

**International Roundtable**  
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**“Skadar Lake strategic planning process  
development”**

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and  
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# Basics

- Surface of the Lake: 475 km<sup>2</sup> in average water quantity,
- Surface of National Park in MN: 400 km<sup>2</sup> (1983),
- Surface of Ramsar site in MN: 200 km<sup>2</sup> (1995),
- Surface of watershed: 5.490 km<sup>2</sup> (80% in Montenegro, 20% in Albania),
- Length of coast: 168 km; 110.5 km on Montenegrin side, 57.5 in Albania,
- Depth: Average depth is 5m; maximum depth is 8.3 m, in Lake springs more than 60 m (in MN).

# As transboundary water body, it needs...

- Organized management,
- Cross border cooperation and coordination,
- Fullfillment of protected areas requirements,
- Local communities involvement,
- Distribution of responsibilities,
- Lessons learned applying...

# But first of all, it needs...

## Clear strategic approach...

Vision of Skadar lake 10 years from now:

*Skadar Lake is trans-boundary equally protected area. Its level of protection is in accordance with high environmental standards, high water quality and a rich biological diversity.*

*The lake is used in a sustainable way, is managed through cross-border cooperation, and is maintained through high eco-system protection.*

# How to implement vision?

After decades with strict national management, re-establishment of cooperation at the end of 90s, development of first bilateral projects...

GEF/WB "Integrated management of Skadar Lake ecosystem" project started in 2004, developed after WB EPR in 2002, 450.000 dollar for PDF B, 4,9 million dollar for project implementation.

# Project development

- Project coordinators,
- Transboundary Diagnosis Analysis developed,
- Social Assessments done,
- **Strategic Action Plan(s)....**

# Strategic Action Planning- national level

- National SAP team selection,
- Methodology development with international consultant (SNV),
- Documentation reviewing,
- Stakeholder consultations,
- Reporting to MoEPP.

# Strategic Action Planning- transboundary level

- Equal methodology,
- International assistance,
- Experience from similar sites (Ohrid Lake, Neusiedl-Ferto etc.),
- Exchange of ideas, joint work.

*Same approach-similar results...*

# Strategic goals

- Reduction and prevention of pollution of the lake waters,
- Improved ecological and biodiversity monitoring,
- Strengthening management of natural resources, including promoting environmentally sustainable economic use of biological resources, as well as management of the Protected Areas,
- Promotion of environmentally sustainable tourism development with emphasis on local community participation and benefits,
- Strengthening the legal and institutional framework for environmental protection, sustainable management and transboundary cooperation and exchange.

# The project will achieve its objectives through three pillars...

- Establishing and strengthening national and transboundary institutions, systems and capacity for effective ecological management,
- Creating an enabling environment for local and national authorities to improve environmental regulation by building public awareness and support, and by helping local residents and businesses comply with the requirements,
- Helping to eliminate or reduce some of the most urgent existing threats to the Lake's ecosystem.

## ...implemented through 4 components...

- A-Coordinating Lake Management,
- B-Monitoring and Research,
- C-Protected Area and Natural Resources Management,
- D-Urgent Environmental Investments.

## To be achieved...

- Joint management plan and transboundary structures in place,
- Effective protected area(s) management,
- Quality data system established,
- Horizontal/vertical integration,
- Promotion and public awareness,
- Sustainable activities developed (tourism),
- Ecological improvement,
- Environmental rehabilitation.

# On the half way to the Lake's vision implementation.....

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*The lake is used in a sustainable way, is managed through cross-border cooperation, and is maintained through high eco-system protection.*

**Thank You for Your attention.**