



Lake Shkoder-Skadar

INTEGRATED ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Bulletin No.4

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Accompanying Albania



Success Story

Signing of 4 Bilateral Agreements

Final Conference of LSIEM Project



On December 20th, 2012 in Shkodra it is organized the overall conference in the frame of the project Lake Shkodra Integrated Ecosystem Management. In the conference participated all local stakeholders from Albania and Montenegro that helped in the implementation of the project or benefited from it. The conference was moderated by the Project Director Mr. Fatos Bundo. Lake Skadar-Shkodra Integrated Ecosystem Management Project was a very successful example of joint cooperation between Albania and Montenegro, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration of Albania and Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism of Montenegro, local stakeholders and communities in both countries towards the joint goal - preserving joint Lake resources for the future generations.

Mr. Bino, vice minister of MoEFWA greeted the conference and appreciated the results of the project on the field of nature protection and sustainable development. Albanian Government is committed to continue to work for including Shkodra Lake in the Nature Heritage Fund of UNESCO.

Mr. Stankovic vice minister of MSDT appreciated the great cooperation between two countries and underlined the fact that this conference marks closing of LSIEM project but opens a new cooperation for

the future.

Mrs. Ljuca greeted in the name of the World Bank and among the results of the project she mentioned the establishment of joint structure that have undertaken joint processes for developing several important strategies and documents and have taken joint decisions for management of natural resources. This project will serve as a catalyze for future investments for sustainable development of the area and preventing pollution of the lake.

Mrs. Ademi Prefect of Shkodra appreciated as an important value of the project the cooperation between local actors which are the beneficiaries and its implementers. Investments based on community needs have given strength and tangible existence to the project.

Part of the conference was the discussion on the proposed status of the Lake as Transboundary Natural Park, by giving to the Skadar Lake Commission and its secretary more competences in management, inspection and monitoring. This proposal will be part of wider consultation with different actors and during 2013 MoEFWA and MSDT will sign a frame memorandum which will regulate the future management of the Shkodra Lake Area and strengthening of the structures.

At the end of the conference 4 working agreements were signed as part of the previous agreement signed in between Ministry of Environment, Forest and Water Administration in Albania and Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment in Montenegro respectively in 2008 and 2010.

Signing of 4 Bilateral Agreements



These agreements are based on the previous agreement signed in 2008 between Ministry of Environment Forest and Water Administration and Ministry of Tourism and Environment for the protection and Sustainable Development of Lake Skadar/Shkodra and Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of environmental protection and sustainable management of natural resources between Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment of Montenegro and Ministry of Environment Forest and Water Administration of Albania (2010).

1. Agreement of financing of Skadar/Shkodra Lake Commission, Secretariat and Working Groups established by Lake Shkodra Integrated Ecosystem Management Project

This agreement aimed to provide financing for the sustainable functioning of the Skadar/Shkodra Lake Commission, Secretariat and Working Groups starting from January 2013. By

the end of 2013 will be developed a long term sustainability and financing agreement of the Skadar/Shkodra Lake Commission, Secretariat and Working Groups.

2. Agreement on the use of Joint Monitoring Program of Skadar/Shkodra Lake and exchange of data

This agreement is aiming at a sustainable coordinated joint monitoring. Joint Monitoring Program will examine the status of flora and fauna of the lake in accordance with European legislation and international agreements (Water Framework Directive, Bird Directive, Habitat Directive, Convention on Biological Diversity, Ramsar Convention, etc). In the implementation of this Monitoring Program will be involved all scientific and research institutions to carry out annual and periodical chemical monitoring of the lake through unified sampling, methodologies and indicators; and to exchange all the data on Lake water quality and its biodiversity and publish them on the national and international monitoring reports and websites.

3. Agreement on joint use of the joint database of Lake Skadar-Shkodra

Both parties will host the Joint Data Base in IWLEARN (<http://lss.iwlearn.org>) until end of 2015 and after that period they will finance and host the maintenance

with the funds provided jointly by the commission.

The Lake Commission through its secretariat will update and provide entry of data and maintain the Joint Data Base. Skadar/Shkodra Lake Commission will provide official data from National Institutions in Albania and Montenegro and international scientific and research institutions.

