

## PROJECT SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

**Institute for Nature Conservation in Albania (INCA)** and the NGO “Green Home” in Montenegro together with the Transboundary Forum of Shkodra Lake in both countries are assigned to implement the project “Supporting the proposed trans-boundary biosphere reserve of lake Skadar/Shkodra through a participatory approach”. This project is financed in the frame of the EU- IPA Cross-Border program Albania-Montenegro.

**The overall objective** of this project is to contribute for the protection of the biodiversity by promoting the implementation of a transboundary protection through capacity building activities and to support the current efforts of the governments to a more successful approach and efficient policy, increasing the information and professional skills of CSOs and national authorities, filling up the transboundary institutional gaps on the national level based on EU standards request. This project will increase the capacity of regional/national environmental NGOs on Biosphere Reserve, Man and Biosphere Program and networking.

In line with the efforts of enlarging and strengthening protected areas, a Working group (BR\_ ĚG) will be established for biosphere reserve of lake Skadar/Shkodra in Shkodra City. The project will capacitate those environmental actors to secure their national and regional debates around biosphere reserve process for transboundary Shkodra lake area.

The planned activities and relevant expected outputs are listed and described below:

Activity 1: Set up the WG by means of clear selection criteria;

The Working Group will be the structure in the simplest possible way. The selection of ĚG members will be based on several criteria. The WG will:

- follow and advice technically the implementation phases of the project,
- is expected to continue the work after the project ended, particularly by locally transboundary structure as the TFSL, and
- will contribute with their human resources for the work of the expected expertise.

A Steering Committee (SC) will be established for supervising the project implementation and the transparency of the procedures. In this SC the membership will be from both countries and mostly. This is a shared activity between both country partners.

An expertise from UNESCO office of Venice, will give technical assistance on specific issues regarding the Biosphere reserve.

Activity 2: Organize a kick-off seminar with the selected NGOs;

A kick-off meeting will be organized to formally establish the WG. The representatives of the selected NGOs will meet together to agree on project activities, and expected results. It will be

focused on information and comprehensive cooperation with environmental NGOs and other local stakeholders in the Shkodra city. A visibility action (press conference) will be organised to inform the public about the activities of this action and its importance for the trans-boundary cooperation

Activity 3: Develop a study for the biosphere reserve;

The study will take into account the existing data and information made and the work on the previous, as the TDA of the WB project (2005), but will update the information, going in depth analysis and new solution approach.

Activity 4: Preparing a training manual in both languages;

The training manual will be prepared in advance before the training start and will include but not only:

- ✓ general knowledge of the Man and Biosphere program, the methodology (training modules),
- ✓ timing and the day program,
- ✓ group of interest,
- ✓ monitoring and evaluations tools,
- ✓ examples,
- ✓ etc.

Activity 5: Preparing and organizing 2 training courses, 1 exchange, 1 technical workshop (each for 3 days) with at least 25 participants;

One technical workshop (3 days) will be organized. Participants to this training course will be members of the selected NGOs (part of the WG) as well as relevant representatives of regional/national authorities (especially from the protected areas administration).

At the end of the training the participant will be evaluate for the knowledge gained during the training.

The workshop will be also an opportunity to identify those capacity building needs (expertise, equipments or methodologies) to be taken into account in an eventual second phase of the present action.

A visibility action (press conference) will be organized during the training to inform the public about the MAB program and capacity building tools.

Activity 6: Design a monitoring system to assess the impact of the CB activities.

Based on the existing experiences will be build a monitoring scheme to assess the impact of the planned capacity building activities on the stated objectives of this action. The monitoring scheme developed under this action could be used in the future to monitor other CB activities.