

**Terms of Reference:** International Expert for Technical Assistance for the update of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analyses (TDA) and development of the River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) in the Transboundary Drin Basin

**In the framework of:**

**Memorandum of Understanding for the Management of the Extended Transboundary Drin Basin**

GEF Drin II Project *“Implementing the Strategic Action Programme of the Drin Basin to Strengthen Transboundary Cooperation and Enable Integrated Natural Resources Management”*

The Coordinated Action for the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding for the management of the Drin basin (Drin CORDA) is supported by the GEF Drin Project. The latter is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and executed by the Global Water Partnership (GWP) through GWP-Mediterranean (GWP-Med), in cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). GWP-Med serves as the Secretariat of the Drin Core Group, the multilateral body responsible for the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding.

*Disclaimer: The document adheres to the UN rules and policies regarding the names and international status of Riparian's and/or other geographical areas etc. The use of characterizations, names, maps or other geographical statements in this document in no way implies any political view or positions of the Parties which are executing and implementing the Project.*

For more information, please contact



Web: [www.gwpmed.org](http://www.gwpmed.org)

Headquarters:

12, Kyrristou str., 10556

Athens, Greece

T: +30210-3247490, -3247267, F: +30210-3317127

E-mail: [secretariat@gwpmed.org](mailto:secretariat@gwpmed.org)

## A. Introduction

The Drin Basin sits in the southwestern part of the Balkan Peninsula. It comprises the transboundary sub-basins of the Drin and Buna/Bojana Rivers and of the Prespa, Ohrid and Skadar/Shkoder Lakes. The Drin River is the “connecting body” of the “extended” Drin Basin, linking the lakes, wetlands, rivers and aquatic habitats in the coastal area as well as the marine habitats in the Adriatic Sea into a single, yet complex, ecosystem of major importance. The water bodies and their watersheds are spread in a geographical area that includes Albania, Greece, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Kosovo. With its important water resources this complex system provides a wealth of services to the Drin Riparians that share the basin: energy supply, recreation and tourism, fisheries, water supply for irrigation and domestic uses, sustenance of unique endemic biodiversity, and livelihoods. The basin is home to over 1.61 million people, living in over 1,450 settlements.

### The Coordinated Action for the implementation of the Drin Memorandum of Understanding

The Drin Coordinated Action (Drin CORDA) was established in 2011 and was the result of a Drin basin level multi-stakeholders policy dialogue initiated in 2009, and preparatory technical and political engagement work initiated already in 2006. The Drin CORDA, is the framework set by the Drin Riparians for the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Management of the Extended Transboundary Drin Basin (Drin MoU). The Drin MoU was signed by the Ministers responsible for the management of water resources and/or environment, and high-level representatives of the Riparians in Tirana, on 25 November 2011.

The objective of the MoU is to deliver the agreed shared vision, 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”*.

The Drin MoU provides the political framework for cooperation in the Drin Basin. Following the provisions of the Drin MoU an institutional structure was established. It includes:

- The Meeting of the Parties.
- The Drin Core Group (DCG). This body is given the mandate to coordinate actions for the implementation of the MoU.
- Four Expert Working Groups (EWG) to assist the DCG in its work.

### The GEF Drin Project

The implementation of the Drin MoU has been supported -in addition to national level actions- by GEF financed projects the first of which ended in 2021. The GEF Drin I Project enabled the development and the endorsement -at Ministerial level- of a Drin Strategic Action Programme ([Drin SAP; 24 April 2020](#)) that reflects Riparians’ ownership, leadership and alignment with their mid or long-term national and transboundary strategies.

A new GEF project entitled “Implementing the Strategic Action Programme of the Drin Basin to Strengthen Transboundary Cooperation and Enable Integrated Natural Resources Management” (GEF

Drin II Project) will provide support until 2029 for the implementation of priority actions under the Drin SAP.

The GEF Drin II Project is structured around four components each one including outputs and activities designed to achieve an equivalent number of outcomes:

*Outcome 1: Sustainable and climate-resilient management of the Basin's resources enabled through development of technical and policy tools, and filling gaps in the understanding of the Drin Basin ecosystems functioning.*

*Outcome 2: Effective cooperation among Drin Riparians and socio-economic sectors succeeded through the establishment of a transboundary institutional arrangement and the development of critical transboundary policy instruments.*

*Outcome 3: SAP implementation is accelerated through regional, riparian and local solutions to address main causes of transboundary concern, promote sustainable water use and ensure ecosystem functioning and resilience.*

*Outcome 4: Long-term sustainability of achievements is enhanced through implementation of project mechanisms for stakeholder's participation, gender mainstreaming, dissemination, coordination and monitoring progress.*

## B. Background

The new GEF Drin II Project includes, under Outcome 1.1, the update of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)<sup>1</sup>, a key knowledge and management tool essential for the governance of the Drin Basin's natural resources. This updated TDA will cover the entire basin, from its sources to its mouth and the marine area in the Adriatic Sea and will incorporate new scientific and policy-relevant information developed since the foundational GEF Drin Project. The Source-to-Sea approach will be applied to better capture upstream–downstream interactions and policy implications during the analysis of the system and take these into account during the development of the River Basin Management Plan (see below).

