



Capacity Building Workshop on “Integrated Management of Shared Lakes Basins”

**16-18 July 2008
Ohrid, FYR Macedonia**

Concept Note



Introduction – the *Petersberg Process Phase II and Athens Declaration Process*

The **Petersberg Process** is an initiative jointly coordinated by the German Government and the World Bank, launched in March 1998. Under Phase I of the process a ministerial level roundtable was held at Petersberg, Germany that resulted in the "Petersberg Declaration" which supports "water as a catalyst for cooperation." This was followed by roundtables of senior level experts on transboundary river basin and lake management (Berlin), lessons learned from management of transboundary waters in the Baltic Sea Region (Vilnius), experience in the Rhine River Basin (Bonn); and a special meeting on transboundary water management to support preparation of the World Bank Water Resources Strategy (Berlin).

Phase II of the Petersberg Process focuses on the concrete implementation of transboundary water management in catchment areas in Southeastern Europe (SEE) and is intended to merge current developments and to highlight options for future cooperation in transboundary water management (rivers, lakes and groundwater). Phase II was launched with a Roundtable in Berlin in December 2005 that brought together national representatives from the region as well as representatives of international organizations. It was confirmed that actions in Southeastern Europe are needed for:

- institutional strengthening and capacity building as a basic condition for effective cooperation on transboundary water resources management;
- improving the conditions for investments to support cooperative water resources management.

The **Athens Declaration Process**, jointly coordinated by the Government of Greece and the World Bank, was launched during the major International Conference, "Sustainable Development for Lasting Peace: Shared Waters, Shared Future, Shared Knowledge", 6-7 May 2003, Athens, Greece. The Conference was an important element of the Hellenic Presidency of the European Union.

The "Athens Declaration concerning Shared Water, Shared Future and Shared Knowledge" provides a framework for a long-term process to support cooperative activities for the management of shared water resources specifically in the SEE and Mediterranean regions. The Athens Declaration Process is intended to assist SEE countries, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, to prepare Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and water efficiency plans for major river basins and lakes, including a range of complementary interventions, with a coordinated mechanism to allow for exchange of information and experience between activities.

The two processes are linked in order to generate synergies and maximize the outcomes for the benefit of the SEE region, rather than duplicate activities and consequently efforts. The **joint *Petersberg Process Phase II and Athens Declaration Process*** has become a reference for many other processes and activities in the region. The Process would complement European Union (EU) integration processes, the Stabilisation and Association process of the European Union and other ongoing initiatives in the region. It contributes directly to the scope and objectives of the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI) and the GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystems.

Key Steps in the Process

In addition to the two aforementioned meetings that launched the Petersberg Process and the Athens Declaration Process key events were:

- The Berlin Roundtable, "Protection and Sustainable Use of Transboundary Waters in South-Eastern Europe", Berlin, Germany 5-7 December 2005 that launched the joint Petersberg Process – Phase II and Athens Declaration Process for Southeastern Europe.
- The side event "Transboundary water cooperation in Southeastern Europe: a key to development and security" that was organized on the occasion of the Sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" in Belgrade, on 11 October 2007, co-organised with UNECE and the Hellenic Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works and co-sponsored by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency.

Three more International Roundtables were organized during 2005 -2007:

- The Ohrid Roundtable, "Integrated Management of Shared Lake Basins in Southeastern Europe", Ohrid, FYR Macedonia, 12-14 October 2006, jointly organized by GWP-Med and the Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee, financed by GEF IW:LEARN;
- The Sava Roundtable, "Principles for Multipurpose Water Management in the Sava River Basin", Zagreb, Croatia, 15-17 November 2006, organized by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety with the cooperation of the International Sava River Basin Commission, the World Bank, GEW IW:LEARN and GWP-Med.

- The Slovenia Roundtable, “Integrated Management of Shared Groundwater in Southeastern Europe”, Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia, 14-16 November 2007, jointly organized by GWP-Med and the Slovenian Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, in cooperation with the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), the World Bank and the GEF IW:LEARN.

Objective

The main objective is to build capacity and share experience on IWRM, and to develop IWRM plans for the shared water bodies in SEE as key elements of the development process as well as a response to the targets of the 2002 Johannesburg Summit.

