



## **INCEPTION WORKSHOP REPORT**

### **“TOWARDS STRENGTHENED GOVERNANCE OF THE SHARED TRANSBOUNDARY NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE LAKE OHRID REGION”**

[15-16 SEPTEMBER 2014, MILLENIUM HOTEL, TUSHEMISHT, ALBANIA]



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### **Executive Summary**

The Inception Workshop for the project "Towards a strengthened governance of the shared transboundary natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid Region" took place on 15 and 16 September 2014. The Workshop kick-started a three year initiative aimed at reinforcing the protection and sustainable development of the Lake Ohrid region.

Outlined project activities include the reinforcement of transboundary cooperation, the establishment of integrated management mechanisms, and capacity building on management effectiveness and cooperation. Activities also aim to identify and safeguard cultural and natural assets, provide technical assistance to national authorities for the preparation of a transboundary World Heritage property extension file, as well as implement a waste awareness campaign.

In attendance were 24 representatives from Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYR of Macedonia), including national authorities from the respective Ministries of Environment and Culture, local authorities from Debarca and Korça, Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee, ICOMOS and IUCN, as well as the representative of the EU Delegation to Albania.

The Inception Workshop began with an introduction of the project team, opening remarks, and presentations on the current state of World Heritage in both countries and bi-lateral cooperation in the Lake Ohrid region. The Workshop then completed two working sessions: The first was dedicated to a situation analysis concerning different institutions and authorities involved in management of the Lake Ohrid region, while the second session presented the Dynamic Work Plan and discussed distribution of tasks along with identification of lead and contributing partners to each project activity.

Main points brought up in discussion concerned the multiple designations of the Lake Ohrid (Ramsar, UNESCO Man and Biosphere, World Heritage and Protected Areas) which have led to a number of management planning documents, while the implementation of such plans is currently limited due to the lack of funds and human resources. The mandate and operational status of the Lake Ohrid Management Board was also discussed in detail and the difficulties to convene the board on a regular basis were highlighted.

Participants also raised the question of local project implementation as a wide range of project participants are to be involved in the project. The Albanian National Commission to UNESCO suggested an Internal Project Coordination Group between various institutions in Albania, which would include the Albanian Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Urban Planning and Tourism, Ministry of Local Authorities and the Ministry of Interior and Foreign Affairs. A first meeting of the Coordination Group could take place in December 2014 or early 2015.

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The Dynamic Workplan was therefore amended to include the abovementioned Coordination Group meeting and formal approval by Albanian partners will be thought on the revised Dynamic Workplan.

The Workshop also discussed ensuring the synergies of activities with other ongoing initiatives in the region. The revision of the World Heritage Management Plan for the property in FYR of Macedonia reaches. The final workshop and presentation of the revised Management Plan is scheduled for early 2015. It was proposed to invite the Albanian partners to the final presentation to allow for sharing of knowledge and prepare the ground for transboundary management planning activities of the project.

Clear communication lines and visibility will be crucial to ensure that the objectives and outcomes of the project are adequately communicated on a local, national and international level. The World Heritage Centre will finalise the first draft of the Communication and Visibility strategy and consult the partners before the end of 2014.

Overall, the Inception Workshop reconfirmed the high interest and commitment to the project by all project partners and stressed the importance to fully involve local and regional authorities in all project activities.

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## **1. Introduction and Background**

Lake Ohrid's transboundary region beholds one of the world's oldest lakes and is one of the largest centres of endemism in Europe. However, there are several threats facing the natural and cultural heritage of the region. These threats include unplanned urban development, waste management issues, habitat alteration, lack of effective management, as well as destruction and depletion of natural resources. The project aims to safeguard and sustainably develop the Lake Ohrid region by strengthening cooperation between Albania and FYR of Macedonia over the region's shared cultural and natural heritage. In order to develop effective cross-sectorial management and conservation, it is necessary to strengthen coordination among the different administrations responsible for the Lake Ohrid region.

This project in particular stems from an Upstream Process for World Heritage nomination which encourages the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee to engage with State Parties in early stages of the World Heritage nomination process. The extension of the World Heritage property "Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Lake Ohrid region" is one of the 10 pilot projects that were selected to test the effectiveness of the Upstream Process, a new experimental process aimed at reducing the number of properties that experience significant problems during the nomination process through the involvement of the Advisory Bodies at an earlier stage.

