

# Spreading the Lake Ohrid Project experience

Transfer from Lake  
to River basin  
management



# Athens declaration (May 2003)

- \* “It is recommended that a Southeastern Europe Transboundary River Basin and Lake Basin Management Program be developed as follow up action to the Athens Conference.

This program would build on the implementation process of the European Union Water Framework Directive and complement and draw lessons from the ongoing Danube River Basin Program and Lake Ohrid Conservation Project.” (recommendation 2)

- \* “.....Lake Ohrid provide example of successful bilateral cooperation for management of a shared resource” (par.8 of declaration)

# Shared water , future , knowledge .....

- Strengthening **joint institutions** for the project management , capacity building (LOMB, ISTF, MTF , WMC)
- Development of cooperative Monitoring program (**Joint Protocols for sampling** analyzing and quality assurance , (National monitoring frameworks)
- **First Joint State of Environment Report** on LO and its watershed, contribution of 50 scientists and experts of both countries.
- **Joint action Plan for the watershed** adopted by the joint Board in draft version – strong stakeholders involvement
- Improvement **environmental legislation** , standards with EU Directives; New Law on water ...
- **Political commitment** ( TPP 2000 , “twinning “ of the cities)
- Education , **public awareness** ( Lake Ohrid Day , June 21th)

# Lake Ohrid : joint management challenges

- **Joint fishery management**

Proposed fishery ban , failure of joint action between to countries regarding ban , management plan needed incl. economic and social aspects

- **Outflow of the water**

Water from the lake used for electricity production so dry period request immediate withdrawal of the water which can threaten biodiversity of the Lake

# Development : From Athens to Berlin

## Legal instrument

- \* Signing the **Bilateral Agreement** on protection and sustainable development of Lake Ohrid watershed (Prime Ministers June 17<sup>th</sup> 2004)
- \* Ratification of the Agreement (Parliaments of Albania and Macedonia Feb./July 2005)
- \* Implementation of the Agreement (started September 2005 )

# **Bilateral Agreement – main actions**

- **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*

- **Monitors the ongoing activities carried out for the protection of the lake and its watershed;**
- **Suggests the Parties the necessary measures and activities for the implementation of the Agreement, invites them to cooperate, to coordinate and carry out 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 (est. Nov 18,2005)**

# **Spreading the experience on River Drim/Drin basin – Facing the challenges**

- **To identify strategies to operationalize the necessary changes at the local, national, and international levels and across sectors.**
- **To support investments in scientific and technical data collection, monitoring, and modeling focused on management issues that cross boundaries**
- **To 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**

# Threats in the river Drim/Drin basin

## \* **Economic activities :**

Agriculture and forestry ; Hydropower generation ; mining ; gravel extraction

## \* **Threatened biodiversity**

Lack of institutional framework , water balance ; erosion ; waste water and solid waste

# How to manage the challenges : Transferring of experience

- **River Drim/Drin Basin**

- TDA would be carried and a multi- sector SAP would be developed in consultation with stakeholders
- Demonstration activities would also be designed

- **Lake Ohrid Project**

- Existing State of Environment Report and already established cooperation -scientists and stakeholders
- Positive experience in implementation of CGP for pilot projects in the watershed

# How to manage the challenges : Transferring of experience

- **River Drim/Drin basin**
  - Upfront consensus from all riparian countries towards establishing Drim/Drin Basin Committee , status , business plan
- **Lake Ohrid Project**
  - Support from Bilateral Committee and national watershed committees established in the watershed

# Using positive momentum

- **Bridging the gap between LOCP and IWM TDRB – government contribution, MOEPP**
- **Strengthening bilateral institutions – Committee and Secretariat**
- **Capitalize on the momentum – draw new investments**
- **Improve political relations in the region**
- **Ensure sustainable development , economic and social benefit**
- **Changing behavior , building the trust**