PRE-CONCEPT FOR A REGIONAL PROJECT/PROGRAMME

PART I: PROJECT/PROGRAMME INFORMATION

Title of Project/Programme:	Integrated Drought Management in the riverine countries of the Drin basin
Countries:	North Macedonia, Montenegro
Thematic Focal Area:	Disaster risk reduction and early warning systems
Type of Implementing Entity:	Multilateral Implementing Entity
Implementing Entity:	World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)
Executing Entities:	Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean; NMHSs of North Macedonia and Montenegro
Amount of Financing Requested:	13,733,500 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)
Amount of Requested financing for PFG	30,000 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)
Letters of Endorsement (LOE) signed for all countries:	Yes ☒ No ☐
Stage of Submission:	This is the first submission ever of the pre-concept

Project / Programme Background and Context:

The transboundary (TB) Drin Basin (DB; 20,361 km^2) comprises the TB sub-basins of the Black Drin, White Drin, and Buna/Bojana Rivers, of the Prespa, Ohrid, and Skadar Lakes; the Drin River flows solely in Albania. The water system provides a wealth of services: Hydro-energy, domestic uses, irrigation, recreation/tourism, fisheries, sustenance of endemic biodiversity. Montenegro (MNE) and North Macedonia (NMK) comprise 42,01% of the area of the TB sub-basins (sitting upstream of Albania) of the DB (27,28% lies in Kosovo, 2.02% lies in Greece and 26,84% in Albania). MNE is divided into two basins districts: Adriatic Sea (including the part of the Skadar lake and Bojana river sub-basins; ~50% of the country) and the Danube River. NMK is divided into four basin districts: Vardar; Strumica; Crni Drim (including the parts of the Prespa and Ohrid lakes and the Black Drin sub-basins extending in the country); and Danube.

According to the National Communications (NCs), climate change (CC) is expected to lead to decrease of precipitation and more frequent incidents of heavy rainfall, intensified snow-melt and sea-level rise, overall resulting in increased water scarcity, droughts and frequency and intensity of floods, intensified erosion and sedimentation. Overall, CC impacts on water resources will have cascading effects on human health, economy, society and the environment. According to projections for 2050 there will be further increases in temperature and heat waves, and decreases in total annual precipitation by up to ~7- 8% that can reach more than ~40% in the summer; the projected decreases for 2100 are even higher. These changes will adversely affect the hydrology of watersheds and the availability of water resources for different uses, the ecosystems and economic activities -predominately the agricultural and energy sectors more frequent and severe forest fires are expected. The effects of CC on water balance in the DB is demonstrated in an analysis included in the Drin Basin Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)[1]: water resources will undergo significant stress in the upstream sub-basins/parts of the DB in the next 30 years, especially in the summer; in the case of dry years, it is likely that water resources in large parts of the basin will not be adequate to satisfy the demand. According to NCs, meteorological droughts have had consequences in society, economy and ecosystems the past years in all DB riparians.

The impacts of the climate-induced issues are exacerbated by and exacerbate anthropogenic pressures. According to the Drin TDA, the latter include: urbanization; deforestation; unsustainable use of land and water resources; unsustainable agriculture, forestry activities; unsustainable tourism etc. Recent analysis showed that water management institutional and legal framework in the DB countries is not fully aligned with the water related EU Acquis[2] .

These non-climate factors are analyzed and addressed through national level activities in MNE and NMK and at DB level through an initiative, entitled Drin Coordinated Action (Drin CORDA) that fosters TB basin management through the implementation of the Drin MoU. The latter establishes the Drin Core Group (DCG) and its Expert Working Groups (EWGs) comprising officially appointed members of Drin Riparians, to coordinate its implementation. The Drin CORDA provides the political and management framework for coordinated management of the DB. Two GEF projects support the implementation of the Drin MoU and the Drin Strategic Action Programme (SAP; endorsed by Ministers and high-level representatives of the Drin Riparians on 24/4/2020) and include priority actions for the sustainable management of