4. Agreement on Joint Use of the Predictive Hydrological Model for the Skadar -Shkoder Lake Basin Area

This agreement is signed between Hydro-meteorological and Seismological Institute, Environment Protection Agency from Montenegro, Institute of Geology, Energy of Water and Environment, department of GIS and electronic archives of Waters of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Water Administration from Albania on the joint use of Predictive Hydrological Model.

Predictive Hydrological Model is an electronic database of relevant parameters in Skadar-Shkodra Lake Basin area, relevant software with licenses for electronic data management (modeling, storing, querying and similar) appurtenant hardware as well set of instructions for its use.

Public Survey

During November 2012 Milieukontakt Albania conducted a public survey with citizens of Shkodra to measure the level of public information on project implementation and effectiveness of the awareness campaign in particular. 200 calls were made randomly selected from the phone directory of Shkodra.

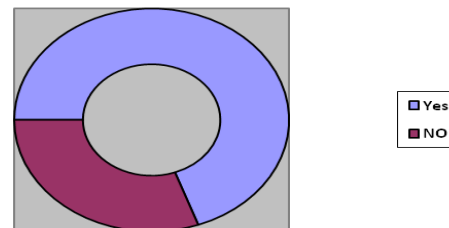
In general the analysis of the survey point out that the public is more informed on the project activities and results, especially on the interventions done by the project, and it is less informed on the joint structures.

Citizens are satisfied with the quality of the lake waters, vegetation and fish stock, but:

- Illegal fishing is still a phenomenon especially during night, even during banning season. That is why more attention should be given to enforce the law and raise capacities of the rangers.
- Constructions in the lake shore is serious problem and more awareness can be done by involving youth in activities. Thus better cooperation is needed between municipality and CSO especially when organising cleaning and awareness raising activities for the Lake, helping each other in activating more citizens;

Meanwhile, 70% of the citizens asked, were familiar with the LSIEM project. Among these, 93% were informed through local media on the implementation of project activities and 7 % have

learned from relatives, and work colleagues.



Comparing to the previous survey organised in December 2011 the knowledge regarding the joint structures and institutions that were implementing project activities was improved.

- 25% of the interviewers were known with the joint structures, Working groups, Commission and Secretariat but still they had little knowledge on their role and the position they have, compared with 5% of the interviewers familiar with joint structures in December 2011.
- 39% are known with the functionality of Fishery Management Organisation, positive results for the fishing ban during the carp spawning season, which was proved by a shortage of fish in the market. But there is still a lot to do to prevent cases of illegal fishing.
- 51% of the interviewers were familiar with Department of Protected Area and Rangers structure but the majority think that there is still room for improvement of rangers for a better protection of natural resources.

Citizens were also more familiar on the project results, activities and interventions made under the project and that is shown by the high percentage of the responses, while in Dec 2011 only 5% were known with activities and interventions in the project:

- 87% knows *the rehabilitation of the Gjuhadol Street and were satisfied with it.*
- Improvements made through the restoration of the Shiroka stream
- *90% of the interviewers know what the banning season is and benefits from fish spawning.*
- *20% of the interviewers have heard of the day of Shkodra Lake but none knows the exact date.*
- *78% of the citizens asked, have seen the activities, fairs and activities organized in Shkodra. They think that the activities and campaigns are very helpful and recommend them do be done more often and for a longer period in the future. The majority have visited the fairs, and few have been part of the cleaning activities, such as students, teachers, etc.*
- *On regard to improvement of Lake Shkodra water quality, 41% of citizens responded there is an improvement on the water quality and 15% think that the fish stock is increased, while 15% commented that the vegetation along the lake was increased.*

Complete survey can be download at the project website: <http://lss.iwlearn.org>

Meeting with Beneficiaries of LSIEM Project



On 20th of September 2012, at the premises of Ministry of Environment in the framework of the World Bank team mission visit was organized a round table with all project beneficiaries

to review and confirm the status of the completion of project activities and results. In the discussion stakeholders presented their achievement and the perceived project impact.

Sustainability of the investments done is related with the implementation of both documents prepared, engagement of ranger's team as well as protection of protected areas. Hence it comes as a necessity further qualification of ranger's team on their responsibility and techniques for protection of Shkodra Lake.

