

**The basis for
management
of River Drim
basin :
Spreading of
the Lake
Ohrid
experience**



The Context

- **The context for transboundary environmental governance must be sustainable development with the full integration of 3 pillars : environment , economic and social**
- **The challenges of transboundary management highlights the need for decision – making processes that go beyond the borders**
- **Building institutions of stability and environmental governance in transboundary river basins requires an entire spectrum of specific measures**

Attention

- **Effective public participation in environmental governance is fundamental to the sustainable management of shared natural resources**
- **River basin management is the central concept employed by the European WFD**
- **SAA Art.80 par.3 – “special attention will have to be devoted to measures that can foster cooperation between Macedonia and its neighboring countries”**

Participation

- **Involvement of citizens and stakeholders is a key element of effective , efficient and legitimate environmental governance.**
- **It is recommended that there are appropriate documents to develop public participation strategies**
- **The national laws of the countries and international treaties set the framework for public participation exercise , however good practice goes beyond these legal requirements.**

Experiences

- The ongoing projects in the basin could be used to draw lessons and conclusions to apply for the entire basin and even wider
- The approach should include analysis of the experiences gained from the three major transboundary projects on environmental management : Lake Ohrid Conservation Project , Transboundary Prespa Park , Integrated monitoring of Lake Shkodra
- LOCP – first , oldest , biggest with best results

The activities under the LOCP - strong political process of establishing the sustainable management of the natural resources in transboundary aspect.

Cooperation in protection of natural resources (environment as a vehicle) - is the easiest way to establish political cooperation in transboundary regions , which is good basic for prevention of some potential conflicts



Achievement under LOCP

- Establishment of **joint institutions** for the project management (LOMB, ISTF, MTF , WMC)
- Unification of procedures for water monitoring in Lake Ohrid and its tributaries (**Joint Protocols for sampling** analyzing and quality assurance)
- Improvement **environmental legislation**, regulations, standards with EU Directives;
- **First Joint State of Environment Report** on LO and its watershed, contribution of 50 scientists and experts of both countries.
- New **Monitoring Laboratory** on the Albanian side
- **Joint Agreement** for the Protection and Sustainable Develop of Lake Ohrid and its Watershed, that would establish an international LO Management Agency, empowered with legal authority in Albania, Macedonia, and in the future, Greece.
- Many Joint NGO-s projects for public **awareness and participation**, including the establishment of 21 June as “Lake Ohrid Day”
- **The twining** of Pogradec, Ohrid and Struga towns

Joint Agreement

- **Assure an equal and integrated protection as well as sustainable development for the Lake Ohrid and its watershed, according to the European Union standards**
- **Give to the Lake and its watershed the status of World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the status of “Biosphere Reserve” of UNESCO;**
- **Prepare the conditions for the approval of the Council of Europe’s proposal to designate the Prespa-Ohrid area as one of Euro-regions in Southeastern Europe.**

Joint Agreement – Joint bodies Committee and Secretariat

A bilateral body, the **Committee**:

- **Monitors the ongoing of the activities carried out for the protection of the lake and its watershed;**
- **Suggests to the Parties the necessary measures and activities for the implementation of the Agreement, invites them to cooperate, to coordinate and carry joint projects;**
- **Evident actions and attitudes of the Parties in contradiction with this Agreement.**
- **The Committee is assisted by the **Secretariat** while fulfilling its duties.**

Spreading the experience on River Drim basin

- **To identify strategies to operationalize the necessary changes at the local, national, and international levels and across sectors.**
- **Pilot projects should be implemented progressively downstream in the Drim River Basin**
- **To support investments in scientific and technical data collection, monitoring, and modeling focused on management issues that cross boundaries**
- **Foster the development of local sub-watershed organizations that could share information, identify and prioritize demonstration projects, and assist in developing the Strategic Action Plan for the entire Drin River Basin**
- **To contribute to the completion of the Drin River Basin Transboundary Diagnostic Analyses**