[1] See page 120. The Drin TDA was developed under the GEF Drin Project (2016-2021)
[2] Drin TB Diagnostic Analysis; Thematic Report on Institutional and Legal setting. GWP-Med, 2019. Review of the legislative and policy framework in Integrated Flood Risk Management in the Drin basin; AF Floods project, 2022

the resources in the DB. The first GEF project ended in 2021 while the second -entitled “Implementing the Strategic Action Programme of the Drin Basin to Strengthen TB Cooperation and Enable Integrated Natural Resources Management” (GEF Drin SAP project)- started on 1 October 2024. The GEF Drin SAP project and the proposed herewith project don’t overlap but are complementary and will work in synergy. The first will ensure that the results of the latter will be integrated in existing regional or regionally coordinated -through the DCG- national strategic documents. This initiative along with regional and country level EU financed projects, constitute the regional baseline initiatives that address some CC adaptation needs and establish a basin level focused management.

While existing initiatives and projects cover elements of e.g. basin management, exchange of information, water balance flood management etc., they do not provide for comprehensive drought risk management (DRM), the lack of which is increasing the vulnerability of the society and economy. Developing DRM at the national and DB level faces several challenges: Current TB coordination arrangements (also in Drin sub-basins) overlook climate-induced water variability assuming constant future water availability and quality; there is insufficient investment in drought monitoring, forecasting, and early warning systems coupled with understaffing and inadequate training, limited financing for and maintenance of hydro-meteorological networks; institutional frameworks, policies and legislation to support integrated drought management (DM) are weak and not harmonized with EU and UN guidelines. These are acknowledged by existing CC related documentation: MNE NCs and National Drought Plan (NDP) and NMK NCs advises for actions to overcome the barriers including: improvement of hydro-meteorological monitoring and data availability/accessibility(based on the existing Drin Information Management System - https://dringis.org/); establishing a basin-wide drought monitoring, forecasting and early warning system(s); development and implementation of DM plans and strategies, and of emergency plans; improvement of coordination among institutions and establishment of appropriate DRM policy, legislative and institutional arrangements; enhancement of human capacities; increase of awareness and appropriate/inclusive and gender sensitive engagement of stakeholders; strengthening regional cooperation on DRM. Such action is in line with the Drin Strategic Action Programme (Goal 3, Objective 2).

Project / Programme Objectives:

The project aims to support Montenegro and North Macedonia, where the upstream part of the Drin watershed extends, to set and implement a climate-resilient river basin DRM approach, to improve their capacity to manage related risks at TB, national and local levels, and to enhance resilience of vulnerable communities to droughts, and to enhance DRM capacities at the TB DB level. Overall, the project will directly improve the resilience of DB inhabitants in ME and NK and indirectly the total of the 1,6M people living in the DB.

The project will: (1) Strengthen capacities both institutional and technical: to assess drought risk and impacts under climate change and changing socio-economic conditions as well as to operationalize drought monitoring and forecasting for early warning and action, thus; to enable countries to take informed decisions at the national and TB levels on DRM as well as on the management of effects of droughts to the society, economy and nature. (2) Develop scaled plans to identify and implement drought response measures in the most vulnerable communities. (3) Test nature-based solutions as means to increase resilience to drought and create the conditions to upscale these solutions. While the proposed project concerns the DB, all project activities in MNE and NMK (apart from those that are specific to parts of the DB extending in the two countries) will result in improved national level DRM. The improved DRM capacities in the DB upstream countries[3] and at TB level, will create the conditions for enhanced DRM at the DB level creating a “blueprint”/model for Albania and Kosovo to follow.

Project / Programme Components and Financing:

Project/Programme Components	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Countries	Amount (US$)
1. Developing a harmonised approach for integrated drought risk and impact assessment, and for monitoring,	Enhanced drought risk and impact assessment as well as drought monitoring, forecasting and early warning	1. Climate change responsive drought risk assessment and mapping methodology developed and agreed	North Macedonia, Montenegro	150,000
		2. Drought impact assessment, monitoring and forecasting methodology developed and agreed		150,000
		3. Baseline drought risk assessment		150,000
		4. Integrated drought monitoring and forecasting systems enhanced and/or established		1,650,000