- Mr. Fatos Bundo, Director of Biodiversity Department in the MEFWA, mentioned two important aspects to be continued after the project end: financing of joint structures by both MEWFA and Shkodra Municipality and implementation of documents prepared under the project.

- **Fishery Management Organisation** has had beneficial and great support from project with technical assistance, equipment and tools for the protection of the lake by illegal hunting. In accordance with the Ministerial Order of MoEFWA, No. 348, dated 29.04.2011, "To create the possibility to collect all the fish in the first auction, Shiroka Fishery Centre (market); where will be sell conform sanitation standards" FMO has started the operation of the first point of the fish auction in the country. This auction has set institutional coordination of all local structures in the Shkodra area as well as disciplined fishing activity. Now the organization is sharing its experience and activities in fisheries management through information presented in www.omp-al.com.

- Representatives of **Fishery Department** within MEFWA stated that the project has been a very good support in the field of fish management and FMO has been identified as Albanian leader in the fish management and protection.

- **Shkodra Municipality** is one of the Lake Skadar/Shkodra project beneficiaries. Investments implemented from the project, were fulfilling requirements and needs presented by Municipality as for example rehabilitation of Gjuhadol Street and rehabilitation of two Streams in Shiroka. The Municipality has been a very active actor during the awareness raising activities organized in the frame of the project. For more strategic documents and studies prepared under project has served and will serve as a good guideline for other strategies in the future. Based on the results achieved it is very important to seek cooperation opportunities for continuation of the work done so far.

- Representative from **Directory of Protected Area** highlighted two key components, which were realized by the project based on the identified needs: Monitoring program and management Plan of Shkodra Lake. An important element during project implementation was support of rangers with adequate means for implementation and enforcement of law. A great benefit was given to department by participation in the joint working group meetings and sharing of experience with the Montenegrin institutions in regard to lake management.

Milieukontakt Albania presented its experience in project monitoring mentioning the public survey conducted with Shkodra citizens that showed that they had knowledge on the project and a high sensitivity for the problems encountered in the lake. Interventions made in Gjuhadol Street, Shiroka streams rehabilitation, banning season and the improvement of fish species during the breeding season, are aspects that citizens identify with the project.

Awareness campaigns, fairs and cleaning actions are important for the awareness raising but are important for the preservation and protection of the lake too. The operation of joint structures (WG and SLC) it is very important and the good experiences from Ohrid, Prespa can serve as a model for their sustainability.

Promotional Materials

Several documents are prepared in the frame of LSIEM project by the domestic and international consultants. The documents are presented and distributed to the respective public institutions and can also be downloaded in the project web site <http://lss.iwlearn.org/>. Besides, several promotional materials are designed and made public like:

-Catalogue on natural and cultural attractions in Lake Shkodra

-2013 Calendar

-Videos:

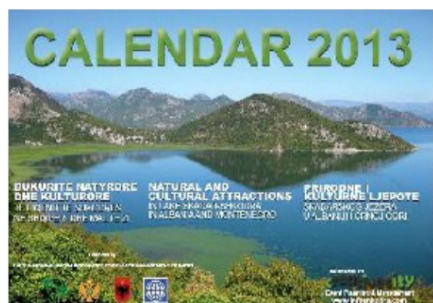
Natural beauties and cultural attractions in Lake Skadar
Protect the Lake Skadar from pollutions
Sustainable fisheries on Lake Skadar

These promotional materials are presented and distributed to the respective public institutions and can also be downloaded in the project web site <http://lss.iwlearn.org/>. For more information on project activities you can also visit :

www.infoshkodra.com

www.facebook.com ("Creative City Shkoder AL")

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZJSMjeO9hI>



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This publication is prepared by **Milieukontakt Albania** in the frame of monitoring and evaluation consultancy of LSIEMP activities. Milieukontakt Albania is active since 2000. The long-term goal is "to develop a strong and democratically organized environmental NGO movement. This means a movement that has a high visibility in society, is able to raise public awareness and is capable of playing an important role in policy- and decision-making processes, on a local, national and international level"

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