Indicatively, the TDA update may include the following components:

### A) Update of Socioeconomic and Water Use Data

- Incorporation of the latest data on water uses across all relevant sectors (agriculture, domestic, industry, energy).
- Integration of marine-related socioeconomic and environmental information, to reflect freshwater–marine linkages.

### B) Enhancement of the Hydrological and Hydrogeological Assessment

- Improvement or development of basin-wide hydrologic models.

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.gwp.org/globalassets/global/gwp-med-files/list-of-programmes/gef-drin-project/drin-docs/tda\\_final.pdf](https://www.gwp.org/globalassets/global/gwp-med-files/list-of-programmes/gef-drin-project/drin-docs/tda_final.pdf)

- Enhanced precision of the water balance by integrating data from related initiatives and newly developed models.
- Assessment of water stress under various climate and development scenarios.
- Analysis of interactions between freshwater and the marine environment.
- Update of the Drin Basin hydrological map in alignment with the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) and revision of the hydrogeological map to include key transboundary aquifers.

#### C) Climate Change Scenarios and Sectoral Demand Analysis

- Review and refinement of existing climate scenarios using updated data on water demand per sector.
- Identification of sectoral interlinkages and dependencies to inform more resilient and sustainable water management strategies.

#### D) Pollution Risk Mapping and Marine Ecosystem Assessment

- Development of pollution risk maps at riparian/sub-basin level.
- Inventory of pollution hotspots, including hazardous substances, heavy metals, and pesticides.
- Identification of priority sites for early warning and monitoring of accidental pollutant releases.
- Assessment of marine pollution and coastal ecosystem pressures, incorporating findings from the GEF/UNEP project on *“Implementation of Ecosystem Approach in the Adriatic Sea through Marine Spatial Planning”* (Albania and Montenegro, completed in June 2021).

All Drin Riparians have developed or are in the process of developing national-level River Basin Management Plans in line with the WFD and domestic legislation for parts of the basin within the territory of each one. However, these efforts have not been coordinated among each other. The Drin II Project will fill this gap by supporting the development of a the first basin-wide Transboundary River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for the Drin Basin that will serve as a coordinating “roof” document, enabling harmonised implementation and the preparation of the next generation of national RBMPs.

The transboundary Drin RBMP will be developed under Outcome 2.3 of the GEF Drin II project. This Plan will be fully aligned with the EU Water Framework Directive and will build directly on the updated data, tools, and assessments of the GEF Drin I Project and those that will be generated under Component 1 of the GEF Drin II Project. The revised TDA and additional analysis components required by the EU Water Framework Directive will serve as the “Characterization Report” for the Drin RBMP.

The transboundary Drin RBMP will not replace national plans but will instead facilitate alignment and coordination among riparian-level RBMPs and their Programmes of Measures. The Drin RBMP will:

- Incorporate the Source-to-Sea perspective.
- Undergo a participatory consultation process involving key stakeholders across the basin.
- Be submitted for formal adoption by the Drin Core Group (DCG).

## C. Description of the assignment

## Objective of the Assignment

The International Expert will provide technical support for the delivery of an operational hydrological model for the Drin Basin, and the coordinated development of the updated Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and the River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for the Drin Basin.

## Requested services (scope of work)

### Task 1: Review of Existing Frameworks and Development of Modelling Approach and Action Plans

- Review baseline information and data including those that are part of following:
  - River Basin plans developed by the Drin Riparians covering the part of the Drin Basin within their territory
  - Outputs of the GEF Drin I project and other key projects in the Drin Basin, including GEF and Adaptation Fund-supported ones. The list of projects and related outputs will be provided by GWP-Med.
- Review existing hydrological and hydrogeological models and related data available to the authorities and the EU institutions or in the possession of international organizations and UN agencies.
- Identify and articulate modelling requirements for both the TDA and RBMP including (the list is indicative and will be finalized by the International Expert in cooperation with GWP-Med, with input from the Drin Core Group (DCG)): Basin-wide water balance; Climate and development scenario analysis; Water stress and allocation; Groundwater–surface water interactions; Freshwater–marine interactions; etc.
- Evaluate suitable modelling tools and methods, and develop a proposal outlining the model objectives, characteristics, and the requirements it will address. Propose a modeling approach and prepare an action plan for the development of an operational hydrologic model covering the Drin Basin, indicating whether a new hydrologic model should be developed or existing one should be enhanced/improved.
- Develop an action plan including timeline of activities for the development of the updated Drin TDA and RBMP as per EU WFD.

