well as strategic communication of information to key stakeholders. Additional and more extensive range of activities are planned during the last phase of the TDA as well as during the SAP development, once a new communication officer is hired (commencement of work, 1st September 2018).    The PCU members use all possible opportunities to raise awareness about and communicate the Drin MoU process and the Project. The bilateral meetings with national and international institutions and stakeholders are used in this regard. The Drin CORDA and Project brochure and Information Note (electronic form and hard copies) are the main material used along with tailor made presentations.    The publication "The natural wealth and legacy of the Drin River Basin: inspiring our collective actions" prepared by a coalition of NGOs led by MIO-ECSDE was re-printed in 5 languages, under the auspices of the Project.    The face to face meetings of the PCU with the political leadership of the Ministries of the Drin Riparians, the Prime Minister’s Cabinets, academia, research institutes, electricity companies continued by offering the opportunity for first hand provision of information that is tailored to each of these stakeholders.    The activities for the celebration of the Drin Day (5 May) in 2016, 2017 and 2018 were organized by NGOs (8 in 2017; 8 in 2018) that received grants by the Project through a call-for-interest procedure.    More than 500 people in total, participate each time in the activities, in a number of areas spreading across the Drin sub-basins and Riparians from Lakes Prespa and Ohrid to the coast of the Adriatic. The number of persons that the information reaches out to, is much higher. | a. Communication activities    Communication activities are continuously implemented allowing awareness raising among stakeholders, as well as the strategic communication of information to key stakeholders. The PCU members use all possible opportunities to raise awareness and communicate about the Drin CORDA and the Project. The bilateral meetings with national and international institutions and stakeholders are used in this regard. The Project brochure, Information Note (electronic form and hard copies) and a cartoon poster are the main materials used.    The face to face meetings of the PCU with the political leadership of the Ministries of the Drin Riparians, the Prime Minister’s Cabinets, academia, research institutes, electricity companies continued by offering the opportunity for first hand provision of information that is tailored to each of these stakeholders.    In addition to the above, the following steps were undertaken:  • The Drin Corda website was updated with news items and photos.  • A project Facebook page created, reached a figure of 229 people ‘Liking’ the page. The two most popular posts reached 2,100 people (with 252 post clicks and 45 reactions, comments or shares); and 1,800 people (with 641 post clicks, and 249 reactions, comments and shares).  • A list of journalists from the Drin region was prepared, to use for disseminating articles and press releases.  • Journalists were invited -and attended- as means to engage them and function as a “multiplier communication” agent, the 6th Stakeholders Conference 2018 in Ohrid.  • Press releases on milestones and events were issued. Press release from Stakeholders Conference received good coverage from press in the North Macedonia. The Stakeholders Conference was covered online in 11 news outlets (a combination of regional and national outlets). The press release reached 163 people on the project Facebook group.  • Events, pilot projects and key areas in the Drin Basin were filmed to produce short documentaries in 2019 about the basin issues; additional filming took place in towns and cities visited during the 2019 SAP Focus Group Meetings. The production of two short films (about the constructed wetland pilot in Kosovo and the Drin CORDA process) are in progress.  • Communication advice was provided to the NGO’s responsible for delivering Drin Day 2019.  • Quotes about the GEF Project were shared for inclusion in press releases produced by other organizations / projects e.g. GEF for World Water Day, Drin Day NGO’s, National Parks of Montenegro Press Release for Biomass Pilot milestone.    c. Production and reproduction of Material    The GEF Drin CORDA and Project brochure and Information Note (electronic form and hard copies) are the main materials used in 2018.    In 2019, the main materials created and used to promote the project are:  • Stand up banner - A GIS map showing the location of the Drin Basin.  • Stand up banner - A cartoon poster illustrating the components of Drin CORDA and GEF Drin Project (The poster was awarded5th out of 16th place at the GEF IWLEARN Conference 2018). The banners are displayed at events.  • A cartoon Powerpoint slides for presenting the project .  • Fountain pens with the Drin CORDA logo for high profile / high influence stakeholders.  Branded notepad, folder and USBs for participants at events. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |

