



**20-th International Conference Europe-INBO
Annecy, FRANCE 26 – 29 September 2022**



Stakeholder Analysis and Public Involvement - The Drin River Basin case

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Drin River Basin

The Drin River Basin represents a very complex water system, where rivers, lakes, wetlands, reservoirs, groundwater interact with each other and create a very rich ecosystem.

The objective of The GEF Project “Enabling transboundary cooperation and integrated water resources management in the extended Drin River Basin was to promote joint management of the shared water resources of the transboundary Drin River Basin.

The main results of the project:

- Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)
- Strategic Action Plan (SAP).

The Stakeholder Analysis (SA) is an essential part of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)



Part 1. Introduction to the Stakeholder Analysis (SA)

The SA is the tool to understand:

- (i) the perception of the stakeholders regarding the transboundary issues and problems;
- (ii) the multilevel linkages among the groups of stakeholders engaged in the management of the Basin and that the project activities concern.

Tasks for preparation of the SA:

- Review of background documentation;
- Mapping of stakeholders;
- Finalization of questionnaires for interviews;
- Preparation and execution of interviews;
- Analysis of the questionnaires;
- Preparation of the six Sub-basins' Focus Groups Meetings;
- Analysis of the outcomes of the Focus Groups Meetings;
- Preparation of the final SA report;

7 multi-stakeholders consultation meetings:

1st Multi-Stakeholder Conference (Tirana, 2011)

2nd Multi-Stakeholder Conference (Tirana, 2013)

3rd Multi-Stakeholder Conference (Tirana, 2015)

4th Multi-Stakeholder Conference (Pristina, 2016)

5th Multi-Stakeholder Conference (Podgorica, 2017)

6th Multi-Stakeholder Conference (Ohrid, 2018)

7th Multi-Stakeholder Conference (Tirana, 2020)



Drin Day celebration – 5 May, to raise awareness among local communities and the wider public, on the importance of the Drin River Basin.

2.2 Interviews with Key Stakeholders – Overall Results

Level of knowledge – Capacity building needs

With regard to their familiarity with EU legislation governing the management of river basins, stakeholders have indicated overall **a need for improvement of capacities.**

Are you familiar with the:	Yes	No	Partially
EU Water Framework Directive (WFD)?	56%	42%	4%
EU Floods Directive?	46%	54%	2%

Table 1. Familiarity with EU legislation in the Drin Basin.

- It is important to note that: more than half of stakeholders were not familiar with the Floods Directive.

Gaps in information and knowledge of RBM issues

Do you feel that you are sufficiently informed about issues related to basin management?			
Issues related to:	Yes	No	Partially
<i>water resources management</i>	63%	34%	4%
<i>biodiversity</i>	65%	31%	4%
<i>solid waste management</i>	61%	36%	4%
<i>land management</i>	52%	44%	4%
<i>energy</i>	55%	43%	2%
<i>agriculture</i>	57%	43%	0%
<i>floods</i>	61%	39%	0%

Table 2. Information and knowledge on the issues related to basin management in the Drin Basin

Interviews with Key Stakeholders – Overall Results

Desired level of information and participation

With regard to their knowledge of the Drin CORDA Process and the Drin Project:

Are you aware of/informed about the:	Yes	No	Partially
Drin Coordinated Action (Drin CORDA)?	52%	44%	0%
GEF Drin Project?	50%	48%	4%

Table 3. Information and knowledge regarding Drin CORDA and the Project in the Drin Basin.

More than 95% of stakeholders express their wish to be kept informed on how to participate in the Drin CORDA and Project activities in the future.

Do you wish to be involved in the Drin Coordinated Action and the GEF Drin Project?			
Yes	Only if necessary	NA	No
96%	0%	2%	2%

Table 4. Desired level of involvement in the Drin CORDA and the Project in the Drin Basin.

