

# Enabling Transboundary Cooperation and Integrated Water Resources Management in the Extended Drin River Basin

## *The beginnings*

- ***Built on existing transboundary management experience in the Drin Basin – Lake Ohrid , Lake Prespa , Lake Skadar***
- **The Drin River is the “connecting body” of the “extended” Drin Basin, linking the lakes, wetlands, rivers and other aquatic habitats into a single, yet complex, ecosystem of major importance.**
- ***Shared Basin between 5 states – MKD, AL, GR, MNE , KS***
- **Conflicting uses of water resources and the transboundary conditions that prevail throughout the basin determines the high fragility and serious challenges to the overall sustainability of the water resources of the basin. Resilience better on smaller systems ???**

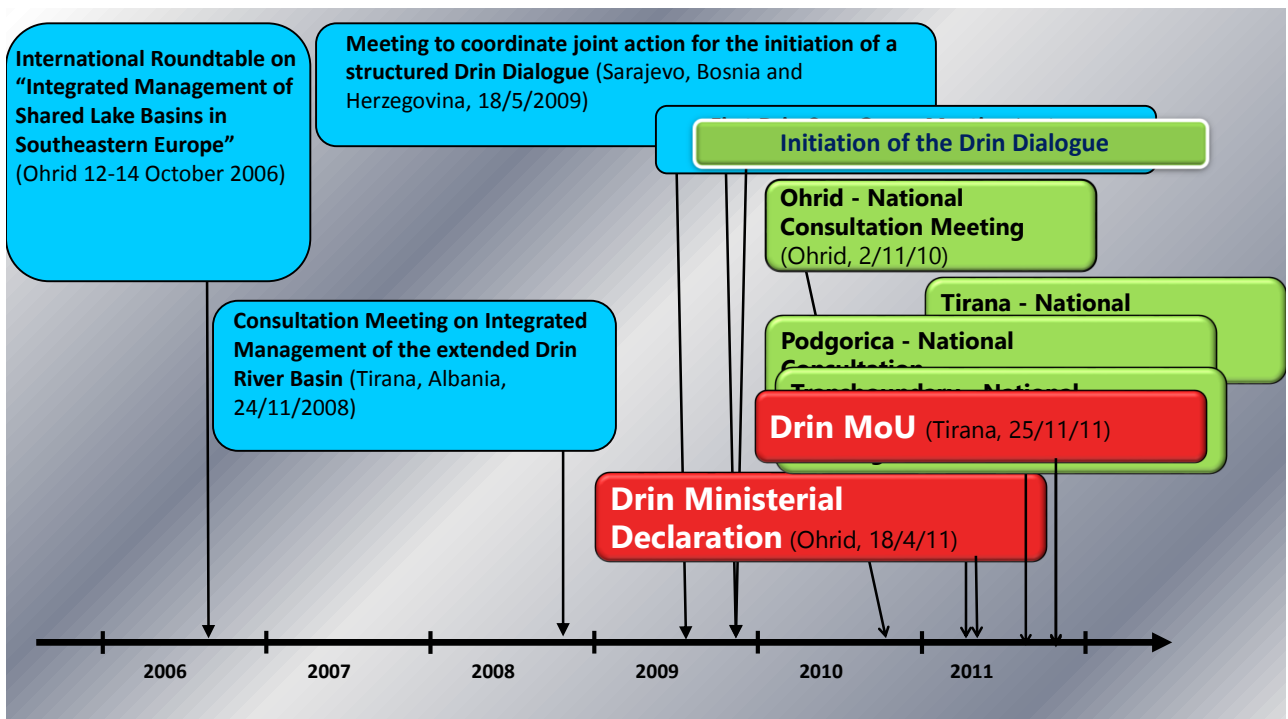
## We have a Dream – Drin Dialogue process

**Towards the enhancement of transboundary cooperation and sustainable development for extended Drin River Basin**

**A coordinated and structured consultation process among water resources management competent ministries of the riparian countries, the existing joint committees in the sub-basins and the - stakeholders**