[3] Greece implements the EU related legislation regarding water resources management and droughts. Kosovo is not eligible for financing under the Adaptation Fund; some drought related issues are dealt with through the project Integrated Drought Management System and Measures to Mitigate the Impact of the Climate Change in Kosovo, that GWP implemented. Further support to Kosovo will be provided through the GEF Drin SAP project. Albania deals with drought related issues through the GCF financed project ALBAdapt – Climate Services for a Resilient Albania (USD 36.7 M; 2024-)

forecasting and early warning		5. Drought Early Warning System (EWS) that is compatible with existing flood EWS is established and integrated in national drought policies		1,000,000
2. Implementing community-level, climate-resilient drought risk management	Community-level climate resilience strengthened through the implementation of drought risk management plans and measures	1. Community-level climate-resilient drought risk management plans developed	North Macedonia, Montenegro	1,800,000
		2. Drought risk financing strategies developed		500,000
		3. Nature-based Solutions to reduce the impacts of droughts, implemented in the most vulnerable communities		3,000,000
3. Enhancing the transboundary, national and local institutional capacity for drought management	Strengthened institutional capacity for drought management including, monitoring and forecasting, risk and impact assessment, and risk mitigation and response	1. National and transboundary levels drought risk related institutional, policy, planning and management analysis	North Macedonia, Montenegro*	300,000
		2. Establishment of a Drin Basin drought related institutional arrangement in the framework of the Drin Coordinated Action process and development of a transboundary drought risk management strategy		500,000
		3. Drought risk management national level policy and institutional reforms' recommendations proposed to and discussed by national intersectoral/interministerial working groups for adoption		500,000
		4. Capacity building for authorities, local communities and other key stakeholders on drought management including, monitoring and forecasting, risk and impact assessment, as well as risk mitigation and response		450,000
4. Enhancing the knowledge and awareness of stakeholders on climate-resilient drought management	Stakeholders and partners' engagement and increased awareness, knowledge management, and gender mainstreaming enable succeeding of- and sustainability of project's results	1. Communication and stakeholders' awareness enhancement and engagement plan developed and implemented	North Macedonia, Montenegro*	500,000
		2. Actions to enable coordination with on-going initiatives and projects		150,000
		3. Gender action plans, indicators and trainings are developed and implemented		150,000
		4. Knowledge management and Community of Practice on climate-resilient drought management		400,000
5. Project/Programme Execution cost				1,135,000
6. Total Project/Programme Cost				12,485,000
7. Project/Programme Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity (if applicable)				1,248,500
Amount of Financing Requested				13,733,500

**Drin Basin level action will be covered through the Drin Core Group, the secretariat of which is serviced by GWP-Med in line with the related mandate provided through the Drin MoU.*

Project Duration: *Five (5) years – Sixty (60) months*

PART II: PROJECT / PROGRAMME JUSTIFICATION[4]

The project will be structured in four components presented below:

1. Developing a harmonised approach, for integrated drought risk and impact assessment, and for monitoring, forecasting and early warning. The necessary methodologies and decision support systems for integrated DRM will be developed. Harmonised methodologies on drought risk and impact assessment as well as drought monitoring and forecasting will be developed and provide the basis for a common approach on these domains to be discussed also at the DB level through the DCG. Action will be taken to improve and/or establish, the monitoring network in the part of the DB extending in MNE and NMK and enhance the monitoring and early warning capacities at national level in these two countries. Additional to the meteorological stations source of information and data will be used including -being elements of innovation- satellite Earth Observation and on-field reporters. The already established technical capacities and equipment used for flood risk management will provide the basis and will be expanded as needed. A baseline drought risk assessment will be developed and used for actions under Components 2 and 3. The outputs and outcome of component 1 will enable -in combination with these of Component 3- evidence-based decision making in the field of DM at the national level and related proposals for adoption of strategic approaches/documents through the DCG at TB level.

2. Implementing community-level, climate-resilient drought risk management in the part of the Drin basin in Montenegro and North Macedonia. Community-level drought response interventions will be implemented in MNE and

[4] If not mentioned explicitely, the measures will focus on the Drin basin. For some outputs like establishing National Policies the whole area of Montenegro and North Macedonia the will be addresed.