# Implementation Progress



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| Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc): | 56.83% |
| Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year: | 56.83% |
| Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August): | 2,557,365 |

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| **Key Financing Amounts** | |
| PPG Amount | 100,000 |
| GEF Grant Amount | 4,500,000 |
| Co-financing | 221,829,721 |

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| **Key Project Dates** | |
| PIF Approval Date | Nov 15, 2012 |
| CEO Endorsement Date | Oct 17, 2014 |
| Project Document Signature Date (project start date): | Aug 6, 2015 |
| Date of Inception Workshop | Dec 16, 2015 |
| Expected Date of Mid-term Review | Dec 31, 2017 |
| Actual Date of Mid-term Review | Mar 20, 2019 |
| Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation | Oct 31, 2020 |
| Original Planned Closing Date | Aug 6, 2019 |
| Revised Planned Closing Date | Feb 6, 2021 |

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| **Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2018 to 1 July 2019)** |
| 2018-11-15 |
| 2019-03-08 |
| 2019-05-30 |

# Critical Risk Management

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| Current Types of Critical Risks | Critical risk management measures undertaken this reporting period |

# Adjustments

**Comments on delays in key project milestones**

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| **Project Manager: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| Not applicable |

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| **Country Office: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| based on the recommendation of the MTR, the project SC approved the extension of the project till February 2021 |