Interviews with Key Stakeholders – Overall Results

Expectations for the management of the Drin Basin:

- The majority of stakeholders express the wish for the establishment of a decision making Joint Commission for the management of the Drin Basin.
- About one fourth (1/4) of stakeholders support a Joint Commission without the mandate to make decisions but with the role of advising countries for the management of the Basin.
- The vast majority of stakeholders recognize the need for enhanced cooperation in the Drin Basin and support actions towards achieving it.

a. The countries work on an ad-hoc basis for the management of the Drin Basin	b. A Commission or other arrangement is established facilitating a loose coordination among the Drin Riparians for the management of the Drin Basin	c. A Joint Commission is established enabling cooperation among the Drin Riparians for the management of the Drin Basin; the decisions of the Commission would form advise to the countries regarding the management of the basin.	d. A Joint Commission is established enabling cooperation among the Drin Riparians for the management of the Drin Basin; the Commission would have the authority to make decisions on specific issues the implementation of which would be mandatory to the countries
2%	8%	24%	67%

Table 5. Overall desired form of enhanced cooperation for the improved management of Drin Basin.

Part 3. Conclusions - Important Basin Management Issues

The **Important Basin Management Issues** are common throughout the Drin Basin, while some differences are mainly due to particular circumstances of a beneficiary or the positioning within the Basin – **upstream or downstream**.

The most frequently reported issue is **the unsustainable management of wastewater and solid waste**.

- o **Lack of WWTPs** and discharges of untreated waste water either legally or illegally;
- o **Solid waste** is being disposed in landfills or illegally in inappropriate sites;
- o **Urbanization**, due to touristic development;
- o **Industrial, mining and quarrying activities** in the Basin are linked with increase in pollution loads;
- o **Hydropower production** minimize downstream water flow lower than the ecological minimum;
- o **Dams** are also linked with disturbance in sedimentation;
- o **Climate change**;
- o **Floods** have been highlighted as an issue;
- o **Lack of coordination between riparians** on managing hydropower infrastructure for flow regulation;
- o **The use of agrochemicals** and excessive use of water in intensive agriculture;
- o **Preserving ecosystems and protecting biodiversity** has been reported as a major concern.

Part 3. Conclusions - Drivers

Stakeholders have indicated major drivers in the framework of the DPSIR causal analysis :

□ Institutional and Legal Framework:

- Gaps in national legislation and regulatory system;
- Overlaps in responsibilities of institutions and authorities;
- Problematic coordination among institutions especially between central and regional / local authorities;
- Insufficient transboundary cooperation and lack of legal framework supporting;

□ Strategic Framework:

- Lack of sectoral strategies and / or lack of harmonization of sectoral strategies;
- Lack of plans for management at the level of basin / sub-basin.

□ Human capacities:

- Lack of adequate capacities of authorities especially at local level;
- Low public awareness;
- Corruption;

□ Financial situation:

- Lack of financial means of local authorities and communities;
- Limited financial resources for development of wastewater treatment, monitoring etc.;
- Poverty of local communities;

□ Information and data availability and exchange:

- Limited monitoring;
- Lack of databases – for hydrological , meteorological data, environmental data etc.- at the national level;
- Un-harmonized data among riparians.

Part 3. Conclusions - Information and Participation

Information and knowledge of stakeholders regarding EU legislation related to River Basin Management is not at desired level.

- ❖ Overall, **stakeholders benefits from training activities** on water resources management, biodiversity, solid waste management and floods.
- ❖ Given that stakeholders approached were mainly from **the water sector**, there is a significant need reported in raising their capacities and knowledge on **land management, energy and agriculture**;
- ❖ **Inter-sectoral harmonization of management strategies and approaches** would be significantly facilitated through enhanced capacities of institutions and authorities in energy and agriculture / land management sectors;
- ❖ **Electronic communication** with stakeholders and disseminating off information are more preferred;
- ❖ In the future, stakeholders expect that the **establishment of a Joint Commission** with enhanced mandate will facilitate cooperation in the Drin Basin and overall management of its resources;
- ❖ 67% of stakeholders desires this Commission to have decision-making power,
- ❖ 24% prefers an advising role.



Thank you!

<http://drincorda.iwlearn.org/>