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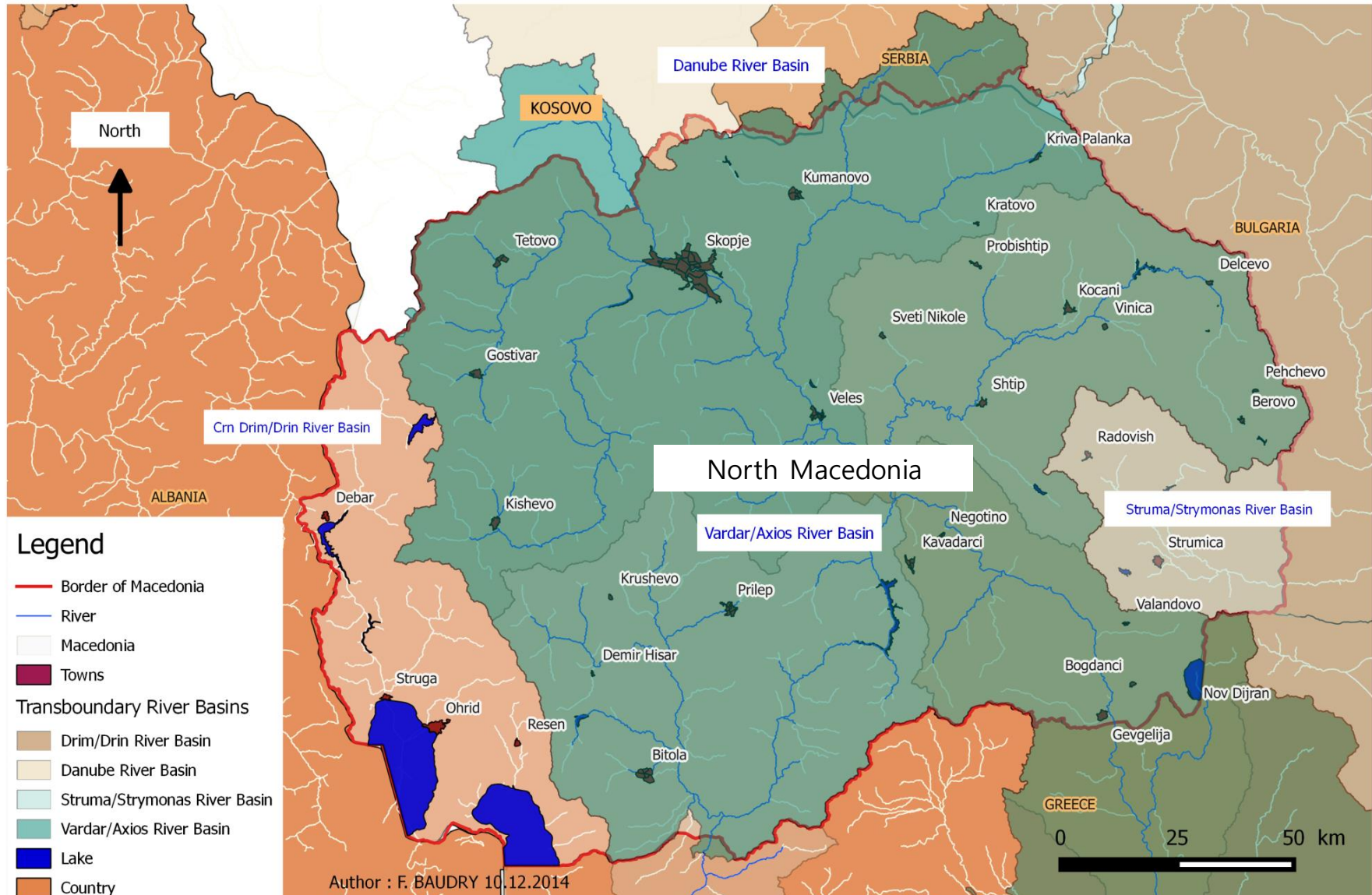
Coordinated activities in the Drin river basin

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Transboundary River Basins and riparian countries



There are about 35 rivers, 3 natural lakes and 50 artificial lakes, 1.100 larger sources of water.

