



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Secretariat**

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### **Conference Services**

Please find attached the contribution by Regional Environmental Center (REC), Albania delivered to the Second Preparatory Conference to the 15<sup>th</sup> OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum “Key challenges to ensure environmental security and sustainable development in the OSCE area: Water Management”, held in Zaragoza, Spain, 12 - 13 March 2007.

REReP 4.3.23  
**TRANS-BOUNDARY COOPERATION  
Through Management of Shared Natural  
Resources**

REReP  
4.3.23

Shkodra  
Lake

The Regional Environmental Center (REC)  
Albania



## Content

Shkodra  
Lake  
Content

- ❖ **Site Description**
- ❖ **Project Goal**
- ❖ **Partners Involved**
- ❖ **Vision**
- ❖ **Project Directions**
  - Dialogue/Partnership
  - Capacity building
  - Bilateral studies
  - Education/Awareness Raising
- ❖ **Lessons Learned**
- ❖ **Future Orientation**



## Site description (I)

### Site Description (I)

#### Project Goal

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#### Future Orientation

- ❖ **Long. 19°0' and 19°30' E**
- ❖ **Lat. 42°0' and 42°30' N**
- ❖ **Protection status:**
  - ❖ MNE - National Park since 1983.
  - ❖ AL - IV IUCN category – Nov 2005.
  - ❖ MNE - Ramsar Site since 1995.
  - ❖ AL - Ramsar site since Feb 2006.
- ❖ **Area:**
  - ❖ 370 km<sup>2</sup> - summer
  - ❖ 540 km<sup>2</sup> - winter
  - ❖ 475 km<sup>2</sup> - average
- ❖ **Drainage basin: 5 490 km<sup>2</sup>**
- ❖ **Shoreline – 168 km**
  - 110.5 km (MN)
  - 57.5 km (AL)
- ❖ **Depth: 5 - 9 m, max>60m (Radus eye)**
- ❖ **Volume: 1890,95 m<sup>3</sup> · 10<sup>6</sup>**



## Habitats

### Site Description (II)

#### Project Goal

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#### Lessons Learned

#### Future Orientation

- ❖ **22 500 ha** – water surface
- ❖ **7 800 ha** – permanently flooded area
- ❖ **5 200 ha** - temporary flooded area
- ❖ **12 500 ha** - hills and rocks on south coast; rocky isles
- ❖ **812.8 ha** – ornithological reserve
- ❖ Ihtiology reserves – under- ground springs called eyes



Site Description

**Project Goal**

Partners Involved

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## Project goal

**To enhance cooperation between neighboring countries through management of shared natural resource**



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Site Description

Project Goal

**Partners Involved (I)**

Vision

Project Directions

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## Partners involved

- ☀ **Ministries** of Environment and Physical Planning – focal points
- ☀ **Management authorities:** National Park, Regional Environmental Agency, Directorates (Water, Forestry, Education ...)
- ☀ **Local authorities** – Municipalities, Prefectures, District
- ☀ **NGOs** (active and interested in Shkodra Lake region)
- ☀ **Expert institutions** – Universities, Institute for Nature Protection, Natural History Museum
- ☀ **Education Institutions** – primary and secondary schools, kindergartens and universities students.

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# Multi-stakeholder approach


## Project Planning and Implementation

Site Description	- <b>GEIMs</b> – Get Everyone Involved Meetings - all interested stakeholders
Project Goal	
Partners Involved (II)	- <b>Skadar Lake Forum</b>
Vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Institutions dealing with management and protection of the Lake</li> <li>- Advisory body within the project</li> <li>- Different topics concerning lake's management and protection discussed on bilateral basis</li> </ul>
Project Directions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local input in the process of project planning and implementation</li> <li>- Building local ownership of the project</li> </ul>
Lessons Learned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Neutral platform for cross-border dialogue</li> </ul>
Future Orientation	- <b>Strategic Planning WS</b> – local stakeholders, MoE focal points, SDC, REC



# Cross-border vision

Site Description	
Project Goal	
Partners Involved	
Vision	<p><b>“Cross-border protected area of Skadar/Shkodra Lake and Bojana/Buna River, that provides sustainable development and benefits for local population”</b></p>
Project Directions	
Lessons Learned	
Future Orientation	