Principles of the Process

- ✓ Provides a dialogue forum for identification and discussion of new ideas and challenges in transboundary water management in Southeastern Europe;
- ✓ Supports measures to obtain the political, economic and environmental benefits that may be realized through effective cooperation in the management of transboundary waters;
- ✓ Focuses on a set of key areas and conduct forums at an increasingly local level to facilitate a broader range of participants;
- ✓ The Process is not directly supporting investments; however, the exchange of ideas and experience would support the creation of conditions that enable investment activities.

Priority Areas of Focus

The following are the six complementary Areas of Focus of the Process:

- ✓ Integrated water resources management
- ✓ Transboundary groundwater management
- ✓ Multi-purpose water resources management
- ✓ Water governance, public participation and civil engagement
- ✓ Financial resource mobilization and management
- ✓ Linkage to European integration processes

Geographical Focus

The ‘countries of focus’ are Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia. Neighbouring countries – Greece, Hungary, Moldova, Slovenia and Turkey – will be included where relevant.

Partners in the Process

Activities are primarily supported by the Governments of Germany and Greece and the World Bank. GWP-Med provides technical and administrative assistance. Organizations and Institutions having experience and working in the field of transboundary water resources management, such as UNESCO, UNESCO-IHP / International Shared Aquifers Resource Management Programme (ISARM), UNESCO Chair and International Network of Water-Environment Centres for the Balkans (UNESCO Chair/INWEB), and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), as well as key stakeholders from the countries of focus are collaborating partners. Synergies with active institutions, processes, initiatives and projects supported by GEF, International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and donor countries, in the field of transboundary water management at the international, regional and national level, are being developed.

GEF IW:LEARN is supporting synergy in the Petersberg Process Phase II and Athens Declaration Process, and contributions of practical experience from GEF projects working in transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwater in the SEE region as well as elsewhere in the world.

Background material and information on the the Petersberg Process – Phase II and Athens Declaration Process, GEF IW:LEARN–Activity D2 and transboundary water resources management in Southeastern Europe, are available at the Transboundary Waters Information Exchange Network for Southeastern Europe website (www.watersee.net).

Background

With 90% of the territory of South Eastern European (SEE) countries falling within shared water basins, the effective management of transboundary water bodies is of particular importance for the region. Shared basins of major importance include the:

- Drin River¹ basin and its three sub-basins, Prespa², Ohrid and Shkoder³. These form a hydrographical network that lies on the territories of Albania, FYR Macedonia, Greece, Kosovo (Territory under interim United Nations administration) and Montenegro;
- Sava River Basin, an important tributary of the Danube River, shared between Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia.

Transcending most political and administrative boundaries, the available water must be shared among individuals, economic sectors, intrastate jurisdictions and sovereign nations. There are numerous obstacles in achieving these aims. Except for these deriving from the interdependences that are created between different uses (fisheries, agriculture, hydropower generation, water supply, tourism etc.), there exist different priorities and interests in each country as well as different policies.

Management of the shared water bodies have been in large subject to the legal and regulatory frameworks and institutional settings of the littoral countries. The policies and legal and institutional frameworks are under an on-going revision process with the basin countries being at different stages. EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) is a key driving force with respect to the water resources management. Nevertheless, considerable gaps exist and implementation of the laws and furthermore the full approximation to the EU standards will need time and resources. Implementation limitations are linked among others to the development of sufficient regulatory frameworks in several areas and the institutional, technical as well as human capacities.

The socio-economic conditions in the basin countries and the areas of the different shared water bodies are similar and so are the challenges for integrated water resources and ecosystem management. Transboundary cooperation for the management the shared water bodies is in place in some cases and have been influenced by the developments at political and socio-economic scene at national and regional level.

Nevertheless, the exchange of practical experience and knowledge between managers and decision makers as well as stakeholders in the different shared bodies has been limited. The need to address this challenge has been made also obvious in the activities organized within the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process (Process) (see above / for more information visit www.watersee.net).

Based on these, a **series of targeted capacity building workshops** will focus on methodologies and experiences for addressing specific issues of transboundary water resources management. They are expected to leverage the varying levels of practical

¹ River Drin, flowing from Ohrid Lake through FYR Macedonia, enters and flow across Albania. White Drin flow through Kosovo into Albania and meets the main arm of Drin. The combined flow drains into the Adriatic Sea south of Shkodra, near the city of Lezhe (one arm of the river) and into the Buna River (that drains Lake Shkoder) near the city of Shkodra in Albania (see Map in Annex). The Drin River can be considered as the "connecting body", linking the Lakes, wetlands and other aquatic habitats.

² The Prespa basin includes two lakes separated by a naturally formulated narrow strip of land: Macro Prespa and Micro Prespa.