Legal framework for Transboundary water cooperation

Strengthening international, regional and cross-border cooperation in the field of conservation and sustainable use of water reserves has been and remains a priority of the National Water Policy.

Implementation of :

- The Law on Waters ;**
- The EU Water Framework directive;**
- The UNECE Water Convention;**
- Activities for ratification of the Protocol on Water and Health under the Water convention started and expected to be finished in 2022.**

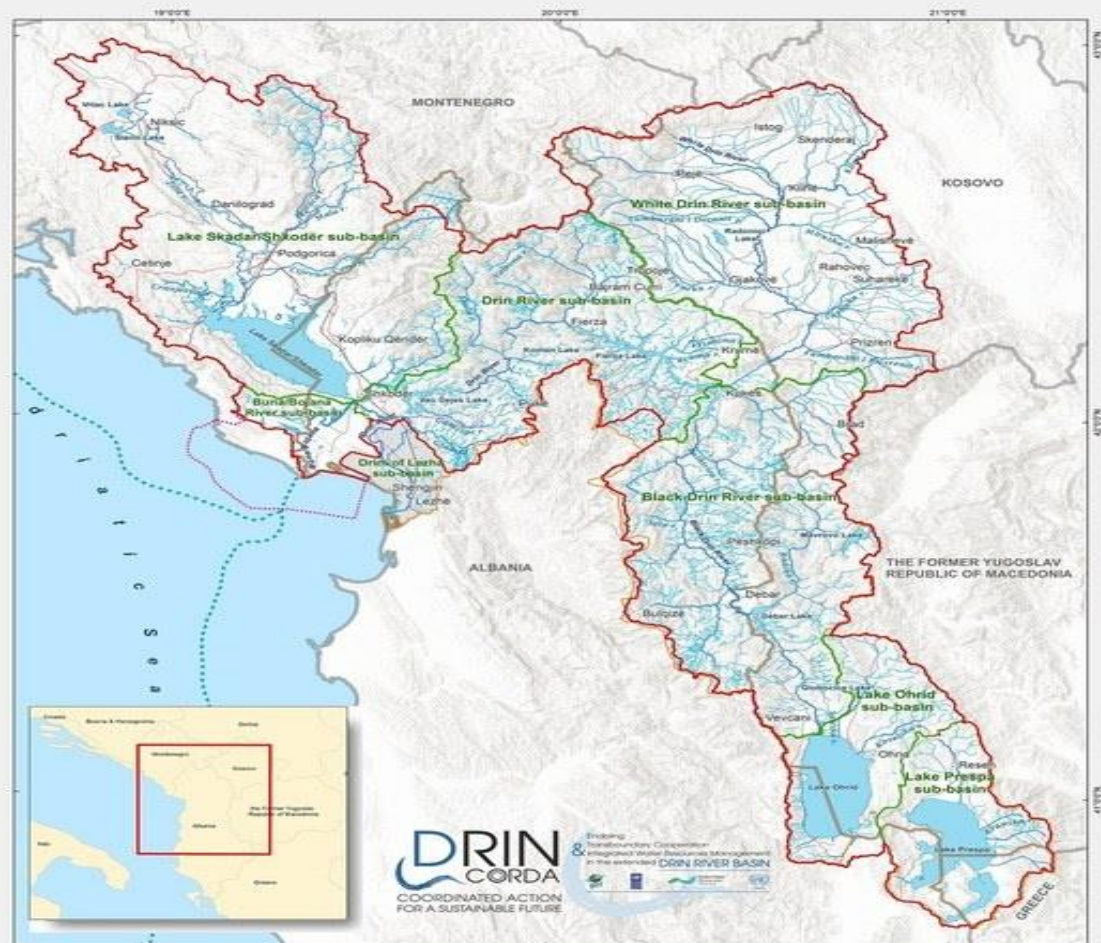
Drin River Basin

The Drin River Basin is located in the Western Balkans and it is shared between Albania, Greece, Kosovo, North Macedonia and Montenegro.