Site Description

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## Dialogue / partnership

### Protection of AL part of the Lake

National level - IV IUCN category – Nov 2005  
International level - Ramsar site – Feb 2006



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## Dialogue / partnership

### Skadar Lake Forum

#### Declaration on Skadar Lake – Feb 2006



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**Dialogue / partnership**

**Statement of Cooperation  
between Municipalities of Cetinje (MNE)  
and Shkodra (AL) - April 2006.**



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Site Description  
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**Dialogue / partnership**

**Memorandum of Understanding  
“Day of Shkodra Lake”  
Ministers of Environment of Albania and  
Montenegro – June 2006.**



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# Capacity building

Site Description

Project Goal

Partners Involved

Vision

Project Directions

Lessons Learned

Future Orientation

## A. Trainings

- ❖ Vision and its realization
- ❖ Objective Oriented Planning
- ❖ Project Cycle Management
- ❖ Teachers Training in new school curriculum
- ❖ Sustainable Tourism Development in SL region
- ❖ Cross-Border Lakes Protection and Management Networks
- ❖ Typology of Habitats and classification
- ❖ Media training
- ❖ Writing Project Proposals (national, bilateral)



# Capacity building

Site Description

Project Goal

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## B. Technical assistance/support

- ❖ National Park Skadar Lake
- ❖ Shkodra University - research department
- ❖ Regional Environmental Agency
- ❖ Water Basin Management Agency
- ❖ Regional Directorate of Education

## C. Study Trips

- ❖ Cross-border Lakes: Ohrid Lake, Peipsi Lake, Lake Constance
- ❖ Other protected areas: Neretva Estuary, Swiss National Park, Abruzzo National Park, Bulgarian National Parks

...





## Bilateral Studies

Site Description

Project Goal

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Vision

Project Directions

Lessons Learned

Future Orientation

- ❖ Bibliography on Shkodra/Skadar Lake
- ❖ Biodiversity Data Base
- ❖ Report on Risks and Potentials of
- ❖ Study on Roles and Responsibilities of Shkodra / Skadar Lake Stakeholders
- ❖ LEAPs (Cetinje – Shkodra)



## Education / Awareness Raising

Site Description

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Lessons Learned

Future Orientation

**Small Grants Program** (national, cross-border)

**Activities with educational institutions:** field trips, competitions, art performances, slide lectures ...

**Promotion:** leaflets, posters, brochures, calendars, web sites, CDs, trail guides ...

**Newsletters:** local (bimonthly, in both countries) and trilingual (once a year)



## Lessons Learned

Site  
Description

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Project  
Directions

Lessons  
Learned (I)

Future  
Orientation

- ❖ **Broad-scale cooperation and dialogue** among wide range of different stakeholders is necessary in order to build cross-border responsibility for the region
- ❖ **Open, transparent, flexible and process oriented approach** is essential in tackling the cross-border dialogue and management of shared natural resources
- ❖ When the complex issue like management of shared natural resources is addressed, **capacity building** of local stakeholders becomes similarly complex and permanent process

## Lessons Learned

Site  
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Lessons  
Learned (II)

Future  
Orientation

- ❖ **Synergies among the actions** happening in the region are very important, which requires extra efforts and a project team which is able to operate on local, national and international level
- ❖ Raising the issue regarding management of shared natural resources can mobilize **local authorities**, i.e. give them new opportunities and roles in trans-boundary processes and local development
- ❖ When formally separated communities are to (re)start their cooperation, addressing a **neutral topic**, ensuring **neutral platform** for dialogue and providing an **independent facilitator** can become key precondition for success

# Future orientation

Site Description

❖ Continuation of the cross-border dialogue

Project Goal

❖ Provide conditions for reaching the second part of cross-border vision – benefit for local population

Partners Involved

Vision

Project Directions

❖ Possible future field of work

Lessons Learned

- sustainable tourism development
- environmental education

Future Orientation

- priority investments for development of the region



Shkodra

Lake

The End



Thank you!