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

**Building resilience on floods or droughts ?**



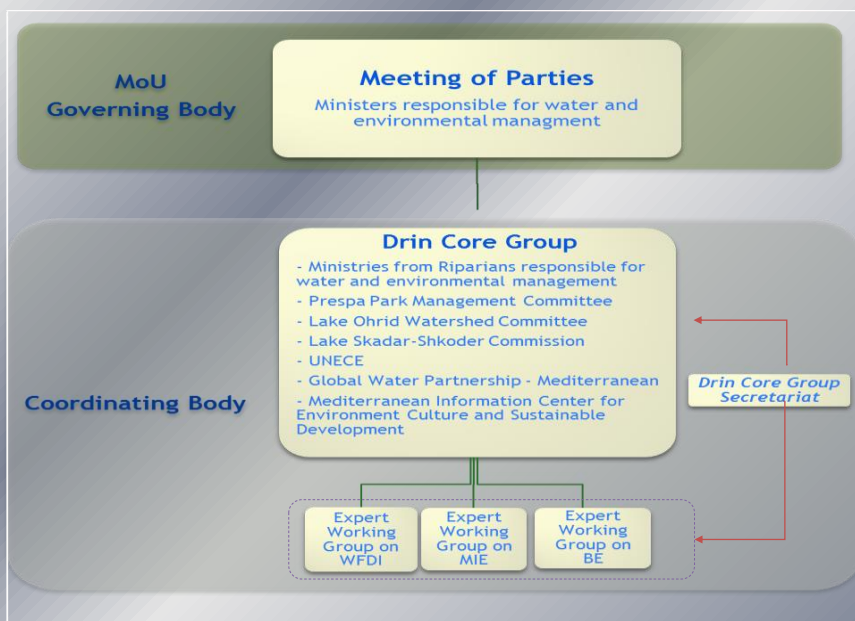
# Promotion of strong political will

**Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)  
for the Management of the Extended Drin Basin, 25.11.11**

## **Objective / Shared Vision:**

***"The Parties commit to promote joint action for the coordinated integrated management of the shared water resources in the Drin Basin, as a means to safeguard and restore to the extent possible the ecosystems and the services they provide, and to promote sustainable development across the Drin Basin"***

***- Institutional structure for implementing MoU .....***



## The Action Plan for the implementation of the Drin MoU

The Drin Action Plan (DAP) was prepared to operationalize the implementation of the Drin MoU. DCG in response to developments as an outcome of the work for the implementation of the Drin MoU. It is structured around 6 Actions:

- Enhancement of coordination mechanisms among the Parties.
- Enhancement of the knowledge basis about the Drin Basin.
- Improvement of information exchange through the establishment of a system for regular exchange of information among the competent authorities of each Party.
- Enhancement of cooperation in the field of flood risk preparedness, management and mutual support.
- Institutional strengthening in the field of integrated water resources management.
- Promotion of public participation and stakeholders engagement.

## The GEF Drin River Basin Project

Approved by GEF council in November 2012 with GEF contribution of 4,5 mil USD (MKD, AL, MNE) + 1 mil. USD (KS)

- The project goal is 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).

# Consolidating the common knowledge

## Preparation of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis

-The first step of the TDA process consists of an analysis of priority transboundary environmental problems. Information gaps on the environmental state, policy distortions and institutional deficiencies.

-The draft TDA will undergo a consultation process with key stakeholders in the project countries with the aim of incorporating their views and knowledge and thus become a common basis in all countries, on which solutions will be planned and cooperation will be built.

Establishing an Information Management System (IMS) that will enable country users to collect, store, and share indicators data and related information in a consistent way.

# BUILDING THE FOUNDATION FOR MUTLI-COUNTRY COOPERATION

Strategic Action Program (SAP) with a 5 years.

The core of the SAP process is the collaborative formulation and negotiation of a joint and harmonized program of strategic priority actions needed to address key transboundary concerns.

Partnership Conference.

The core of the activity will be the organization, once the SAP will have been adopted, of a "Partnership Conference". The purpose of this activity is to enhance the sustainability of the project outcomes by gathering and consolidating international technical and financial support around the SAP implementation process

**COUNTRIES AND DONORS COMMIT TO SUSTAIN JOINT COOPERATION MECHANISMS AND TO UNDERTAKE PRIORITY REFORMS AND INVESTMENTS.**

# INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING FOR INTEGRATED RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT

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.

In order to advance towards achieving the stated outcome, support the Drin Core Group in becoming fully operational as a High Level Joint Commission

Each of the participating countries has agreed to create a National Inter-ministerial Committee (NIC), composed of high level representatives of all the various ministries and agencies that are or should be involved in the management of the basin

# DEMONSTRATION OF TECHNOLOGIES AND PRACTICES FOR IWRM AND ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

A program of on the ground pilot demonstrations will deliver tangible results using quantifiable indicators.

Identified proposals :

- Integrated sub-Basin Management Plan for Lake Ohrid in accordance to WFD
- Preparation of a decision support tool/study to elaborate on the needs in terms of wastewater treatment infrastructure
- Reduction of nutrient load and forest preservation
- Catchment Flood Risk Management in the Drin Basin.
- Mechanisms through fishermen associations to promote sustainable ecosystem based fisheries management

# STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT, GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND COMMUNICATION

Stakeholder Involvement and Public Participation in IWRM demand a collaborative institutional process or multi-stakeholder platforms to define problems, identify what is desired and achievable, and produce agreement on how common goals will be reached.

Different levels of government (central, regional, local). Civil-society, private sector actors (farmers, fishermen, tourism, industry, environmental groups), scientific partners, media, etc.

*Awareness Raising* amongst the wider public about the state of the environment of the Drin watershed and of the benefits of adopting an integrated multi-country approach to the management. (Drin Day celebration; Publications; Educational material; Media Workshop and Releases and Press Articles .

## Believing / Trust vs. Challenges / Risks

- \* Experience from existing initiatives (Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee)
  - Local community involvement
  - Gaps (financial , political , institutional)
- Building the trust among stakeholders and Parties
- Donor community involvement , funding possibilities
- Water – energy Nexus
- Lack of sustained political support by the project countries
- Climate Change may have an effect to the hydrological system in the Drin Basin.



## Next steps ...

- Inception Meeting – mid December 2015 , Tirana
- Expert working group in function (WFD, BE, MIS )
- Hydrological, Hydro-geological and Environmental Assessment of the Basin
- Stakeholder analysis -Training program , Capacity building workshops
- Implementation of Communication and Outreach activities

*Establishment and operation of a website*

***[www.drincorda.org](http://www.drincorda.org)***