



Lake Shkoder-Skadar

INTEGRATED ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT PROJECT

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4th Meeting of Skadar/Shkodra Lake

The event took place on 7th of October 2011 in Grand Hotel Europa in Shkodra in the presence of local and national media. Participants in the meeting were members of Skadar/Shkodra Lake Commission (SLC) and project coordinators from both countries.

Mr. Sajmir Hoxha -Director of Biodiversity in the MoEFA in Albania and Chair of SLC in his welcoming speech expressed gratitude for Montenegrin counterparts for their cooperation in the protection and management of Shkodra lake. He also emphasized the importance of Lake Skadar Integrated Management Project (LSIEMP) results, which have established a joint platform for common management of the lake. Mr. Hoxha also thanked all the

consultants and stakeholders involved in drafting of common documents and in the implementation of project activities.

Mr. Sinisha Stanković, Vice Minister of Tourism and Sustainable Development of

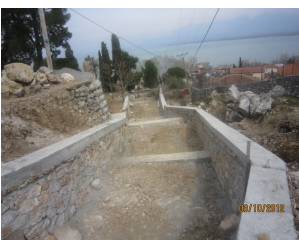


Montenegro expressed his appreciation for the work done for establishment of cooperation among both ministries in the project implementation. He stressed the importance of continuing and increasing such cooperation in the future.

The meeting discussed and approved several documents produced in the frame of LSIEMP project as Predictive Hydrological Model, Legal Framework Review and Joint Monitoring program. Among decisions taken in the meeting of SLC were:

- Preparation and forward of a joint letter to the all local research institutions to reconfirm current members of joint Working Groups and/or appointing of new members.

- Preparation of a bilateral agreement between the government of Albania and Montenegro to achieve goals and objectives for coordination of joint activities for protection and sustainable management of Shkodra Lake basin.



World Bank Country Manager Mrs. Kseniya Lvovsky visits the region of Shkodra



The World Bank Albania Country Manager, Ms. Kseniya Lvovsky visited the region of Shkodra. The purpose of the visit was to see the implementation of several World Bank financed projects and deliver a lecture at the University Luigj Gurakuqi. During her visit she was accompanied by Mr. Lorenc Luka, the Mayor of Shkodra as well as members

of project teams. Ms. Lvovsky visited some of the investments financed by these projects including reforestation of Taraboshi Mountain with 45.000 seedling of wild pine, the rehabilitation of stream in Shiroka, rehabilitation of Gjuhadol cultural street, and met with representatives of the Fishermen Management Organization who benefited

from new equipment financed by the World Bank. In addition, Ms. visited a new laboratory in the Faculty of Natural Sciences in Shkodra University, financed by the World Bank. As part of her tour to several universities in Albania, Ms. Lvovsky gave a lecture for the students for the Faculty of Economics. In her lecture, she was focused on the recent economic developments in South-East Europe and the World Bank program in the country



World Bank Office Tirana

Success story

Awareness raising campaign for protection of water quality of Shkodra Lake

LSIEMP hosts a site visit during International Waters Conference 6

The Sixth GEF Biennial International Waters Conference (a signature learning event) was organized in Dubrovnik in 17-20 October 2011. It was an active training and experience-sharing event during which the participants not only summarized the progress achieved but also looked into the future. The Conference was organized under the slogan Raising the Bar: 20 Years of GEF Transboundary Water Results. Part of the Conference's objective it was promotion of public-private partnerships in support of better water management and identification of modalities for their development.

In the conference participated 300 participants, including GEF IW project managers, representatives of beneficiary countries, non-governmental organizations, transboundary management institutions, UN agencies and the private sector.

The Conference innovation was participant-directed workshops and round-table discussions, innovation



market place with brochures and CDs prepared, as well as technical site visits to multiple GEF IW projects in a transboundary context around Dubrovnik

and in Lake Shkodra/Skadar between Montenegro and Albania. LSIEMP was active throughout IWC6 activities, including distribution of promotional materials on its achievements and hosting all conference participants in



an unforgettable site visit in Lake Skadar-Shkodra. This technical site visit in the Skadar (Montenegrin) - Shkoder (Albanian) Lake Basin offered participants the chance to visit and study the most advanced active GEF IW project in the region.

This transboundary project offers many lessons of interest, particularly for freshwater basin projects, on various issues, including inter alia:

- Institutional cooperation and establishment of joint transboundary commissions
- Sustainable approaches to economic development
- Tourism and fisheries
- Investments to stimulate pollution reduction activities
- Village-level wastewater treatment and buffer vegetation restoration.

Predictive Hydrological Model

On 27-29 September 2011 an **Workshop for presentation of Predictive Hydrological Model** was held in the premises of Ministry of Tourism and Sustainable Development, in Podgorica, Montenegro. First the two days of this workshop were reserved for presentation of technical issues of the Hydrological Model and software for the experts present in the event. In the last day the model was presented to the representatives of civil society participating in the workshop. The study contained main findings from the development of Predictive Hydrological Model for Shkodra Lake basin (Albania and Montenegro).

The model itself is subdivided into 6 model components that shape basic subsystems of water cycle starting from the atmosphere to the surface of the rivers and underwater hydrology and dynamic of the lake. First element is a watershed hydrological model, composed of a Limited Area Meteorological Model coupled to a Land Surface Model and a Surface Hydrological Model to stimulate precipitation, Moraca's surface water outlet plus other surface water outlets of the Lake as well as other general infiltrated water in the ground. Second element is Skadar-Shkoder Lake model which in cooperation with river hydrology stimulate water levels, currents and temperatures. Third element is Zeta plain underground water model which contain two underground water models for two alluvial areas of the region and respectively lowlands of Zeta and Buna. Fourth element is Drini river model downstream the hydropower plant of Vau i Dejes in Albania. Fifth element is Bojana river model and sixth element is Bojana Plain underground water model. All these models are in cooperation with daily frequency times.