Balancing conservation with sustainable development is an ongoing strategy in the region. This is reflected in the bilateral Agreement for the Protection and Sustainable Development of Lake Ohrid and its Watershed, which was ratified in 2005. This objective was reconfirmed in June 2014 through the designation of the Ohrid-Prespa Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (Albania / FYR of Macedonia). One of the main achievements of the early transboundary efforts in the Lake Ohrid region was the establishment of the Ohrid Watershed Management Committee and the joint Secretariat. The Drin Dialogue is another regional process aimed at strengthening transboundary cooperation and management of natural resources.

This joint EU UNESCO initiative is coordinated by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre with the support of the UNESCO Venice Office/Antenna Office in Sarajevo and will be implemented in close partnership with the Governments of Albania through the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Urban Development and Tourism and FYR of Macedonia through the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and Ministry of Culture, as well as the three Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee: ICOMOS International, IUCN and ICCROM. This 2.64 million USD project is funded by the European Union in the framework of the EU assistance to pre-accession countries in the field of Environment and Climate Change. The EU contribution amounts to 1.7 million EUR (approximately 2.4 million USD) and the Government of Albania will co-finance 10%.

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### **2. Inception Workshop Objectives**

The Inception Workshop aimed to:

- present the project, its objectives, anticipated results and activities;
- introduce the main project partner institutions from Albania, FYR of Macedonia, Advisory Bodies, UNESCO, and EU Delegation;
- present and discuss existing conservation and management models of the Lake Ohrid region;
- introduce the basic *World Heritage Convention* procedures;
- discuss project time line, project activities and clarify roles and responsibilities.

### **3. Workshop Summary**

The Inception Workshop in Tushemisht, Albania, took place on 15 and 16 September 2014, to kick-start a three year project designed to address the main threats affecting the natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid region. The project aims to identify and safeguard cultural and natural assets of the Lake Ohrid region through the implementation of the following activities: strengthening management effectiveness of the area, profiling the transboundary area, identifying sustainable tourism opportunities, capacity building, providing technical assistance to national authorities for the preparation of the extension file of a transboundary World Heritage property, and finally through the implementation of a waste awareness campaign through Pilot Actions on Waste Water and Solid Waste.

24 representatives from Albania and FYR of Macedonia participated in the Inception Workshop, including national authorities from the respective Ministries of Environment and Culture, local authorities from the municipalities of Debarca and Korça, Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee, ICOMOS and IUCN, as well as the representative of the EU Delegation to Albania. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the ICCROM representative could not attend the Workshop.

Day One was dedicated to the introduction of the project team, opening remarks, and the current states of natural and cultural heritage from each side of the Lake Ohrid region, existing conservation and management models, presentation of the *World Heritage Convention*, and methods of effective implementation of transboundary conservation.

Day Two consisted of two working sessions. The first was dedicated to a situation analysis for the different institutions and authorities involved in the management of the Lake Ohrid region. During the second working session, the Dynamic Work Plan was presented and discussed

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distribution of tasks with identification of the lead / contributing partners to each project activity. The detailed agenda is included in Annex 1.

### (a) Presentation of the Project

Alexandra Fiebig, Project Officer, Europe and North America unit, World Heritage Centre, UNESCO, presented the main elements of the project.

The presentation introduced the project in the framework of the Upstream Process. Ms Fiebig explained its background and highlighted that the extension of the World Heritage property "Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Lake Ohrid region" located in FYR of Macedonia was selected in 2011 as one of the ten pilot projects at the 35th session of the World Heritage Committee. The first phase of this Pilot Project was the Scoping Mission by ICOMOS and IUCN that took place in April 2012 through an International Assistance of the World Heritage Fund with the aim to examine the feasibility in principal of the extension nomination project. The main threats identified during the mission include unplanned urban development; waste water and solid waste disposal into the lake and along its shores; and habitat alteration, destruction and depletion of natural resources. The underlying causes of these threats include management challenges; expertise and knowledge; and transboundary cooperation and awareness.