# Ratings and Overall Assessments

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| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Manager/Coordinator** | Satisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | Outcome 1: Consensus among countries on key trans boundary concerns and drivers of change, including climate change and variability, reached through joint fact finding    Six Thematic TDA reports are finished and approved by the SC. The Causal Chain Analysis is approved by the SC. The Draft TDA Synthesis report is ready; the TDA Synthesis report will be finalized by Q4 2019.    The information gathered for the preparation of the TDA is in a database that will feed in an information management system; ToR for the latter are ready, the procurement for the development of the IMS will be done in Q3 2019.    Outcome 2: Visioning process opens the way for systematic cooperation in the management of the transboundary Drin River Basin    The MTR suggested that the shared vision related indicator changes and that the Shared Vision contained in the 2011 Drin MoU should be the Shared Vision of the SAP provided that it is confirmed to be consistent with the findings of the TDA; the SC adopted the suggestion. The SC decided that the end of project target should read “Expert opinion that the Shared Vision is consistent with the findings of the TDA”. The SC agreed with the expert opinion presented by the international consultants that prepare the SAP, that the Shared Vision contained in the Drin MoU is consistent with the findings of the TDA.    The second draft SAP is being prepared using guidance from the Expert Working Groups of the DCG (the SC of the Project) and the DCG itself on the revision of the first Draft SAP. The latter was prepared with the involvement of a large number of national and international experts through a structured multi-stakeholders consultation process. A SC meeting will be organized in October 2019 to discuss the 2nd draft SAP.    Outcome 3: Countries and donors commit to sustain joint cooperation mechanisms and to undertake priority reforms and investments    Related activities are to be organized the final year of project implementation.    Outcome 4: The operationalization and strengthening of the institutional and legal frameworks for transboundary cooperation will facilitate balancing of water uses and sustaining environmental quality throughout the extended Drin Basin    The three Drin Core Group (DCG) Expert Working Groups (EWG) are fully operational making it possible for the DCG to assume the full range of responsibilities stemming from the Drin MoU and act as a Joint Commission. A fourth EWG on Floods is established.    Inter-ministerial Committees (or equivalent bodies) are established in all project countries. The first meeting of the IMC in North Macedonia is scheduled for 3 September    DCG members, DCG working group members, water and land managers, policy makers and other practitioners participate in at least two trainings per year and one study visit/ international conference and are trained in different issues related to basin management and transboundary cooperation.    Outcome 5: Benefits demonstrated on the ground by environmentally sound approaches and technologies new to the region    Implementation of all pilot projects is on track.    Outcome 6: Public support and participation to IWRM and joint multi-country management enhanced through stakeholder involvement and gender mainstreaming    Stakeholder Involvement and Gender Mainstreaming Strategy is implemented. The MTR has characterized the project as a model in terms of stakeholders engagement. Gender mainstreaming strategy is implemented.    Outcome 7: Political awareness at all levels and private sector participation strengthened through higher visibility of the project‘s developments and targeted outreach initiatives    Information, Communication and Outreach Strategy is being implemented. This year the project has increased in volume and quality its communication activities. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP Country Office Programme Officer** | Satisfactory | Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | The project implementation peace is steady, with no new risk during the period under reporting, the project went through a midterm review process in the first quarter with satisfactory results. The MTE noted the progress to date on the stakeholder’s engagement conducted at a very advanced level and growing role of governance structures and expert working groups. MTE highlighted that the project is likely to enjoy support from the basin states as there is strong sense of country ownership, as it advances implementation of the 2011 MOU and readiness to move towards meeting European Union standards under Chapter 27 Environment and Climate Change. The MTE recommended the project should have a no cost extension of until 28 February 2021 to ensure sufficient time for the outcome impacts to be fully realized. All the findings and recommendations of the MTE were endorsed in the 17 DCG of 30-31 May in Kosovo. Overall the project objectives and outcomes are practical and feasible within the revised time frame  During the period under reporting the DCG is still growing into the role of a High-Level Joint Commission, as envisioned by the Project Document. This provides solid grounds for SAP development even though it will demand even greater integration and functionality from both the EWGs as technical bodies developing recommendations, as well as the DCG as a decision-making body with direct access at the political level.  The developing consensus for the SAP as a political process was identified as a “risk” in the project document. However, is being addressed though the engagement process associated with this project and the collaborative development of a detailed and thorough TDA. The discussion for the SAP among the Drin Riparian were undertaken in Q1 and Q2 of 2019 the process continues, and the aim is to have the political endorsement by next PIR.  The project team has nurtured conducive partnerships at national and regional level with governments, civil society, academia, and development partners such as Austrian Development Agency, GIZ, as well as UN Agencies such as UNECE involved in different project information dissemination activities and training and UNESCO involved in one of the pilot interventions. The project team is engaging and exchanging accordingly with respective UNDP CO.  A spin-off’ project of GEF Drini was approved from Adaptation Fund for full scale activities addressing floods concerns attracting up to USD $9M funds for full scale activities in Drin Riparian, the DCG will serve as a governance mechanism for all regional activities the implementation is expected to start in Q4 2019. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **GEF Operational Focal point** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Implementing Partner** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Other Partners** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser** | Satisfactory | Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | The project is well progressing towards reaching its development objectives with no major delays.  The project has advanced all components and promoted cooperation and trust building in the Drin Basin. The project has succeeded in bringing together stakeholders, including power producers, strengthening the Drin Core Group institutionally, and developed an outstanding TDA which forms a solid platform for cooperation, albeit taking longer than anticipated. It has developed pilot projects at the local level to demonstrate technologies for replication in the basin. Despite the achievements, the project is overall delayed due to i) delays associated with staffing of the GWP Albanian country officer which delayed monitoring activities, and deciding to wait until Kosovo could participate equally; ii) the TDA taking longer than anticipated because of the delayed start in monitoring activities and overdue hydrology chapter; iii) the establishment of an unforeseen, but highly important and country driven Expert Working Group on Floods which needs time to convene and provide meaningful input for the SAP; iv) allowing for sufficient time for SAP development; v) to take advantage of convening the annual November stakeholder conference in 2020, and vi) having sufficient time to close the project. Hence, despite the achievements, an 18 month no-cost extension was requested by the SC and is recommended at this mid-term review. Because of the delays, for the most part were beyond the control of the PCU, the progress to project objectives is considered “satisfactory”  During the reporting period the project was able to implement several important activities, including:  • Finalization of the Thematic Report on Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus  • Hydrology/Hydro-geology thematic report; adopted by the DCG (through a written process) in early 2019  • Pollution thematic report; adopted by the DCG (through a written process) in early 2019  • In 2019 the project database grew in content with additional data/information from the Pilot Demonstrations implemented under the Project (this will continue throughout the project implementation period). A GIS portal ( https://arcg.is/XGqXO; work is on-going) providing georeferenced information and data has been prepared for the needs of the TDA development. Related information will feed in the IWLEARN geoinformation website (that is using Geonode).  • The TDA is nearly completed, discussed and agreed with the beneficiary countries.  • The work on the SAP is well progressing, according to the project work plan.  • An Adaptation Fund/UNDP project prepared with the support of the PCU under the guidance of the DCG (being the SC of that project) includes -structural and structural activities -of total value of ~$10 M. The activities are in-line with the Drin MoU and, further, are approved by the Drin Riparians; they will form part of the Drin SAP related to flood management.  Inter-ministerial Committees  • In Albania the Thematic Group for “Water Resources”, that has been established at national level to facilitate cooperation with development partners, will serve as the IMC for the Project. A meeting took place on 29 May 2019.  • In North Macedonia there has been a decision for the National Council for Sustainable Development that convenes at the level of ministers, to serve as an IMC for the country. The meeting planned for 11 May 2019 was postponed for September 2019 due to changes in the synthesis of the government.  • In Montenegro the national Council for Sustainable Development acts as the IMC. The Council meets twice per year. No meeting was organized during the reporting period. A meeting is planned for Q3 2019.  • • In Kosovo the IMC established (having the same synthesis as the National Water Council in terms of participating ministries; convening at the level of Directors of Ministries) will meet the second half 2019.  • Organization of two (2) Capacity Building Workshops  • Public participation and awareness raising: (1) over 20 meetings with municipal authorities, public utilities, regulatory bodies and other public organizations over the period; (2) Focus Group Discussions held in Ohrid (May 14) and Struga (May 15 2019) with tourist businesses, civil society NGOs, and public institutions; (3) FGDs in Pogradec planned for early June 2019; (4) Second round of FGDs to be organized in all basin municipalities after first Draft of WMP will be developed (Oct/Nov 2019).  The MTE was conducted in 2019 and noted the progress to date on the stakeholder’s engagement conducted at a very advanced level and growing role of governance structures and expert working groups. MTE highlighted that the project is likely to enjoy support from the basin states as there is strong sense of country ownership, as it advances implementation of the 2011 MOU and readiness to move towards meeting European Union standards under Chapter 27 Environment and Climate Change. The MTE recommended the project should have a no cost extension of until 28 February 2021 to ensure sufficient time for the outcome impacts to be fully realized. All the findings and recommendations of the MTE were endorsed in the 17 DCG of 30-31 May in Kosovo.  No critical risks were identified during the reporting period.  Project is on track to fully achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. The project can be presented as 'good practice', information is shared vis the IW:Learn platform and presented at many regional and global foras.  IP  The project has a very effective management team, led by a very successful and knowledgeable PM from GWP Med and supported by two UNDP COs To date the project has 56,83% delivery rate and is well aligned with the approved project document. The project is rated Satisfactory for its implementation progress.  The project website provides a comprehensive overview of the project results, maps, data, publications, etc., and can be used as best practice for many GEF IW projects.  The last SC meeting was organized in May 2019 and confirmed the substantive progress in project implementation and approved the extension of the project till Feb 2021, the extension was also approved by the UNDP/GEF executive coordinator. | |