The approaches and action plans will be discussed by the DCG and the appropriate EWGs.

### **Deliverables:**

- Deliverable 1: Modelling approach and action plan for the development of an operational hydrologic model for the Drin Basin.
- Deliverable 2: Action plan including timeline of activities for the development of the updated Drin TDA and RBMP.

## Task 2: Develop Unified Terms of Reference (ToR) for the TDA Update and RBMP Development

Based on the outputs and results of actions under Task 1, the Expert shall prepare a single, comprehensive Terms of Reference (ToR) that covers both the update of the TDA and the development of the Drin RBMP.

The ToR shall ensure:

- A harmonized and technically coherent framework for delivering both outputs (updated TDA and Drin RBMP), using consistent modelling tools, data sources, and analytical methodologies.
- That the updated TDA serves as the characterization report in accordance with Article 5 of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD), providing the analytical foundation for the RBMP.
- Clear sequencing of activities, ensuring the RBMP is directly informed by the findings and outputs of the updated TDA as well as by other related outputs under Component 1 of the Project.
- Full integration of basin/aquifer, marine and coastal environment considerations, applying the Source-to-Sea approach.
- Inclusion of provisions for stakeholder engagement, data sharing, and coordination among riparian institutions.

The ToR should be developed in a format ready for procurement following a template that will be provided by GWP that -indicatively- includes background, objectives, scope, tasks, deliverables, timeline, qualifications required for consultants, and evaluation criteria.

### **Deliverable:**

- Deliverable 3: ToR for the TDA update and development of the RBMP

## Task 3: Support to Procurement, Quality Control, and Technical Guidance during Implementation

### **Procurement Support:**

- Contribute to the preparation of documents for the procurement of service that will lead to (i) an operational hydrological model for the Drin Basin, and (ii) the development of the updated TDA and the RBMP.
- Provide technical advice during the evaluation of offers to ensure selection of qualified consultants with appropriate expertise.

### **Technical Support for the provision of Guidance to Selected Consultants for the Implementation of Activities:**

- Provide technical guidance to consultants selected to deliver an operational hydrological model for the Drin Basin, the updated TDA and the RBMP ensuring that their work and outputs are science-based and policy-relevant.

- Given that the delivery of an operational hydrological model for the Drin Basin, the updated TDA and the RBMP by the respective consultant are dynamic processes affected by factors such as data availability, evolving requirements from Drin Riparian authorities, and stakeholder interactions provide advice to GWP-Med on the feasibility of the actions undertaken by the consultants and the anticipated outcomes during the implementation of their activities.

#### **Input for Quality Control and Review:**

- Review key deliverables for the development of an operational hydrological model for the Drin Basin, the updated TDA and the RBMP and provide written feedback and recommendations to the GWP-Med, as requested. This process should support and help maintain consistency with deliverables 1, 2, and 3, as well as the EU WFD requirements.

#### **Deliverable:**

- Deliverable 4: Narrative reports/evidence of input to procurement process, consultant guidance, and quality control activities

### **Deliverables:**

- **Deliverable 1:** Modelling approach and action plan for the development of an operational hydrologic model for the Drin Basin.
- **Deliverable 2:** Action plan including timeline of activities for the development of the updated Drin TDA and RBMP
- **Deliverable 3:** ToR for the TDA update and development of the RBMP
- **Deliverable 4:** Narrative reports with evidences of input to procurement process, consultant guidance, and quality control activities

### **Contract Price, Schedule of Activities, Deliverables and Payment:**

1. The maximum lump sum fee for this assignment is 28 000 USD
2. This amount includes all other costs, income taxes and any other amount payable or cost that may be required for the completion of the work/service.



3. All payments shall be upon reception and acceptance/verification of the deliverables, as laid out in the table below. Claims for payment will be made through an Invoice accompanied by proof of delivery.
4. The activity will be delivered under the lead and guidance of the Project Coordinator that coordinates the Secretariat of the Drin Core Group.
5. The Consultant will work home based and extraordinary may need to travel in the Drin Riparians to participate in informative meetings, negotiation meetings as well as DCG meetings as prior agreed and based on the availability. GWP-Med will arrange traveling and will cover all travel related costs.