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

Priority Transboundary Issues

- Water Quality
- Hydrological Regime
- Biodiversity Degradation
- Sediment Transport
- Climate Change – cross-cutting issue that impacts all above

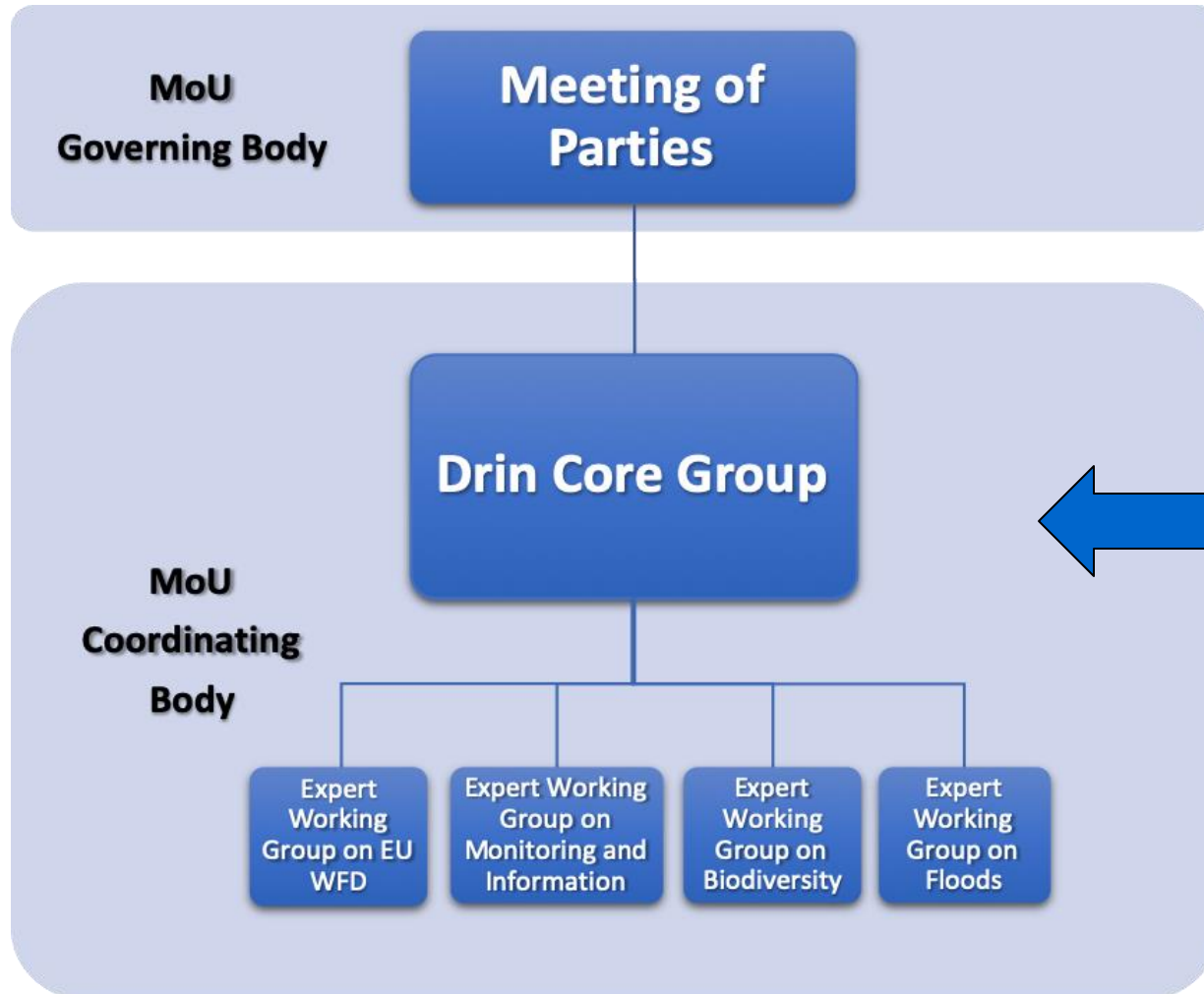


Map of the extended Drin Basin



Institutional structure for implementation of the Drin MoU

As a result of the Drin Dialogue, with the support of the GWP-Med and UNECE, MoU between riparians was signed in Tirana, 25 November 2011.