# Gender

**Progress in Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

This information is used in the UNDP-GEF Annual Performance Report, UNDP-GEF Annual Gender Report, reporting to the UNDP Gender Steering and Implementation Committee and for other internal and external communications and learning.  The Project Manager and/or Project Gender Officer should complete this section with support from the UNDP Country Office.

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| **Gender Analysis and Action Plan:** *not available* |
| **Please review the project's Gender Analysis and Action Plan. If the document is not attached or an updated Gender Analysis and/or Gender Action Plan is available please upload the document below or send to the Regional Programme Associate to upload in PIMS+. Please note that all projects approved since 1 July 2014 are required to carry out a gender analysis and all projects approved since 1 July 2018 are required to have a gender analysis and action plan.** |
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| **Please indicate in which results areas the project is contributing to gender equality (you may select more than one results area, or select not applicable):** |
| Contributing to closing gender gaps in access to and control over resources: Yes |
| Improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance: Yes |
| Targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women: No |
| Not applicable: No |

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| **Atlas Gender Marker Rating** |
| **GEN1:** some contribution to gender equality |

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| **Please describe any experiences or linkages (direct or indirect) between project activities and gender-based violence (GBV). This information is for UNDP use only and will not be shared with GEF Secretariat.** |
| NA |

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| **Please specify results achieved this reporting period that focus on increasing gender equality and the empowerment of women.**    **Please explain how the results reported addressed the different needs of men or women, changed norms, values, and power structures, and/or contributed to transforming or challenging gender inequalities and discrimination.** |
| Gender mainstreaming was addressed in the project design under component 5.    A Gender Mainstreaming Strategy was developed and is being implemented. In the development of the project, consultation meetings were held in each of the countries and at the basin level. Of the 370 people participating in the consultation meetings, 138 were women.    The project undertook to conduct gender mainstreaming during project execution, by working to  i) ensure a balanced participation of men and women; women represent 30% of the members of the Drin Core Group (de facto joint commission and Steering Committee of the project) and approximately 60% of the members of the Expert Working Groups of the DCG.    ii) integrate gender perspectives into water policy, through identifying gaps in development policies, inclusion of women and women’s groups in focus groups and SAP development, and ensuring women were key targets of public awareness.    A Gender and stakeholder engagement training took place in Skopje on 13-14 June 2017 -18 women 23 men) to enhance the participants ability to conduct gender analysis in their own organisations and identify solutions and needs at both project and organisational level of relevance for the &quot;Drin Coordinated Action Process. |

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| **Please describe how work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes.** |
| The project is actively facilitating gender equality and women's empowerment (see above). The results to the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes is not easy to trace though. |

# Social and Environmental Standards

**Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)**

The Project Manager and/or the project’s Safeguards Officer should complete this section of the PIR with support from the UNDP Country Office. The UNDP-GEF RTA should review to ensure it is complete and accurate.

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| **1) Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during project implementation?** |
| No |

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| **If any new social and/or environmental risks have been identified during project implementation please describe the new risk(s) and the response to it.** |
| NA |

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| **2) Have any existing social and/or environmental risks been escalated during the reporting period? For example, when a low risk increased to moderate, or a moderate risk increased to high.** |
| No |

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| **If any existing social and/or environmental risks have been escalated during implementation please describe the change(s) and the response to it.** |
| NA |

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| **SESP:** [ESSP Checklist rev.docx](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/4482/213332/1661763/1662044/ESSP%20Checklist%20rev.docx)  **Environmental and Social Management Plan/Framework:** *not available* |
| **For reference, please find below the project's safeguards screening (Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) or the old ESSP tool); management plans (if any); and its SESP categorization above. Please note that the SESP categorization might have been corrected during a centralized review.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **3) Have any required social and environmental assessments and/or management plans been prepared in the reporting period? For example, an updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or Indigenous Peoples Plan.** |
| No |

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| **If yes, please upload the document(s) above. If no, please explain when the required documents will be prepared.** |
| NA |

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| **4) Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential )?** |
| No |

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| **If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail including the status, significance, who was involved and what action was taken.** |
| NA |