NMK to test approaches and generate knowledge that can be replicated in other areas in the DB. The baseline drought risk assessment (Comp.1) and stakeholders analysis will be used along with GIS tools and socio-economic analysis, for the identification of the beneficiary groups/vulnerable communities; the following -indicative- process and criteria will be used: (i) Identification of geographical areas susceptible to the adverse effects of CC and meteorological droughts leading to significant increases in drought hazards, vulnerability, and risk; (ii) Identification of economic activities within these geographical areas which are susceptible to such risks; (iii) Identification of communities and/or groups that their livelihoods depend on these economic activities or their livelihoods are in areas that are impacted by droughts; (iv) Identification of those communities that have the lowest income or include socially marginalised members. There will be, indicatively, ~300,000 direct beneficiaries (persons). Community-level DRM plans will be developed to assess management issues and guide the development of solutions and investments. Nature-based Solutions (e.g. restoration of wetlands, floodplains etc.; water-efficient agricultural practices etc.) will be prioritized, using where relevant, local/traditional practices. Financing strategies and possibly investment documents will be developed to facilitate the replication, scaling and sustainability of successful interventions. An inclusive consultative process will be used to enable the participation of vulnerable groups while gender-sensitive strategies will ensure that women, particularly in rural and low-income households, engage in the planning and implementation of the solutions.

3. Enhancing the regional, national and local institutional capacity for drought risk management. The institutional capacity at DB, national and local levels on integrated drought management (DM) will be enhanced. A review of the institutional DM framework and related strategic documents such as policies, plans and strategies will provide the basis for the development of recommendations for reforms. These will be discussed and considered for adoption by intersectoral working groups in ME and NMK. The review at the DB TB level will provide the basis for the DCG and its EWGs to work for the adoption of drought management methodologies (see under Comp. 1) and the development of a TB DRM strategy and a related institutional arrangement. A capacity development programme for all levels (regional, national and local) on decision-making for DRM will be delivered.

4. Enhancing the knowledge and awareness of stakeholders on climate-resilient drought management in the DB countries. Stakeholders engagement, knowledge management, and gender mainstreaming will enable succeeding of- and sustainability of project's results. A communication and stakeholders' engagement plan will be implemented to enable sectoral drought information and knowledge following a user-centric approach and tools. Coordination with the other Drin Riparians (i.e. Albania, Kosovo and Greece) as well as with on-going initiatives and projects will be ensured through mechanisms already available through the Drin CORDA. A gender mainstreaming action plan and trainings will be delivered. Aiming to enhance the way that knowledge on DRM is collated, curated and disseminated, a knowledge management approach and community of practice (CoP) on integrated DRM will be developed/established.

The project will build upon the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) experience and approach/tools: 1) DMCSEE's (DM Centre for South-Eastern Europe) drought monitoring and forecasting tool -Drought Watch- (it will be reactivated through ongoing initiatives and/or linked to regional drought monitoring systems (e.g. InterSucho)); 2) IDMP guidelines and best practices on drought impact monitoring; 3) approaches to strengthen gender transformative ways of IDM; 4) nature and community based solutions for IDM; 5) a DRM CoP; 6) a new WMO/GWP "User Centric Approach for identifying User Needs" (UCASN) to enable stakeholders engagement in project development and implementation.

The project will enable drought risk informed decisions in relation to the management of water and other natural resources, nature as well as in relation to possible drought related effects to socio-economy. Hence, the project will result in reduced drought effects induced costs.

The project will result in harmonized risk and impact assessment and monitoring, forecasting and early warning methods and drought related institutional arrangements and management strategy at the DB level. Further, it will enhance the drought and water related information and data generation capacity in MNE and NMK that sit upstream hence the availability of related data for all DB countries. Using the institutional, strategic and technical tools available at the DB level will increase cost-effectiveness as: (i) water management upstream-downstream considerations and needs will be integrated in the DB level drought related strategic documents and methods, that can be used by all countries -including Albania and Kosovo- to develop, in a harmonized way, the respective national level tools and strategic documents; (ii) capacities of all DB countries will be enhanced via peer learning through the work in the Expert Woking Groups and the DCG; (iii) data and information to be developed during and as a result of the project, will create a larger regional pool of information and data that can be used by all countries (instead of using only national tools and databases); this will lead to more precise national level drought risk and impact assessment and monitoring, forecasting and early warning; (iv) approaches and methods that will be tested through the project will be available for adoption also by Albania and Kosovo at national level although they are not direct project beneficiaries. Overall, the project will have a positive effect apart from DM, also in the management of water resources and water dependent economic activities and ecosystems.

