

Management Response Template

Project Title: Enabling transboundary cooperation and integrated water resources management in the extended Drin River Basin

and

Enabling transboundary cooperation and integrated water resources management in the White Drin and the extended Drin Basin

UNDP PIMS ID: PIMS 4482 and 5510

Terminal Evaluation Completion Date: 02.09.2021

Prepared by: Elvita Kabashi and Anton Selitaj

Cleared by: Nuno Queiros, DRR (for CO Albania)

Niels Knudsen, DRR (for CO Kosovo)

Input into and update in ERC: Xhesi Mane (for CO Albania)

Anton Selitaj (for CO Kosovo)

DocuSigned by:

DocuSigned by: Nuno Queiros

DocuSigned by: Niels Knudsen

DocuSigned by: Xhesi Mane

Terminal Evaluation recommendation 1.

Recommendations for the Drin Project

Efforts should be continued to establish, wherever possible, the Inter-Ministerial Committees (IMC). This should include a proper mandate, composition and legal background. This will increase their decision-making power and contribute to better transboundary management from the national perspective. The project should assist in establishment of the IMCs.

Management response:¹ Partially Accept

There are IMCs in all Project beneficiaries, making use of already existing inter-ministerial bodies. The Drin Riparians should continue using these to coordinate at Riparian level the implementation of the regionally agreed actions/actions at the basin level.

Key action(s)	Time frame	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking ²	
			Comments	Status ³
1.1 The Drin Core Group (that served as the steering committee of the project)	During the Drini Strategic Action	Drin Core Group		Initiated

¹Select one: Fully Accept, Partially Accept, Reject

²Status of implementation is tracked electronically in the Evaluation Resource Centre (ERC).

³Select one: Not initiated, Initiated, Completed, Completed, No longer applicable

members continue informing and involving the bodies serving as IMCs about regionally agreed actions in an effort to coordinate implementation of these actions at Riparian level.	Plan (SAP) implementation (01.08.2021-31.12.2027)			
---	--	--	--	--

Terminal Evaluation recommendation 2.

Recommendations for future programming

Design of future regional projects should better analyse the situation in countries to identify risks and eventual obstacles to transboundary management process at a regional scale. This should be more realistically reflected in the project documents.

Management response: Fully Accept

The design of the project had analysed efficiently the situation in the Drin Riparians to identify risks and eventual obstacles to transboundary management process at a regional scale. This analysis led during the project implementation, in the Drin Riparians taking concrete steps for an institutional and legal arrangement to upscale cooperation for the management of the Drin Basin. This successful experience indicates that such analysis should continue being done in the framework of future regional projects and the results being reflected in their design.

Key action(s)	Time frame	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
2.1 Use the lessons learned, in the design of future regional projects to reflect the results of an analysis of the situation in the Drin Riparians to identify risks and eventual obstacles to transboundary management process at a regional scale.	December 2022	UNDP and implementing partners		Not initiated

Terminal Evaluation recommendation 3.

Recommendations for future programming

Project implementation team should follow-up with the partners to determine an accurate level of co-financing committed to the project. GEF should consider a standardised approach to calculating co-financing to ensure that partners are calculating their commitments on the same basis.				
Management response: Fully Accept				
Key action(s)	Time frame	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
3.1 Project implementation team follows-up with the partners to determine an accurate level of co-financing committed to the project.	December 2027	UNDP and implementing partners		Not Initiated

Terminal Evaluation recommendation 4.*Recommendations for future programming*

Projects' design should have clearly elaborated the exit strategy. Many transboundary management processes are dependent on the project financing before they become fully endorsed by the countries, and no project continuity may negatively affect the process.

Management response: Fully Accept

Key action(s)	Time frame	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
4.1 Include an clearly elaborated exit strategy in future Projects' design.	December 2022	UNDP and implementing partners		Not initiated

Terminal Evaluation recommendation 5.*Recommendations for future programming*

The future regional project designs should continue allocating resources for the implementation of pilot or demonstration projects. Such projects may prove helpful to incorporate emerging and/or innovative issues and/or solutions as well as national priorities for the transboundary river basin. These projects should be planned in order to maintain the equal participation of all countries.

Management response: Fully Accept

Key action(s)	Time frame	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
5.1 Allocate resources in future Projects' designs also in line with vertical funds requirements for the implementation of pilot or demonstration projects. These activities should be planned in a way maintain the equal participation of all countries.	December 2022	UNDP and implementing partners		Not initiated

Terminal Evaluation recommendation 6.*Recommendations for future programming*

The project should in its design phase elaborate more extensively on the development of institutional solutions for transboundary water management that might include, for example, establishment of river commissions coupled with the necessary legal provisions if the initial analysis shows that such longer-term solution might be feasible. Since such decision is in the hands of the political authorities of the countries concerned, the project should support the establishment of such a solution, if it will be taken.

Management response: Fully Accept

Key action(s)	Time frame	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
6.1 Include provisions in the future Projects' design for support of the development of institutional solutions for transboundary water management that might include, for example, establishment of river commissions coupled with the necessary legal provisions, should there are positive related political decisions from the side of the Riparians.	December 2022	UNDP and implementing partners		Not initiated

Terminal Evaluation recommendation 7.*Recommendations for future programming*

The execution arrangement of the regional projects should continue using decentralised project management, such as Officers on the field in addition to the central implementation unit.

Management response: Partially Accept

Key action(s)	Time frame	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
7.1 Consider provisions in the future Projects' design for the execution arrangements to include project Officers stationed in the Project Beneficiaries with the aim to coordinate Riparian level activities.	December 2022	UNDP and implementing partners		Not initiated

Terminal Evaluation recommendation 8.*Recommendations for future programming*

During the implementation of the project, every effort should be made to maintain the institutional continuity and to avoid frequent changes in participation at country level, as the opposite can significantly reduce the pace of the project implementation.

Management response: Fully Accept

Key action(s)	Time frame	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
8.1 Countries continue having as appointed members in the Drin Core Group representatives of institutions described in the Drin MoU	During the SAP implementation (December 2027)	Drin Riparians		Initiated

Terminal Evaluation recommendation 9.*Recommendations for future programming*

More efforts should be made to secure steady and, if possible, in cash financial provision by the participating countries, in particular for the implementation of SAP proposals

Management response: Fully Accept

Key action(s)	Time frame	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking	
			Comments	Status
9.1 The Drin Core Group discuss options for the steady and, if possible, in cash financial provision of the Drin Riparians, in particular for the implementation of SAP proposals.	During the SAP implementation (December 2027)	Drin Riparians		Not initiated