# Communicating Impact

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| **Tell us the story of the project focusing on how the project has helped to improve people’s lives.**  **(This text will be used for UNDP corporate communications, the UNDP-GEF website, and/or other internal and external knowledge and learning efforts.)** |
| First Constructed Wetland in Kosovo set to reduce sewage pollution in White Drin    The Minister of Environment of Kosovo inaugurated the Constructed Wetland, based in Kramovik village, Rahovec Municipality, where 1100 residents are set to benefit.    The construction of the wetland is a demonstration activity that aims to address the acute problem of wastewater pollution reaching the White Drin river. It forms one of six pilot projects under the ‘Drin Project.    Currently, all wastewaters from Kosovo households (i.e. from toilets, sinks and bathrooms) are discharged directly into rivers in the Drin Basin without proper treatment. This is a risk for water quality, wildlife and the overall sustainability of the river.    Many initiatives have been launched in the White Drin to reduce pollution, for example, Wastewater Treatment Plants in Prizren, Peja, and Gjakova. However, these can be expensive, rely heavily on infrastructure and are primarily designed for urban areas.    The Constructed Wetland aims to provide a cost-effective, efficient and easy to maintain solution to wastewater treatment in rural areas.    The design is expected to drastically improve water quality in the White Drin, reducing pollution from Kramovik by 90%.    By taking the site conditions into account, the Constructed Wetland uses natural energy – such as gravity - and is designed for extreme weather events.    Mr Jemin Thaci, Head of Kramovik village said that local communities are supportive of the project and hoped it will encourage more investment in the future protection of the Drin. He explained: The river-bed of Drin is degraded a lot, mostly from sand and gravel extraction activities. In addition to the water pollution from the direct wastewater discharge, the situation is becoming worse. Fortunately, this Constructed Wetland, will help both for reducing the pollution, but also will improve the landscape.    The truly collaborative nature of the project is set to make it a success.This includes the Municipality of Rahovec’s decision to allocate land for the project, combined with local community engagement led by Kosovo’s Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning. Meanwhile, KRU Gjakova SH.A. the regional water company, have committed to maintaining the treatment plant to ensure its sustainability.    In the future, treating wastewater through the Constructed Wetland approach can be scaled up, so that if a site falls outside the coverage of conventional Wastewater Treatment Plants – for geographical, technical or financial reasons – wastewater can still be treated, protecting the water quality of the White Drin for future generations.    In discussions during the May 2019 Drin Core Group meeting (the de-facto joint commission for the management of the Drin Basin and the Steering Committee of the Project) between the Minister of Environment of Kosovo Mr. Fatmir Matoshi and the the UNDP Regional Advisor, Mr. Vladimir Mamaev and the Drin Project Manager, Mr. Dimitris Faloutsos (GWP-Med), H.E. the Minister expressed his satisfaction regarding the results and indicated the readiness of the government to upscale the demonstration activity utilising the constructed wetlands as a cheap and efficient solution to address municipal wastewater pollution in the White Drin river in Kosovo. |

**Knowledge Management, Project Links and Social Media**

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| **Please describe knowledge activities / products as outlined in knowledge management approved at CEO Endorsement /Approval.**    **Please also include: project's website, project page on the UNDP website, blogs, photos stories (e.g. Exposure), Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube, as well as hyperlinks to any media coverage of the project, for example, stories written by an outside source. Please upload any supporting files, including photos, videos, stories, and other documents using the 'file lirbary' button in the top right of the PIR.** |
| Drin Corda / GEF Drin Project: http://drincorda.org/ ; http://drincorda.iwlearn.org/gef-supported-drin-project    From the Drin Day activities:  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YtyNFAsG\_70  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KSdeS2\_MSyY  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H8URfNfXxnM    Media reports reflecting the Inception meeting of Lake Ohrid Management Plan, held in Ohrid on 15.05.2018.  First link is from the official site of the Ministry of Environment. Two last links contain video clips with statements.    http://www.moepp.gov.mk/?nastani=%D1%81%D0%B5-%D0%BE%D0%B4%D1%80%D0%B6%D0%B0-%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%86%D0%B8%D1%98%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%BE%D1%82-%D1%81%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%BA-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D1%80  http://tvm.mk/vesti/ohrid/26957-kje-se-pravi-nov-plan-za-upravuvanje-so-slivot-na-ohridskoto-ezero  https://a1on.mk/archives/894369  https://www.ohridnews.com/za-18-mesetsi-treba-da-bide-izgotven-master-planot-za-upravuvane-so-slivot-na-ohridskoto-ezero/  http://tvm.mk/video/category/33-dnevnik/2062-tvm-dnevnik-15-05-2018  https://www.24.mk/postojanite-oscilacii-so-vodata-vo-ohridskoto-ezero-kje-se-reshavaat-so-nov-integralen-plan |

