

# Transboundary Cooperation through Management of Shared Natural Resources. SHKODRA/SKADAR LAKE



IV INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM  
Transboundary Waters Management,  
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# Introduction

□ Albania is located in south-eastern Europe, bordering the Adriatic Sea and Ionian Sea, between Greece and Montenegro.

□ Albania territory is 28,748 square kilometres with approximately 3.5 inhabitants.

□ **Albania:** is official country name in the international level, which drives from the Illyrian tribe of Albans. Nationally it is called “SHQIPERI”



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# *Content*

1. Site Description

Goal and Objectives for Cooperation & Management

3. Program Components

4. Achievements

5. Lessons Learned

The key solution is in our mind

# General description of Shkodra Lake

## Geographical Position:

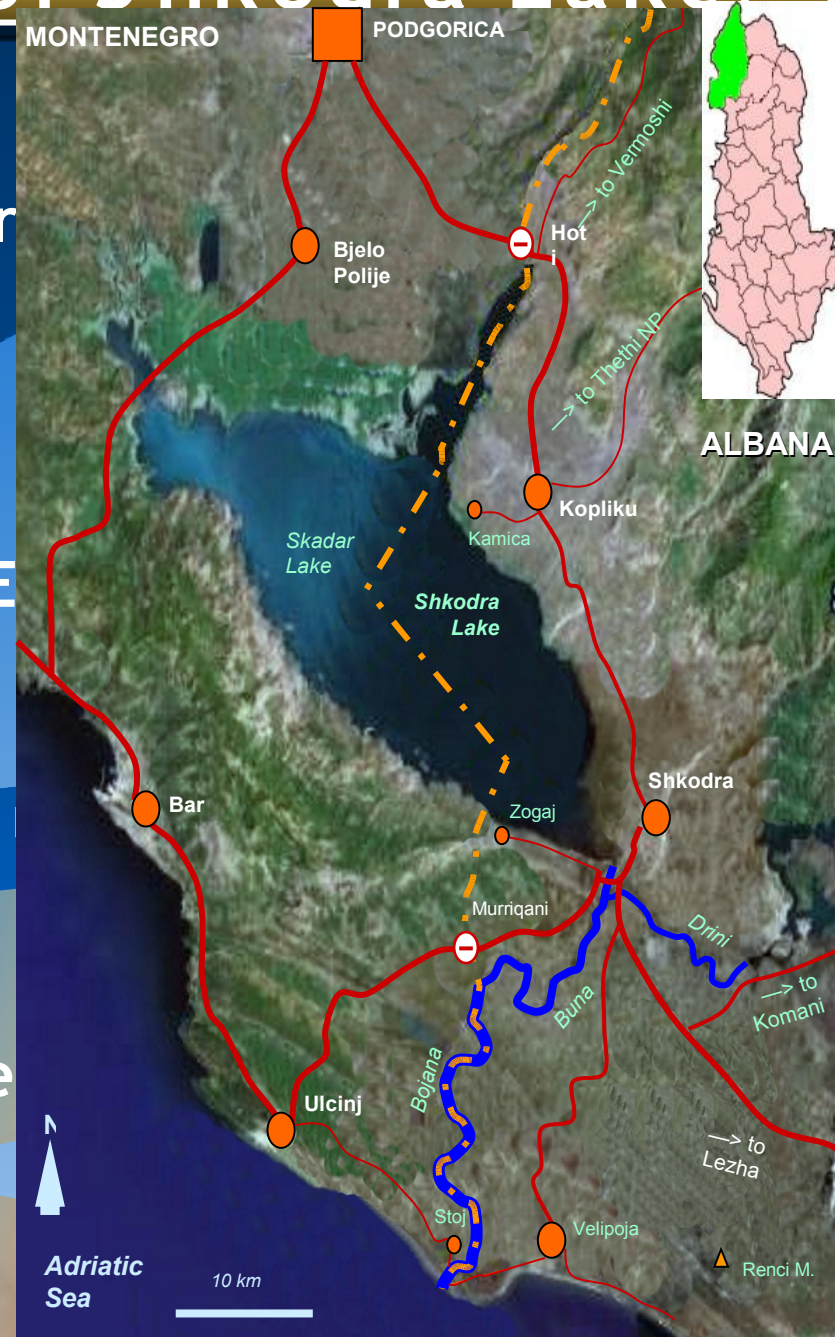
- Location: In the Zeta - Shkodra Valley, between Montenegro and Albania

The region: App. 350,000  
(150,000 in AL, 200,000 in MNE)

Shkodra (Albania, 115,000 inhab.)

Podgorica (Montenegro, 160,000 inhab.)

