



“Engaging civil societies in harmonization of actions for improving the conservation and management effectiveness of Lake Skadar”

Fostering partnership and dialogue among local and transboundary stakeholders

NGO GREEN HOME

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The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund is a joint initiative of the Global Environment Facility, l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, the Government of Japan, the MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank. A fundamental goal is to ensure civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation.

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Introduction

Skadar Lake is the largest lake on the Balkan Peninsula. It is a natural border between the two countries, Albania and Montenegro. Skadar Lake Basin belonging to the Adriatic water basin, and covers an area of 5490 km². It shelters a high diversity of plants and animals and belongs to the area of regional importance with full variety of species, habitats and living landscapes. In this area has been registered around 930 species of algae, 497 vascular plants, 430 species of zooplankton and microfauna, 53 species of fish and 51 species of herpetofauna, 282 birds species, 50 mammals species, which contain a total of 2293 species and tells about it's incredible natural values and as such is subject for the national (National Park Skadar Lake) and international protection (Ramsar site, EMERALD, IPA, IBA, etc.).



Great investments and stakeholders involvement at the lake but no concrete improvements at the lake!

It is estimated that in the past 10 years in the area of Skadar Lake was invested over 25 million euro, while there are still many threats at the Lake, to the unimpaired extent, mostly related to the illegal construction, illegal hunting and fishing, disturbance of protected and endangered species, unplanned urban zone development, fragmented approach to the management of different activities (tourism, fisheries, land use, etc.) One of the main reasons for this is lacking of will of authorities to apply integrative management approach and coordinate among them. Existing actions of the national and international organizations doesn't have a high impact due to the fact that authorities eventually endorse projects but often not serious about implementing the results of the project and follow up with it, under their responsibilities. In addition and since on Skadar Lake are present a large number of national and international organizations, their work is not synchronized to the extent

appropriate, which often results in the activities overlapping or making similar or identical strategic, planning, methodical and other documents.

Solution for bringing changes

In order to adjust future activities and identify priorities for action NGO Green Home, NGO Center for Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (CEED) and University Donja Gorica (UDG), intends to organize two related activities, which should contribute to the more clear understanding of the situation, and merge and straightforward the efforts of all stakeholders to tackle priority issues on Skadar Lake.

1. Workshop for identification of the priority Skadar Lake issues and partnership development

Following the realization of the project, Green Home with partners organized a two-day workshop to involve CSOs and synchronize various conservation and nature based management actions planned by different stakeholder groups at Skadar Lake area.

The workshop helped to the participants to identify priority problems and actions that should be undertaken, which analyzed, planned and possible partnerships among organizations.

At the end of the workshop participants 1) Got a clearer idea and discussed the Skadar Lake past investments, current management situation and most evident biodiversity threats and their related impact 2) Had identified most important conservation and management priorities of Lake Skadar at local, regional and national level 3) Got common understanding for the CEPF investment strategy 4) Based on identified priority actions, established partnerships and worked jointly on future project proposals development.

More information at: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/0zmlcs3c8m34gw7/EA9r9B2lmt>

2. Study visit for all stakeholders to the similar area of Skadar Lake for gathering successful experiences in transboundary ecosystem management

Green Home organized Study trip to the Prespa Lake in order to improve knowledge of CSOs and managers about mainstreaming sustainable development concept in practice into similar to the Skadar Lake - area of Mikri Prespa Lake.

The Study visit was organized at Prespa Lake in collaboration with Society for the Protection of Prespa, and provided to the participants better understanding and gathering practical experiences about good nature conservation and management practices. Issues elaborated



during the visit include: 1) collaboration of management authorities at transboundary level (Albania, Macedonia and Greece) and legal set up 2) planning and implementation of the actions for priority species and habitats (monitoring systems, infrastructure etc.) and 3) cooperation in fisheries, agriculture and water management in the basin of Lake Prespa etc.

At the end of the workshop participants were expected to have 1) Improved knowledge of a better model of sustainable development and management practices at the Mikri Prespa lake 2) Discussed similarities and differences in those practices comparing Prespa and Skadar Lake 3) Worked on identification of positive management practices and initiatives which could be replicated to the Skadar Lake.

More information at: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/0zmlcs3c8m34gw7/EA9r9B2lmt>