# Partnerships

**Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagment**

Please select yes or no whether the project is working with any of the following partners. Please also provide an update on stakeholder engagement. This information is used by the GEF and UNDP for reporting and is therefore very important!  All sections must be completed by the Project Manager and reviewed by the CO and RTA.

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| **Does the project work with any Civil Society Organisations and/or NGOs?** |
| Yes |

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| **Does the project work with any Indigenous Peoples?** |
| No |

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| **Does the project work with the Private Sector?** |
| Yes |

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| **Does the project work with the GEF Small Grants Programme?** |
| No |

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| **Does the project work with UN Volunteers?** |
| No |

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| **Did the project support South-South Cooperation and/or Triangular Cooperation efforts in the reporting year?** |
| No |

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| **CEO Endorsement Request:** [PIMS 4482 DRIN CEO endorsement Request\_resubmission Oct 1 2014.docx](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/4482/213332/1661764/1662045/PIMS%204482%20DRIN%20CEO%20endorsement%20Request_resubmission%20Oct%201%202014.docx) |
| **Provide an update on progress, challenges and outcomes related to stakeholder engagement based on the description of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan as documented at CEO endorsement/approval (see document below). If any surveys have been conducted please upload all survey documents to the PIR file library.** |
| Key achievements with regard to stakeholders engagement as per MTR included:  - The establishment of Drin Day Celebrations  - Highly engaged and informed stakeholders with good public awareness activities and stakeholder conferences  - First time inclusion of hydro-power producers in discussions on basin level water planning    A Stakeholders Analysis was done in the beginning of the project to map and characterize stakeholders to identify the perceptions in relation to the transboundary issues and their causes.    According to the Mid Term Review “Stakeholder engagement has been exceptionally well executed. Stakeholders have been well identified, characterized and substantively engaged in the project. The initial “Stakeholder Analysis” report identified all the potential interested agencies and organisations in the Drin River Basin including those in Kosovo. This was followed up with a full “stakeholder engagement report” detailing activities and methodologies, such as social media campaigns, interviews and collaborating with NGOs, amongst others. (...) During interviews, stakeholders confirmed that they had been adequately consulted and engaged in activities to date.”    One Stakeholders Conference per year is organized to inform and consult the stakeholders (i) about the developments regarding the implementation of the Drin MoU and the Project (ii) on an issue of importance to the Drin Basin management (till now this has included, river basin management planning; floods; nexus approach etc.). As an indication of the level of participation, 120 Stakeholders (51 women and 69 men) participated in the 5th Stakeholders Conference in 2017) and 131 Stakeholders (58 women and 71 men) participated in the 6th Stakeholders Conference in 2018.    A consultation processes for the TDA development included:  - Six focus groups meetings to (i) identify the issues perceived by the stakeholders, key management issues and problems at sub-basin and basin level, as well as their causes and impacts; (ii) acquire new information about the stakeholders and their characteristics and identify the key stakeholders; (iii) provide a platform where stakeholders can express their expectations and aspirations for the future management of the Drin Basin: Podgorica, Montenegro, 25 October 2016 (45 participants of which 19 women); Pristina, Kosovo, 26 October 2016 (45 participants of which 9 were women); Ohrid, North Macedonia, 27 October 2016 (30 participants of which 12 woman); Tirana, Albania, 28 October 2016 (22 participants of which 10 were women); Shkodra, Albania, 3 November 2016 (34 participants of which 11 were women); Pogradec, Albania, 4 November 2016 (29 participants of which 8 were women). The stakeholders evaluated the meetings using on-line questionnaires.    - A total of 133 stakeholder representatives (of which 42 were women), were interviewed: Albania: 85 stakeholder representatives of which 29 were women; North Macedonia: 16 stakeholder representatives 5 of which were women; Kosovo: 15 stakeholder representatives 2 of which were women; Montenegro: 17 participants of which 6 women (including representatives of institutions and stakeholders from the Skadar and Bojana sub-basins).    - The TDA thematic reports the Causal Chain Analysis were presented and discussed in the: Stakeholders Conferences for input; Expert Working Group Meetings for input and validation; Drin Core Group Meeting for input, validation and approval.    - The draft SAP was presented in the: Stakeholders Conference for input; Expert Working Group Meetings for input and validation; Drin Core Group Meeting for input, validation and guidance.    In addition, a highly participatory process was followed to (i) review the CCA (ii) develop the list of actions to be included in the SAP. 173 representatives of stakeholders were involved through six focus group meetings that were organized in between two technical meetings with international and national experts to develop the draft SAP:  • 12 March 2019, Tirana, Albania  • 13 March 2019, Skadar/Shkodra, Albania  • 14 March 2019, Podgorica, Montenegro  • 19 March 2019, Peja, Kosovo  • 20 March 2019 Skopje, North Macedonia  • 21 March 2019 Pogradec, Albania    There have been frequent meetings with the DCG members as well as the political leadership (Ministers. Dpty Ministers) of the responsible Ministries. The existence of Project staff based on all beneficiary countries allow the frequent (almost daily) inderaction with stakeholders for the implementation of the project's activities. Major municipalities are consulted and involved for the implementation of the demonstration activities. There is an on-going effort for the active involvement of the hydro-power generation companies.    The MTR noted that “Based on discussions with various stakeholders, the level of communication between the local municipalities, NGOs, and national level institutions with the PCU was well carried out. Most stakeholders had very positive comments regarding information flow, access to materials, preparation for meetings, reviewing products, and conducting contracts.”    In terms of participation of the wider public this is done mainly through the Celebration of the Drin Day that is celebrated for the past 6 years on on 5 May.    NGOs are given grants on the basis of a competetive process to organise celebrations across the basin. Each year the celebrations focus on an issue of priority for the Basin (e.g. solid waste, floods, plastic, pollution etc.). Actions vary and include awareness raising and educational activities. The events enjoy wide media coverage; for this year events this was improved. Each year, more than 500 people, in total, participate in areas spreading across the Drin sub-basins and Riparians from Lakes Prespa and Ohrid to the coast of the Adriatic. The number of persons that the information reached out to, is much higher. |

# Annex - Ratings Definitions

**Development Objective Progress Ratings Definitions**

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Project is on track to exceed its end-of-project targets, and is likely to achieve transformational change by project closure. The project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Project is on track to fully achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. The project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with minor shortcomings only.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is expected to partially achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with significant shortcomings. Project results might be fully achieved by project closure if adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. Project results might be partially achieved by project closure if major adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets without major restructuring.

**Implementation Progress Ratings Definitions**

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Implementation is exceeding expectations. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are fully on track. The project is managed extremely efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are on track. The project is managed efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned with minor deviations. Cumulative financial delivery and management of risks are mostly on track, with minor delays. The project is managed well.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces significant implementation issues. Implementation progress could be improved if adaptive management is undertaken immediately. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are significantly off track. The project is not fully or well supported.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces major implementation issues and restructuring may be necessary. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are off track with major issues and/or concerns. The project is not fully or well supported.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Implementation is seriously under performing and major restructuring is required. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones (e.g. start of activities), and management of critical risks are severely off track with severe issues and/or concerns. The project is not effectively or efficiently supported.