On the basis of the findings of the Scoping Mission, the present project was designed as the second phase of the Upstream project with the following two expected results and six activity lines:



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To ensure appropriate visibility of the project and raise awareness about the project objectives, a Communication Plan (newsletter, graphic charter, press relations) will be drafted by the World Heritage Centre and consulted with partners and the EU Delegation to Albania. A web presence is also foreseen on the World Heritage Centre website ([whc.unesco.org](http://whc.unesco.org)).

The project timeframe consists of an implementation phase of 30 months from autumn 2014 to summer 2017.

### **(b) Current state of Albanian Part of Lake Ohrid, Protected Area in Pogradec**

Odetta Cato, Director of the Biodiversity Department, Ministry of Environment of Albania, presented the current state of the Albanian part of Lake Ohrid with a specific focus on the Protected Area in Pogradec. Ms Cato began by discussing the qualities of the lake and the so-called "seven natural monuments": a) the Cypress Saint Mary's Church, b) the Sallkeni of Tushemisht, c) Kamjes stone, d) Najazmes Cave, e) the tectonic detachment fault of Ohrid, f) Cave Memlishtit, and g) Carstic water source Drilon.

The following threats to Lake Ohrid were assessed: climate change, forestry, collection of medicinal herbs, fishing, waste management and tourism. The envisioned management objectives for the Pogradec Protected Landscape are a) management strengthening; b) protection and conservation of habitats and biodiversity; c) management of recreational and cultural uses of the area; d) sustainable development of agriculture and socio-economic activities and e) promotion of research and education. Ms Cato also informed that a draft Management Plan for the Protected Area has been elaborated with EU assistance, and approval by the Ministry of Environment is expected before the end of 2014.

### **(c) The State of World Heritage in Albania**

Zhuljeta Harasani, Director General, General Directorate of Strategic Planning for Cultural Heritage and Diversity, Ministry of Culture provided a presentation on the state of cultural heritage in Albania, and particularly the two World Heritage properties "Butrint" and the "Historic Centres of Berat and Gjirokastra".

Butrint and its sanctuary has been the site of a Greek colony, a Roman city and a bishopric. It owes its growth and early fame to a sanctuary dedicated to Asclepius, the god of medicine, founded in the 4th century BC. It was only in the beginning of the 20th century that systematic excavations were carried out by Italian archaeologists. Butrint was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1992.



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The "Historic Centres of Berat and Gjirokastra" is a World Heritage property consisting of two cities. Gjirokastra is inscribed on the World Heritage List as a rare example of a well-preserved Ottoman town, built by farmers of large estate. Many houses in Gjirokastra have a distinctive local style which gave it the name "City of Stone" due to the many roof stones. Berat is also known as "the city of 2000 windows" and features a castle, locally known as the Kala, dating back to the 4th century BC. The citadel area boasts many Byzantine churches and mosques built under the Ottoman era, as well as the Castle of Berat constructed in the 13th century.

Ms Harasani then laid out the main features of the management of the two World Heritage properties.

### *World Heritage property "Historic Centres of Berat and Gjirokastra":*

Besides the Local Committees mandated with the management for each city, a National Steering Committee was established for the management of the property in its entirety as a follow-up of the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session. The Management Plan for the entire property is currently being updated. A number of visits from UNESCO, including ICOMOS Advisory Missions have led to the formulation of a number of recommendations for strengthening the management of the property in its entirety.

### *World Heritage property "Butrint":*

The management of the World Heritage property "Butrint" is under the responsibility of the Butrinti Archaeological Park Management Board and the recently created Office for the Management of the Site. Following a joint UNESCO-ICOMOS Advisory Mission in August 2010, the relevant authorities are currently addressing the recommendations to strengthen the protection of the property. A number of legal reforms have been undertaken to reinforce the protection and special legal status of this property.

Both World Heritage properties have participated in the World Heritage Periodic Reporting exercise and completed online questionnaires, thereby providing a detailed assessment on the state of conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the properties.

The main cultural heritage components in the area of Pogradec were presented and ongoing inventory work for listed buildings detailed. Major components include the Terziu Bridge, Ura e Nices, various listed houses of cultural figures, Saint Mary's church in Nise, Selca's Royal Tombs and Lin Basilica. It confirmed the first assessment of cultural heritage in the region undertaken by the authorities from Albania during the Scoping Mission in 2012.