The climate: Mediterranean  
(mild/rainy winters, hot summers)  
max. 840 mm in Nov-Dec)





# Site Description

## Area:

- 370 km<sup>2</sup> - summer
- 540 km<sup>2</sup> - winter
- 475 km<sup>2</sup> - average

## Shoreline - 168 km

Depth: 5 - 9 m, max=60m (

Volume: 1890,95 m<sup>3</sup> · 10<sup>6</sup>

National Park since 1983. (

Managed Nature Reserve

Ramsar Site since 1995. (MN)

Ramsar Site 2006 (AL)



# Objectives and the Vision

1. Establish Cooperation in management and protection of key trans-boundary sites
2. Cross-border exchanges between local organizations and People in the interest of managing shared natural resources
3. Promotion of technical networks on regional level

## GOAL

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

## VISION

Cross-border protected area of Shkodra Lake and Buna River, that provides sustainable development and benefits for local population”

# Multi Stakeholders Approach

- **Forum of Shkodra Lake 200**
- MoE representatives
- Municipalities of AL-MNE
- University of Shkodra & Po
- REA, DBWA, RDoF, RDoFA, RDOE
- Institute for Nature Protection
- National Park of LS
- Environment Experts
- Education Sector
- Centre for research and protection
- NGOs
- Commercial Room/Business



*Operational  
Performance  
of the program*

# Main Directions

- 1 - Program / Capacity Building
- 2 - Dialogue & Partnership Strategy
- 3 - Education
- 4 - Small Scale Investments

*Strategic  
Direction*

1. Tools

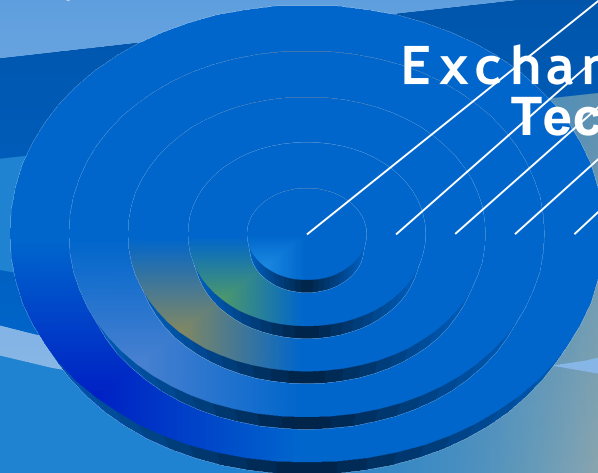
Studies & Strategies

Trainings

Exchange Experiences

Technical Support

LEAPs





# *Dialogue and Partnership Strategy*

## **JOINT Studies**

- Bibliography of SL
- Report on Risks and Potentials of LS
- Biodiversity database (fauna & flora)
- Study on Roles and Responsibilities of Lake Stakeholders
- Local Environmental Action Planning

## **AL-MNE Joint Agreements**

- MoU signed between two MoEs (May 2003)
- Statement of recognition "Day of Shkodra Lake)  
MoEs
- Statement of Cooperation between Municipalities (Apr `06)
- Transboundary Forum of LS Declaration (Feb 06)
- MoU on transboundary institutional building (Feb `2008)

# Small Scale

## Investments/Grants

1. Grants for NGOs local and cooperative one
2. Revitalization of hand-crafting products tradition.
3. Improving public spaces
4. Revitalization of the forestry in pilot area (Lake shore)
5. Improving waste management system in Shkodra City
6. Involving environmental education as a new school curricula
7. Improving sewage networking in pilot settlement.



# Education

Education as a starting point for achievements was

Focused on the following topics:

- ☐ Waters as the living source for the community;
- ☐ Wise use of natural resources;
- ☐ Sustainable development of the environment;
- ☐ Eco-tourism development as alternative activity in the region
- ☐ Pollutants and the man behaviour



Multi-media educational resource pack called "GREEN PACK" has been prepared REC, adopted by the MoSE and started implementation at 2006 in National level

# Lessons Learned

## LESSON # 1:

One can build joint responsibility for trans-boundary natural resources only by mobilising an as wide range of players as possible, means that a flexible and process-oriented approach is required to maintain their active participation

## LESSON # 2:

- When complex issues like the management of shared natural resources are addressed, capacity building becomes a similarly complex and permanent process entailing a wide range of methods and targeting not only institutions, but also individuals and entire communities.

## LESSON # 3:

Constant trust and confidence in the fairness of dealings within the project is precondition for maintaining an authentic trans-boundary dialogue on shared natural resources. It requires transparency and openness, and a systematic approach to maintaining these.





## LESSON #4:

- Trans-boundary cooperation mechanisms can become sustainable on the long term, when they turn to be an internal value of local actors, local institutions are mandated through bottom-up processes to use these mechanisms, and local actors receive the possibility to address the future of their achievements and prepare for it.

## LESSON #5:

- Synergies among actions happening inside or outside the project or at different levels – local, national, international – are just as important as the actions themselves.

## LESSON #6:

- Raising issues concerning the management of shared natural resources can mobilise local authorities: give them new opportunities to learn, create new mandates to facilitate trans-boundary processes, and underline their importance concerning local developments















Thank you!

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