The proposed activities are aligned with measures to manage drought related risks -among others institutional, legal, managerial and gender-sensitive approaches etc.- included in MNE NCs and National Drought Plan (NDP) and NMK NCs. An extensive list of strategic documents that are pertinent to water resources and disaster risk management has

been already developed through the GEF Drin SAP project, the Adaptation Fund (AF) Floods project and work done by GWP-Med. This work will be used during Project Document development phase to further tailor the proposed activities.

The project funding will be allocated as follows. Comp. 1, Outputs 1, 2 & 3 and Comp. 3 & 4: All outputs are equally relevant to NMK and MNE and the Drin Basin level hence the funds should be equally distributed between the two countries. Comp. 1, Outputs 4 & 5 and Comp. 2: Funding will be shared equally regarding analysis and studies. Regarding infrastructure, a "base" amount will be defined -after consultation with the beneficiary countries- to be allocated to each country, to ensure that both will receive a certain level of funding, even if a significant difference in needs is identified between the two. The remainder of the funding will be allocated based on the needs of each country (further, for Comp. 2 the number of vulnerable communities identified in each one of the countries will be taken into consideration).

A knowledge management approach describing the steps, timeline and means, will be part of the Project Document. It will assist sustaining and upscaling the results through a structured process to leverage and share knowledge assets generated by the Project with beneficiaries and partners. It will: Strengthen project coordination and operational coherence; Improve impact monitoring and reporting through gender-sensitive indicators; Reinforce capacities and skills, and enrich the knowledge base; Enhance joint learning across sectors and actors. A DB level CoP for DRM will provide a platform to share the knowledge, enable dialogue and stimulate learning across genders and socio-economic groups.

An extensive consultation with stakeholders -in line with the Environmental and Social Policy of the AF and WMO- and coordination with/engagement of institutions that have responsibilities on CC and droughts will be undertaken for the development of the Project Document and implementation of the Project (in line with the engagement plan under Component 4). Two documents developed in 2022 for the needs of the GEF Drin SAP project, that cover MNE and NMK, will be used: a Stakeholders Analysis and a Gender Analysis and action plan. The latter will enable gender equality during the Project development and implementation. Input for the development of the Project Document will be solicited by the DCG and the Drin Annual Stakeholders conference (organized since 2011 gathering more than 120 representatives of stakeholders each year). The Drin SAP consultation process will be replicated -to the extent possible- aiming to incorporate the views and needs of stakeholders. Specific attention will be given to ensure women's inclusion in these groups and decision-making processes. The implementing and executing partners will coordinate and consult with the institutions/organizations that implement the most important projects in the DB countries to ensure synergies.

The project will use the TB institutional setting and process under the Drin CORDA. The DCG will be involved in the design of the project. The project will establish national level interministerial groups to ensure engagement of and coordination among drought related authorities. Action will be taken to ensure sustainability of the Project's results: (1) At national level, through the engagement of the HMS of MNE and NMK -that will also operate the early warning systems- the "adoption" of the NBS by local authorities and the official adoption of the strategic documents that will be developed, by the responsible ministries; (2) At DB level having the DCG as the project Steering Committee, and the engagement of its EWGs to ensure that the project promotes the management of the DB and is in line with the Drin SAP.

The socio-economic benefits include reduced damages and losses in the affected socio-economic areas/sectors and improved water, food and energy security not only in MNE and NMK but also downstream in Albania. This will have direct and indirect livelihood protection and potentially income generation benefits. The most vulnerable, being those that receive a disproportional share of the effects of droughts, will benefit the most. Environmental benefits include (among others) reduced risks for degradation of forests and of ecosystems, especially the water-dependent ones. Requirements of the WMO and AF's Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Gender Policy (GP) will be followed for the development of the Project Document. These and the WMO/GWP UCASN will be used to ensure that the most vulnerable communities/groups will be engaged, and that gender aspects will be taken into consideration.

A balanced ecosystem services will be promoted through NBS, linking ecosystem management with livelihoods. With the information available at this stage, the project is expected to fall into medium risk category B because interventions such as information through risk maps and EWS, and implementation of NBS could lead to movement of communities.

PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

WMO will be the project implementing entity providing overall management and specific technical support in the execution of the activities. Its WMO Regional Office for Europe, will coordinate with national authorities, especially National Hydromet Services (NMHS) as well as the DMCSE. The IDMP's joint WMO-GWP Technical Support Unit (TSU) will design and develop technical solutions with the executing partners and will have close links with the beneficiaries in the field. GWP-Med will be the executing entity on the regional level. GWP-Med has been working for the sustainable management of the DB since 2011 when it enabled the signing of the Drin MoU. Since then, it provides technical and administrative support to the Drin Riparians and has implemented/will implement the two GEF supported Drin projects. At the regional level the DCG will act as a Steering Committee (in line with its mandate) ensuring coordination with the DB countries and stakeholders. The DCG will also support data sharing and dissemination to Albania and Kosovo. At the national level, the NHMS together with GWP-Med will be executing partners and liaise with other national and local institutions in charge of DRM. The NMHS and other national entities will be focal points for the technical activities.

PART IV: ENDORSEMENT BY GOVERNMENTS AND CERTIFICATION BY THE IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

A. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government[5] *Provide the name and position of the government official and indicate date of endorsement for each country participating in the proposed project/programme. Add more lines as necessary. The endorsement letters should be attached as annexes to the project/programme proposal.*

Nikola Tomašević, Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism, Ecology, Sustainable Development and Development of the Northern Region	08/07/2024
Izet Mehxiti, Minister, Ministery of Environmental and Physical Planning,	24/07/2024

B. Implementing Entity certification *Provide the name and signature of the Implementing Entity Coordinator and the date of signature. Provide also the project/programme contact person's name, telephone number and email address*

I certify that this proposal has been prepared in accordance with guidelines provided by the Adaptation Fund Board, and prevailing National Development and Adaptation Plans (……list here…..) and subject to the approval by the Adaptation Fund Board, commit to implementing the project/programme in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund and on the understanding that the Implementing Entity will be fully (legally and financially) responsible for the implementation of this project/programme.	
 *Moyenda Chaponda* Implementing Entity Coordinator	
Date: 28/01/2025	Tel. and email: mchaponda@wmo.int
Project Contact Person: Mr. Robert Stefanski	
Tel. And Email: +41 22 730 8305, RStefanski@wmo.int>	

[5] Each Party shall designate and communicate to the secretariat the authority that will endorse on behalf of the national government the projects and programmes proposed by the implementing entities.

Letter of Endorsement by Government

[Government Letter Head]

[Date of Endorsement Letter]

To: The Adaptation Fund Board
c/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
Email: Secretariat@Adaptation-Fund.org
Fax: 202 522 3240/5

Subject: Endorsement for [Title of Project/Programme]

In my capacity as designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in [country], I confirm that the above (select national or regional) project/programme proposal is in accordance with the government's (select national or regional) priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts of, and risks, posed by climate change in the (select country or region).

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above project/programme proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project/programme will be implemented by [implementing entity] and executed by [national or local executing entity].

Sincerely,

[Name of Designated Government Official]
[Position/Title in Government]

Република Северна Македонија
Republika e Maqedonisë së Veriut
Министерство за животна
дина и просторно планирање
Ministria e Mjedisit
sor dhe Planifikimit Hapësinor
Бр. - Nr 09-5372/2
24.07.2024 год. - viti
Скопје / Shkup

Republic of North Macedonia

Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning

TO: Adaptation Fund Board
c/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
email: Secretariat@Adaptation-Fund.org

No: 09 - 5372 /2
Date: 24 -07- 2024
Subject: Endorsement Letter for the pre-concept note of "Integrated Drought Management for the riparian countries of the Drin Basin

In my capacity as the designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in the Republic of North Macedonia, I confirm that the above regional project proposal aligns with the government's national and regional priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts and risks posed by drought to the Riparian countries of the Drin basin.
Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above project proposal with appreciation of the support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented by the World Meteorological Organization and executed by the Hydrometeorological Institute Skopje, as well as national and regional partners.