³ The Lake is called "Skadar" in Montenegro and "Shkodër" or "Shkodra" and also sometimes "Scutari" in Albania. From now on the English name of the lake – *Lake Shkoder* – will be used to avoid the usage of two – at least names – when referred to it.

knowledge in the area, facilitating the cross-fertilization between stakeholders of the different shared basins as well as introduce knowledge and experience from outside the region.

The aim is to enhance the practical capacity of stakeholders on specific issues of integrated management of the shared water bodies, hence assisting in the advancing of TWRM in the geographical areas that the project will focus on.

Four workshops will be organized within 2008 (two more are planned for 2009) in the framework of the Process and GEF IW:LEARN.

The workshops work in synergy with the GEF IW projects in the area i.e. “Integrated Ecosystem Management in the Prespa Lakes Basin of Albania, FYR Macedonia and Greece” and “Integrated management of Skadar Lake ecosystem”.

Moreover the activity work in synergy and support the implementation of the GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystems as well as the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI).

The series of capacity building workshops will **geographically focus** primarily:

- a. on the hydrographical network of the Southwestern Balkan Peninsula that includes the Prespa, Ohrid and Shkoder Lakes and Drin River basins.
- b. on the Sava River Basin.

Capacity Building Workshop on Integrated Management of Shared Lakes Basins

A capacity building workshop on Integrated Management of Shared Lakes Basins with reference to the conditions in the Prespa, Ohrid and Shkoder lakes basins shall be co-organised by the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med) and the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO/ECSDE) in cooperation with the GEF/UNDP “Integrated Ecosystem Management in the Prespa Lakes Basin of Albania, FYR-Macedonia and Greece” project and the FYR Macedonian Ministry for Environment and Physical Planning. The activity is supported by the European Commission⁴, GEF IW:LEARN, UNEP/MAP and GEF/UNDP “Integrated Ecosystem Management in the Prespa Lakes Basin of Albania, FYR-Macedonia and Greece” project.

Selected participants from countries of focus will be brought together to enhance their capacities on aspects of Shared Lakes Basins Management and support inter-project learning.

Responding to and serving the outcomes of the Ohrid International Roundtable (2006)⁵, the workshop will also assist the process for the development of a shared vision for the greater Drin River Basin as a first step towards cooperative management of the Basin.

Methodology & Structure

The workshop is intended to be participatory and interactive familiarising the trainees with the relevant background while providing at the same time case-specific examples from within and outside the SEE region. The agenda will develop over a period of three days.

The workshop will use adult learning tools, focusing on participants sharing their own experiences, and guided by the introduction of conceptual approaches and tools. There will be a combination of short lectures, exercises, group work and discussions. The workshop will be supported by training and background materials on the subject.

International experts with knowledge and experience on the subject and moderation of groups, working on shared water resources management, will be the trainers.

The working language will be English.

Workshop Objectives

The purpose of the workshop would be to build capacity of stakeholders on transboundary lake basin management and to equip them with the proper knowledge / tools that will enhance their skills to participate in the preparation of Lake Basin Management Plans.

The specific objectives for the participants will be:

- § To get familiar with the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) approaches, concept and tools as well as with the Ecosystems Approach as an integral part of the IWRM approach.
- § To understand the need for integration of water resources management and spatial planning.
- § To be informed about the legal frameworks and tools for water resources management at international and EU levels.

⁴ through the Annual Funding of MIO/ECSDE

⁵ International Roundtable “Integrated Shared Lake Basin Management in Southeastern Europe”, 12 - 14 October 2006, Ohrid, FYR Macedonia

- § To receive basic information on the EU WFD and its provisions (also in relation with IWRM).
- § To understand the conceptual framework of integrated management of lake basins at different levels: trans-national, national, and local.
- § To understand the basic steps of the preparation of a Lake Basin Management Plan - what does such a plan entail; what are the different steps for its preparation.
- § To identify peers in region who can work with in addressing related issues in the future.

Target Group

The workshop is targeted at staff of

- competent national authorities
- local authorities
- joint commissions and bodies
- management authorities of protected areas
- NGOs and CSOs

from Albania, FYR Macedonia and Montenegro. Participants from other SEE countries may also be accepted depending on the participation of the targeted audience from the aforementioned countries.

Workshop Dates and Location

The Workshop is scheduled to take place in the period 16-18 July 2008 in Ohrid, FYR Macedonia.

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