**Table 1. Tentative payment schedule**

Task of Consultant	Deliverables of the Expert	Tentative Deadline (months after contract signature)	Payment (% of contract price)
<b>Task 1: Review of Existing Frameworks and Development of Modelling Approach and Integration Roadmap</b>	Deliverable 1: Short technical summary of the proposed best modeling approach	1	-
	Deliverable 2: Technical roadmap for TDA and RBMP integration development	2	-
<b>Task 2: Develop Unified Terms of Reference (ToR) for the TDA Update and RBMP Development</b>	Deliverable 3 ToR for the TDA Update and RBMP Development	3	20%
<b>Task 3: Support to Procurement, Quality Control, and Technical Guidance during Implementation</b>	Deliverable 4 (1 <sup>st</sup> installment for D4) : Narrative report with evidences on the input for procurement process, consultant guidance and QC	9	40%
<b>Task 3: Support to Procurement, Quality Control, and Technical Guidance during Implementation</b>	Deliverable 4 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Installment for D4): Narrative report with evidences on the input for consultant guidance and QC	15	40 %

Expert working days and Duration of the Contract

The consultancy will commence work upon contract signature and continue until completion but no later than end of March 2027.

### Location and Language of the Assignment

The consultant will work from a place of her/his choice. The Consultant may need to travel in the Drin Riparians to participate in informative meetings, negotiation meetings as well as DCG meetings as prior agreed with the GWP-Med and based on the availability of the Consultant.

The language for all documents and reports as well as for all communication is English.

### Qualifications and Experience

#### a) Academic Qualifications/Education

- An advanced university degree (at least Masters) in hydrology, hydraulics engineering, water resources management, environmental management, or equivalent is required (required)

#### b) Work experience

- At least 20 years of professional experience in water management including development of the TDA and/or RBMP, FRMPs or similar in accordance with EU water acquis (required)
- Engaged as key staff for development at least 3 RBMPs or/and FRMPS in EU or EU accession countries in last 15 years (required)
- Proven experience with international frameworks, including those of GEF International Waters, the EU Water Framework Directive, UNDP, and the UNECE Water Convention (minimum 1 project required).

#### c) Key Competencies

- In-depth knowledge of EU environmental legislation related to water (required minimum 5 years).
- Proven Climate Change expertise in water management (desired, number of projects)
- Work experience from the Drin countries would be an asset (desired, number of years)
- Excellent written and spoken English (required).

### Award Criterion - Evaluation of offers

#### **Award criterion**

The Award criterion is the most economically advantageous tender on the basis of best price / quality ratio.

Offers shall be evaluated as follows:

Name of Firm / Participant:
-----------------------------

(1) Criterion	(2) weighting (w)	(3) points of criterion (c), 100p Base +10p for extra criteria over base up to 50 additional points	(4) Score = (2) x (3)
An advanced university degree (at least Masters) in hydrology, hydraulics water engineering, water resources management, environmental management, or equivalent (required)	On /Off		
Number of years of professional experience in water management including TDA and/or RBMP, FRMPs or similar development in accordance with EU water acquis (min 20 years required)	20%		
Number of assignments as key staff in development of the RBMPs or/and FRMPs in EU or EU accession countries in last 15 years (minimum 3 assignment required).	20%		
Number of projects within international frameworks, including those of the GEF International Waters, the EU Water Framework Directive, UNDP, and the UNECE Water Convention (minimum 1 project required).	20%		
Number of years in implementing EU environmental legislation related to water (minimum 5 years required)	20 %		
Number of projects with Climate Change expertise in water management (desired, minimum 1 project)	10%		
Number of years of working experience from the Drin countries would be an asset (desired, minimum 1 year)	10%		
Excellent written and spoken English (required).	On /Off		

**Failure to provide the minimum requirements in any of the above required criteria is considered ground for disqualification**

#### **Evaluation of Technical Offers**

Each evaluation criterion is evaluated autonomously, according to the respective technical offer submitted. The relative scoring of each evaluation criteria is the outcome of its scoring multiplied by its

weighting. The overall score of the technical offer is the sum of the relative scoring of all the evaluation criteria.

The overall score of the technical offer is calculated on the basis of the following formula:

$$B_i = w_1 \times c_1 + w_2 \times c_2 + \dots$$

For the overall score which will determine the ranking of offers, technical evaluation will be weighted with 80%, and the financial offer with 20%.

The final listing of the most advantageous offers will be made on the basis of the following formula:  $\Lambda_i = 0.8 \times (B_i/B_{\max}) + 0.2 \times (K_{\min}/K_i)$ .

Where:

- $B_{\max}$ : the max score received by the best of the technical offers received
- $B_i$ : the score of the technical offer
- $K_{\min}$ : The cost of the financial offer with the minimum price offered.
- $K_i$ : The cost of the financial offer

The most advantageous offers is the one with the greater value of  $\Lambda$ . In case of equality of overall scores, the winning proposal is the one whose corresponding technical proposal received the highest rating