Sincerely,

Izet Mehxiti
National Designated Authority
Minister of Environment and Physical Planning
Republic of North Macedonia

Ministry of environment and physical planning of the Republic of North Macedonia
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Ministry of Tourism, Ecology,
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No: 01-011/24-1398/1
Podgorica, 8 July 2024

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Washington, D.C., 20433
U.S.A
Fax: +1 (202) 522-3240/5
Email: afbsec@adaptation-fund.org

Subject: **Endorsement for the pre-concept note of "Integrated Drought Management in the riverine countries of the Drin basin" project**

In my capacity as the designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in Montenegro, I confirm that the above regional project proposal aligns with the government's national and regional priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts and risks posed by drought to the Riparian countries of the Drin basin.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above project proposal with appreciation of the support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented by the World Meteorological Organization and executed by Hydrometeorological Institute of Montenegro as well as national and regional partners.

SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM, ECOLOGY, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTHERN REGION

Nikola Tomašević

Revised PFG Submission Form[1]

Project Formulation Grant (PFG)

Submission Date: 6 August 2024

Adaptation Fund Project ID: AF00000412
Country/ies: North Macedonia, Montenegro
Title of Project/Programme: Integrated Drought Management in the riverine countries of the Drin basin
Type of IE (NIE/RIE/MIE): MIE
Implementing Entity: World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
Executing Entity/ies: Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean; NMHSs of North Macedonia and Montenegro

A. Project Preparation Timeframe

Start date of PFG	01 May 2025
Completion date of PFG	01 September 2025

B. Proposed Project Preparation Activities ($)

List of Proposed Project Preparation Activities	Output of the PFG Activities	US$ Amount	Budget note[2]
Support in writing of the project concept by external consultant	Project concept well-coordinated with country stakeholders and in line with AF rules and regulations	20,400 USD	Contracting of a consultant to support the coordination and writing of the concept at a daily rate of 400 USD for 51 days
Support of different experts within the implementing and executing entity in formulating the concept	Project concept in line with latest standards and state of the art methodologies	7,500 USD	Contracting of experts to provide matter expert advice for concept at a daily rate of 500 USD for 15 days
	Project concept coordinate and submitted in time	1500	This will support the travel of the consultant

[1] As presented in AFB/PPRC.33/40 Annex 1.
[2] The proposal should include a detailed budget with budget notes indicating the break- down of costs at the activity level. It should also include a budget on the Implementing Entity management fee use.

Implementing Entity Fee[3] (Administration and management of concept preparation)		300	This will support WMO Human Resources Support for hiring a consultant
		300	This will support WMO Financial Administration for hiring a consultant
Total Project Formulation Grant		30,000	

Please describe below each of the PFG activities and provide justifications for their need and for the amount of funding required:

1. **Stakeholder workshop:** A workshop will be organized in one of the countries and all relevant stakeholders from government, civil society, academia and private sector invited. In the preparation of the pre-concept, all main stakeholders that have already been engaged and this activity will build on this group and extend it. This will serve to identify and assess the needs of the different groups and make sure everything is well integrated into the project concept. In addition, it will help to strengthen the community to ensure in-time implementation of the project. The workshop will be cross-financed through other sources.
2. **Support in writing of the project concept by external consultant:** An external consultant will be hired to support the writing process and coordinate with all national and regional stakeholders as well as the executing entities. This will ensure that all needs and expectations are well coordinated with country stakeholders and in line with AF rules and regulations. The amount allows to hire a consultant for 50 days at a daily rate of USD 500.
3. **Support of different experts within the implementing and executing entity in formulating the concept:** Different experts of the implementing and executing entities will be engaged in the process of preparing the project concept, providing expert input on different fields like Early Warning Systems (EWS), Monitoring etc. This amount is to compensate the different departments internally.
4. **Administration and management of concept preparation:** WMO will facilitate the preparation of the concept note with necessary services.

C. Implementing Entity

This request has been prepared in accordance with the Adaptation Fund Board's procedures and meets the Adaptation Fund's criteria for project identification and formulation

Implementing Entity Coordinator, IE Name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Mr. Moyenda Chaponda	Moyenda Chaponda	6 August 2024	Mr. Robert Stefanski	+41 22 730 8305,	RStefanski@wmo.int

[3] 7% Implementing Entity Management Fee of USD 2100 in total.