The Drin Core Group was established (2009) as an informal body to “provide a Forum for coordination among the Parties to enable communication and cooperation among them and the key stakeholders, and for the coordination and the facilitation of implementation of the Drin Dialogue”

- Ministries from Riparians responsible for water and environmental management
- Prespa Park Management Committee
- Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee
- Lake Skadar-Shkoder Commission
- UNECE
- Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean
- Mediterranean Information Office for Environment Culture and Sustainable Development

Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee

Created on base of the “Agreement for the Protection and Sustainable Development of Lake Ohrid and its Watershed,” signed in June 17, 2004 by the Prime Ministers of North Macedonia and Albania

Joint Committee MKD-ALB MEMBERS

North Macedonia

Government Representatives

- Director, Directorate for the Protection of Cultural Heritage
- Directorate for Environment, Ministry of Environment
- Directorate for Water economy, Ministry of Agriculture

Local Government Representatives

- Mayor of Ohrid
- Debrca Municipality
- Struga Municipality

Civil Society Representative

Albania

Government Representatives

- Director General, Institute for Cultural Monuments
- Director for Natural Protection

Local Government

- Mayor of Pogradec
- Regional Directorate for National Culture-Korcha

Joint Committee Secretariat Representatives

- Administration for Protected Zones- Pogradec
- Regional Directorate for National Culture-Korcha
- Representative from The Government of NMK

The principal goal of the agreement:

-to build cross-border trust and establish the institutional arrangements for long-term cooperation and joint management of the lake

The 1st constitutive Meeting of the Watershed Management Committee for the Ohrid Lake was held in January 17, 2020 in which was adopted RULES OF PROCEDURE on the Watershed Management Committee.

The 2nd “online” Meeting of the Watershed Management Committee for the Ohrid Lake was held in November 07, 2020 in which The Ohrid Lake Management Plan was discussed and adopted.

Prespa Park Management Committee

The 1st inaugural Meeting of the High-Level Segment on 29 June 2021 for implementation of the “Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area” signed between the three littoral countries and the EU in February 2010, that entered into force in May 2019

The first Drafts of the ToRs for: the PPMC, the WGWM and the Secretariat of the PPMC are prepared.

The PPMC and the WGWM kick-off Meetings are planned for Q1 2022

The Joint Bodies of the Agreement:

The High-Level Segment (HLS) (art. 9),
Ministers of Environment of Greece, Albania, North Macedonia
and the EU Environment Commissioner

The Prespa Park Management Committee (PPMC) (art. 10),
25 nominated representatives to the PPMC (including
alternates and observers) and

The Working Group on Water Management (WGWM) (art. 14)
12 nominated representatives to the WGWM (including
alternates and observers)