The rich intangible heritage of Albania includes traditional women's and men's wear from different regions, as well as the crafts, culinary culture, and folklore of Albania. The importance and diversity of this heritage is also reflected in the inscription in 2008 of the "Albanian folk isopolyphony" on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

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## **(d) The State of World Heritage in FYR of Macedonia**

### **(i) The Management Plan and the state of cultural heritage in the Lake Ohrid region**

The elaboration and revision process for the Management Plan for the World Heritage property "Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region" was presented by Mr Zoran Pavlov, Head of Department for Documentation, International Cooperation and Administrative Affairs, Ministry of Culture - Cultural Heritage Protection.

The property was first inscribed on the basis of natural criterion (iii) in 1979; cultural criteria (i), (iii) and (iv) were added in 1980. As a mixed (natural and cultural) World Heritage property the responsibility for the management is shared between the Ministry of Culture (Cultural Heritage Protection Office) and the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (Directorate for Environment), and number of local authorities in the three municipalities – Ohrid, Struga, Debarca.

Work on the elaboration of a new Management Plan for the World Heritage property started in 2008 and is undertaken in line with paragraph 132 of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*. Four legislative measures support the Management Plan with two of them carrying particular significance: the Law on the Managing of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage of the Ohrid region (Official Gazette of RM No. 75/10) which regulates the Management Plan and the Law on Cultural Heritage Protection (Official Gazette of RM No. 20/04, 115/07) because it officially recognises the Management Plan as a strategic document for long-term management.

Mr Pavlov highlighted the difficulties faced in the preparation process of the Management Plan which consists of numerous consultations, workshops and trainings. Two workshops in cooperation with the UNESCO Regional Venice Office took place in 2008 and 2009. A thorough review of the legal framework was undertaken resulting in two specific laws for the World Heritage property mentioned above.

The vision of the Management Plan is to promote international significance of the protected area, using the site's status as a World Heritage property as strategic potential for the prosperity of local communities and its citizens. To promote awareness of its values and meet the needs of present generations while transmitting its authenticity and diversity to future generations, development of the protected area is based on a careful balancing of the preservation of the unique natural and cultural values with the social needs of contemporary life and the economic activity of the region. The settlements in the protected area are to preserve and promote their multiculturalism. Through numerous traditional events and festivals their spirituality and uniqueness shall be further promoted.

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The monitoring of factors and risks threatening the Outstanding Universal Value of the property was highlighted as crucial for the maintenance of the authenticity and integrity of the site. These factors include lack of general awareness of the architectural and artistic values of the cultural heritage; insufficient number of qualified staff to perform conservation and restoration work; lack of incentives and assistance to property owners for the rehabilitation, restoration and conservation of buildings; the urbanisation and unauthorised use of space which affect the ecosystem; lack of permanent and reliable sources of funds; and lack of physical security in certain archaeological sites. Managing these risks is particularly challenged by the complexity of ownership and multiple jurisdictions.

The Action Plan associated to the Management Plan focuses on the mechanisms and resources necessary for its successful implementation, including responsibility and administration; funding and resources; and the ongoing review (every four years); revision (particularly of buffer zones: every six years) and the general monitoring of the Management Plan.

### **(ii) Presentation on the state of the cultural heritage in the Ohrid region**

Mr Goran Patcev from the Institute for Cultural Heritage Protection in Ohrid presented the rich cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid region and highlighted the management challenges due to urban development and therefore the need to balance the social and economic needs and protection requirements.

Strategic Management Objectives include the strengthening of legal and institutional infrastructure; efficient implementation of the laws and planning regulations to protect from uncontrolled urbanisation; valorisation and revalorisation of the natural and cultural heritage; control of local urban development; the strengthening of the human resource potential at all levels; and the reclaiming of the original purpose of cultural properties that had been adapted for new uses.

The presentation in particular addressed the continuous and uncontrolled urbanisation as a particular threat to the Outstanding Universal Value of this World Heritage site. The historic city centre of Ohrid is a vivid example of the perceived conflicting interests of improving living conditions and preserving authenticity of cultural heritage.

Mr Patcev also addressed the project which foresees the instauration of St. Clement's University dedicated to Slavonic studies at Plaoshnik – an archeological site in the vicinity of the city of Ohrid. This project is a second example of the need to harmonise development with the protection of heritage: Whilst the initiative of revitalising the historic site is welcomed, it is also feared that the project may increase traffic in the old town; restrict access to the archaeological sites and affect and overshadow the historical and physical aspects of the location and particularly the church of St. Panteleimon. An ICOMOS-UNESCO Advisory Mission took place in December 2013 to assess the project and made a number of recommendations to reduce impact of the project on the Outstanding Universal Value.