After the flooding of 2010-2011 of Shkodra region and sub areas, these models assume an immense forecast for the region and help with the taking of minute preventive measures.

Donor Conference in Montenegro

Second donors exchange meeting in the framework of LSIEMP was held on December 13, 2011 in Podgorica, at the premises of the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism of Montenegro. The aim of the second donors exchange meeting was to meet with all active implementation agencies/donors that have interest on the Skadar lake region in order to exchange info on their achievements, plans and experiences and to build future activities based on each other results. Moreover, one of the goals of the meeting was to help avoidance of any possible overlapping and promote, as much as possible, linkage and synergy between different projects in the Skadar lake area. After welcoming speech from project directors: Mr Sinsa Stankovic and Mr. Sajmir Hoxha, representatives of international donor institutions/organizations as well as project coordinators were invited in the podium to present their current and planned activities on the Skadar/Shkoder Lake from their ongoing project portfolio. The United Nation Development program in Montenegro (UNDP), German International Cooperation program in Montenegro (GIZ), Regional Environmental Center for the south-eastern Europe, (REC Montenegro), Albanian Development Fund

and YEM Programme External Collaborator at UNDP Albania were present during the event.



LSIEMP World Bank team, Milieukontakt Albania and the Secretariat of the Skadar/Shkoder Commission was also present, adding to the overall successfulness of the meeting.

Novak Cadjenovic
LSIEM Project Coordinator, MNE

Awareness campaign for protection of water quality of Shkodra Lake

During September-December 2011, "Creative City" and "Albanian Association for Sustainable Development" in cooperation with Shkodra Municipality and other local stakeholders implemented the local public awareness campaign to protect lake water quality which was financed by LSIEMP. For three consecutive weekends they organized demonstrative activities for cleaning Shkodra Lake involving local school's children and other relevant stakeholders like Municipality, FMO, Re-



gional Environmental Agency etc. The aim of such cleaning activity was to increase the awareness of locals and their contribution for the protection of water quality of the Lake. Children and teacher of Shkodra's 9-year schools, volunteered in this joint actions: "I protect the water quality of Shkodra Lake—

Protecting this great natural wealth and stop waste dumping in the Lake". As stated by the project coordinator of the awareness campaign Mr. Armando Lohja: "*School children are not part of a specialized cleaning enterprise, and cant not be able to clean all the lake shore but for sure they will convey the message that all together we can achieve this. Impurities in the surface can be removed in one day but the ones along shore and inland lake are difficult to remove. We should be careful for preserve the water quality of Shkodra Lake*".

Within a short period of time the view of Shkodra lake shore was improved and several plastic bags with waste such as paper, plastic and glass were gathered and deposited.

Cleaning activities were reflected in local TV and accompanied with frequent promotional messages through a TV spot as well as in social networks like, Youtube, Facebook and Creative City web page. The message was a direct appeal to the citizens of Shkodra city and surroundings to clean, protect and maintain cleaned the common wealth, Shkodra lake.

At the same time an informative brochure on types of pollutants and ways of reducing them including protection of buffer areas was distributed all around the lake on the Albanian side and in the areas where the main public institutions, businesses, schools were situated.

Information on the public awareness campaign can be found in the web sites of "Creative City" and LSIEMP, section archive, as well as in the Facebook account of "Creative City Shkoder AL".



Armando Lohja
Creative City

Public survey on project visibility

During December 2011 in the frame of Monitoring and Evaluating of LSIEM project, Milieukontakt conducted a public survey with citizens of Shkodra on their awareness of the project LSIEMP in general.

50 randomly selected (from the phone directory of Shkodra) calls were made.

This survey aimed to measure the level of public information on the project implementation and information offered by the development of the awareness campaign.

About 90% of interviewed citizens were familiar with the development of the LSIEM project and the bilateral agreement between Albanian Government and the government of Montenegro for the joint management of Shkodra Lake. Among these, 80% were informed through local media on the implementation of project activities.

While 40% of respondents pointed out that during November-December there have been regular ads and commercials in TV in the framework of local awareness campaign developed by Creative City, a campaign that aimed to promote water conservation of Shkodra Lake.

While there was less knowledge regarding the joint structures set up, activities and interventions made under the project. The majority of interviewed citizens were very supportive of the fishing ban during the carp spawning season, which was proven by a shortage of fish in the market. Fishery Management Organization has played a very important role in preventing illegal fishing and enforcement of licensing of fishermen for the exercise of regular activity.

It is interesting to mention that during the survey was shown interest from citizens to learn more about this project, the structures involved and its achievements. All of them stated that it is very good that work has started on the joint management structure of the lake, which is a source of tourism development, economic growth and strengthening cross-border cooperation and exchange. Also through calls it was made possible to give to the citizens additional information on activities, investments developed under the project, as Rehabilitation of Gjuhadoli Street; reforestation of Tarabosh Mountain; Establishment of Protected Areas Administration; the establishment and operation of SLC and thematic working groups, etc.

Information

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/>. Other documents are under the process of drafting and consultations.

For more information on project activities you can also visit :

- ◇ www.infoshkodra.com
- ◇ http://www.infoshkodra.com/images/stories/Broshura_Fushates_se_Ndergjegjesimit.pdf
- ◇ [www.facebook.com \("Creative City Shkoder AL"\)](http://www.facebook.com/Creative_City_Shkoder_AL)
- ◇ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZJSMjeO9hI>
- ◇ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nR8uk6cP20>

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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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