



Draft Agenda
for the
Capacity Building Workshop on Forest Management and water regulation
in the Drin Basin

To be held online, on 16 & 17 December 2020

In the framework of the project

“Promoting the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in Southeastern Europe, through the use of the Nexus approach”

financed by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA)

implemented by the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med)
in partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

Workshop Implemented by



The meeting will be held online hosted in the Zoom platform. Participants will receive connection guidelines ahead of the meeting.

Simultaneous interpretation will be available between English and Macedonian, Albanian and Montenegrin languages.

Intro

Forests have a close relationship to the water resources and their sustainable management. Availability and quality of fresh water globally but also in Europe, is increasingly endangered by overuse, misuse and pollution. Due to the growing imbalance between water supply and demand in general, there is an increasing need for ensuring adequate water quality and quantity in the region. Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) is of vital importance for supply of good-quality fresh water, protection against natural hazards like floods or soil erosion, and for combating desertification. By the available statistics in EU, 10% of European forests are designated primarily for the protection of soil and water.

To maximize the cross-sectoral benefits in the management of Forest and Water resources is a challenge. To address this, there is an urgent need for a better understanding of the interface between forests and water. It is also necessary to develop institutional mechanisms to enhance synergies in dealing with forests and water issues and to implement and enforce action programs at the national and regional levels (FAO Forestry Paper 155, Forests and water, 2008).

Workshop

The 2-day capacity building workshop on **“Sustainable forest management and water regulation in the Drin river basin”** is being organised in the context of the project *“Promoting the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in South-eastern Europe, through the use of Nexus approach”* (SEE Nexus Project), supported by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), and implemented by GWP-Med in partnership with the UNECE. The workshop is being organised and implemented by the **Connecting Natural Values & People Foundation (CNVP)**.

The workshop will gather practitioners and decision makers from the Drin river basin countries to discuss the issues of water protection through sustainable forest management and management of watersheds.

Drin basin countries are confronted with a multitude of challenges in terms of closely related forest and water management. In these countries, such challenges need to be tackled jointly by forestry and water management through greater synergy potential between forest and water administrations including concerned stakeholders.

The role of forests on the economies of the region is large and evolving with wood production being the key income-generating activity related to forests. However, the consequences of unsustainable forests' management affect related ecosystems and all the services that they provide, including the provision of clean water, soil stabilization, carbon storage, flood mitigation, etc. In particular, forest degradation contributes to soil erosion (adding to the pressures coming from other sectors, including notably gravel

extraction and agriculture). Hence the importance of integrative and sustainable forestry and water management practices through improved forest planning is key in the region with benefits to be felt across all economic sectors.

The aim of the workshop is to enhance the understanding and knowledge of participants on various subjects related to SFM in relation to water and soil conservation, including on:

- Aspects of forest hydrology and the factors influencing the management of water in forest ecosystems
- Forest management practices concerning soil and water protection
- The EU Acquis (Directives, Regulations etc) related to the interface of forests/water/soil, and to what extent national policies are harmonised
- How forests in the region are expected to be affected by the impacts of climate change
- Innovative practices and tools (including the use of digital technologies) for regulating water balance in forests
- Examples of relevant successful sustainable practices from the Region and beyond
- Possible synergies or trade-offs with other activities or sectors, notably hydropower, biomass, agriculture, and tourism

During the workshop, the following **presentations** will be given (list not exhaustive), while participants will have the opportunity to exchange perspectives and experiences in discussion sessions.

“Compliance of forest policy & practice related to requirements of SFM Pan European criteria 5”, highlighting the following topics:

- SFM practices and compliance to requirements of Pan European forest C&I
- Forest certification schemes in relation to forest management
- General principles of sustainable forest management
- Sustainable development goals and forestry

“SFM practices aiming in soil and water protection examples and cross sectoral benefits from the region and beyond”, highlighting the following topics:

- SFM and erosion
- Good practices for erosion control in the Balkan countries
- Vodno mountain case study
- Effects of SFM and erosion control works

“GAP overview on EU Acquis (forest-water relations) in AL, MKD, MNE and KS”, highlighting the following topics:

- Water Framework Directive
- Habitat directive
- EU related policies regarding forestry and water
- Drin river basin countries and their harmonization with EU policies and directives

“Synergies of forest management with other sectors (hydropower, biomass, agriculture, tourism) – the case of Ulza lake catchment area”, highlighting the following topics:

- Small scale forest management practices in Ulza catchment area

- Adaptation synergies in forest and agricultural landscapes
- Small scale forest management and biomass production. A positive step to contribute to climate change mitigation and achieving energy independence
- Ecotourism a sustainable livelihood alternative in Ulza area

“Expected impact of climate changes to forests in the Drin region”, highlighting the following topics:

- Forestry and climate change
- Challenges in the region related to forest fires, droughts, pests and diseases
- Examples from the region and beyond

“Increasing importance of forest hydrology in a changing climate for forest and water management”, highlighting the following topics:

- Protective functions of forests and woodlands for water resource
- Adaptation of forest and water management in light of climate change projections
- Forest ecosystem and relation to supply of water for society

An interactive **training session will present GIS techniques** in forest planning with relation to water regulation, innovative practices and tools.

Draft Agenda

Day 1, 16 December 2020

09.30-09.40	Opening and welcoming remarks from partners
09.40-09.50	Introduction to the SEE Nexus Project and its activities in the Drin basin (Tassos Krommydas, GWP - Med)
09.50-10.00	Introduction: The interlinkages in the management of Forest and Water Resources and the challenges for the Drin basin (CNVP)
10.00-10.20	Compliance of forest policy & practice related to requirements of SFM Pan European criteria 5 (MSc. Sasho Petrovski, CNVP)
10.20-10.40	Cross sectoral benefits from SFM practices (Prof. Ivan Blinkov)
10.40-11.00	Good examples in soil and water protection from the region and beyond (Prof. Ivan Blinkov)
11.00-11.20	Q&A - Discussion
11.20-11.30	Short break
11.30-11.50	GAP overview on EU Acquis (forest-water relations) in AL, MKD, MNE and KS (Mr. Henk Zingstra)
11.50-12.10	Synergies of forest management with other sectors (hydropower, biomass, agriculture, tourism) (Prof. Elvin Toromani)
12.10-12.30	How unsustainable Forest Management can have broad impacts on economy and society, by affecting local hydrology, land use, energy use, and ecosystems and the natural capital overall (Prof. Nehat Collaku)
12.30-12.45	Expected impacts of climate change on forests in the Region (Prof. Ljupco Nestorovski)
12.45-13.20	Q&A - Discussion
	End of the 1st day of the Workshop

Day 2, 17 December 2020

9.30-9.40	Opening – recap of Day 1 (CNVP)
9.40-9.55	Protective Forests in Austria – Policy Framework and Challenges in the future (Christoph Lainer, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism, Austria)
9.55-10.10	The Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds - Forests and Water Working Group: a case study on the management of forests in catchments of drinking water reservoirs (Josef Krecek, Czech Technical University in Prague)
10.10-10.30	Increasing importance of forest hydrology in a changing climate for forest and water management (Prof. Gerphard Shueller)



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10.30-10.50	Q&A - Discussion
10.50-11.10	Short break
11.10-12.30	Interactive session: GIS techniques in forest planning with relation to water regulation, innovative practices and tools (Prof. Ivan Mincev)
12.30-13.00	Q&A – Discussion on policy and management recommendations