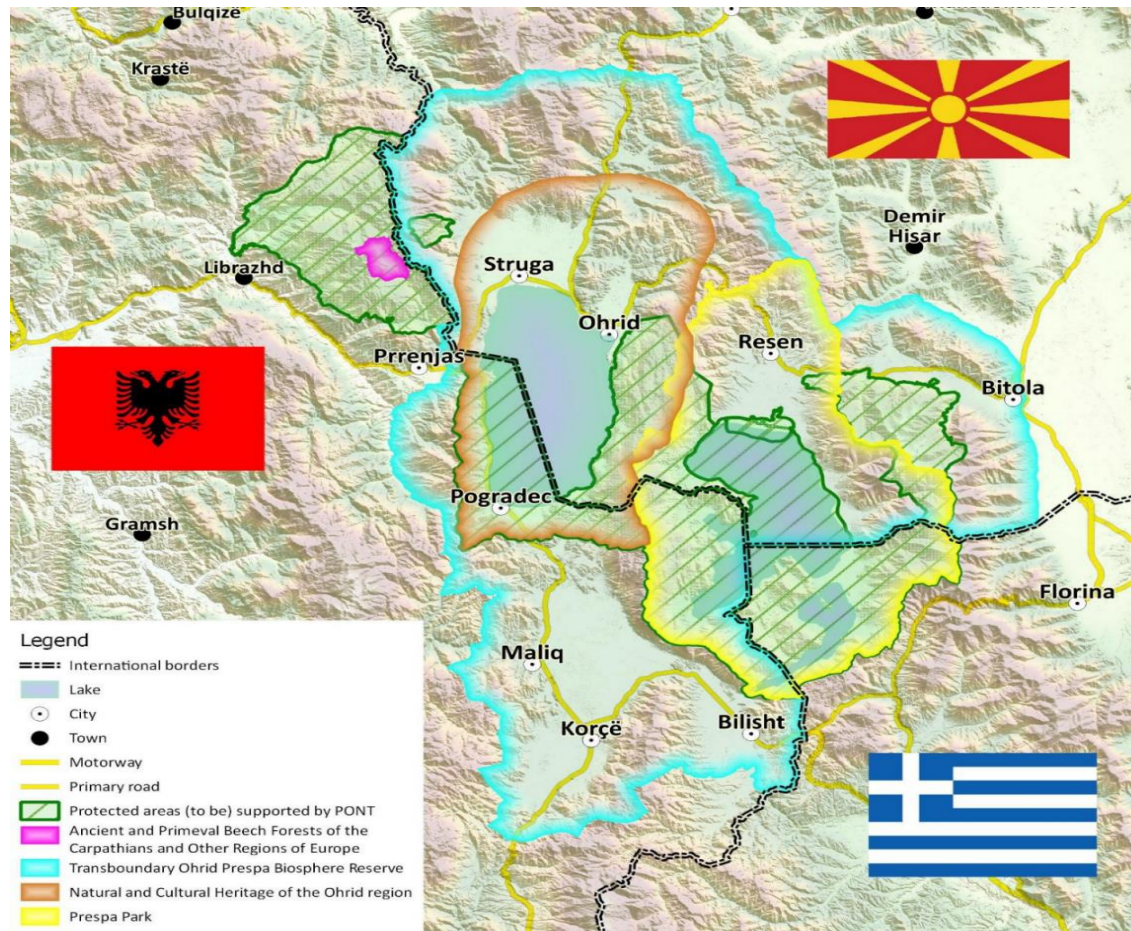
The main points highlighted :

- conservation and sustainable management of The Prespa Park Area;
- degradation of water quality and quantity, the biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation;
- collaboration for more ambitious targets;
- EU integration, implementation of the International conventions and standards;
- participatory and inclusive management, (local stakeholders, communities and the NGOs)

Drin Basin governance bodies

Drin Core Group

Lake Ohrid
Watershed
Committee



Prespa Park
Management
Committee

Commission for Management of the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region

Projects in the Drin River Basin

- 1. The GEF Drin project II;**
- 2. Adaptation Fund (AF) Project “Integrated climate-resilient transboundary flood risk management in the Drin River basin in the Western Balkans”;**
- 3. The SEE Drin Nexus Project (2017-2022), funded by ADA and implemented by GWP-Med in partnership with UNECE;**
- 4. The GIZ project “Adaptation to Climate Change through Transboundary Flood Risk Management in the Western Balkans”;**

Benefits from cooperation in the Drin basin

- **Economic benefits (hydropower production, flood protection, agriculture);**
- **Environmental benefits (water quality, secured environmental flows, and wetland conservation);**
- **Political benefits (regional cooperation, security and stability);**
- **Joint projects**

Conclusions

- **Sustainable membership in the Joint bodies**
- **Financing**
- **Data sharing**
- **EU - non EU country cooperation**
- **Signing of a new Agreement**
- **Establishment of The Drin Commission**
- **Political will**

Dream team of The Drin River Basin



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

Thank you!