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For both of these management issues raised Mr Patcev concluded that a continuous dialogue is necessary to preserve the values of the World Heritage property while at the same time allowing the city of Ohrid to remain a living urban organism which provides economic, social and cultural opportunities for its inhabitants.

### **(e) Bilateral Cooperation in the Lake Ohrid Region and Development of Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Ohrid Prespa Under UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme**

Mr Dejan Panovski, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, FYR of Macedonia, and National Focal Point for Natural Heritage of the Ohrid Region for FYR of Macedonia introduced the various international projects that have been implemented in the Lake Ohrid region to enhance bi-lateral cooperation for the protection of the region for more than twenty years.

One of the pioneering projects was the Lake Ohrid Conservation project, which established the Memorandum of Understanding between the two states as well as the Lake Ohrid Management Board and its Bilateral Secretariat. Its objective was to promote cost-effective solutions for transboundary natural resource management and pollution problems and to provide a basis for the sustainable economic development of the watershed. It established the Joint Monitoring programme by the Hydro biological Institute-Ohrid and Hydro meteorological Institute-Tirana which was responsible for the monitoring of Lake Ohrid. A framework for coordination for its implementation was put into place and the first joint watershed action plan was created. A capacity building programme was introduced to ensure the institutional strengthening of regional NGOs; increase public awareness about the environmental issues and public participation in the decision making process, and strengthening the transboundary cooperation among the NGOs.

Another major project in the area is the Drin Basin Dialogue. The Memorandum of Understanding for the Management of the Extended Drin Basin was signed (Tirana 25.11.11) with the shared vision to promote coordinated and integrated management of the shared water resources in the Drin Basin, as a means to safeguard the ecosystem and to promote sustainable development across the Drin Basin.

The latest international project in the Lake Ohrid region is the establishment of the "Ohrid-Prespa" Transboundary Biosphere Reserve under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme. The Bilateral Secretariat was the leading body of the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve project. The expected results of this programme include a strengthened administration; more coordinated research; enhanced conservation of biodiversity, increased sustainability and a greater awareness and understanding of the Reserve. Management Plan development for the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve and the establishment of management structures have been identified as the key next steps in the process of setting the TBR in motion.

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## (f) The World Heritage Convention and its Procedures

### (i) The World Heritage nomination process

Alexandra Fiebig, UNESCO WHC

This presentation focused on the *World Heritage Convention* and its as laid out in the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* to facilitate its implementation.

The concept of Outstanding Universal Value lies at the heart of the *Convention* and it is based on the three pillars: (1) criteria, (2) integrity and authenticity (for cultural sites), as well as (3) protection and management requirements. The importance of the third pillar protection and management was highlighted.

After outlining the ten criteria, and the four adopted for the "Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region", the concept of integrity was explained as defined by the *Operational Guidelines*. It was highlighted that the Committee noted in Decision **33 COM 8B.40** (Sevilla, 2009) that the original boundary of the World Heritage property does not meet the conditions of integrity required of natural World Heritage properties, as only the part of Lake Ohrid in FYR of Macedonia and a small part of its watershed are currently included.

The required content format for the nomination of a property on the World Heritage List can be consulted in the *Operational Guidelines* from paragraph 129 to 133 and its Annex 5.

An extension is treated (almost) like a new nomination. A few differences highlighted below:

- The assessment of criteria is carried out in **relation to the criteria used for the inscription of the original nomination** and how they might apply to the proposed extension. The **same criteria** should be justified for the original nomination and the proposed extension.
- An extension **does not add new values** to the original nomination, but it **adds in terms of integrity**. If new values have to be introduced, these should apply to the whole site (originally inscribed plus extension) and the proposal will be treated as a **re-nomination**.
- The **attributes** of the original nomination are examined and consideration is given to how these might be **exemplified, extended, complemented or amplified** by the attributes of the proposed extension, while bearing the same Outstanding Universal Value.

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- Different or new attributes might also be identified within the proposed extension but they should bear the same values as those already recognised as outstanding.
- For extensions, specific attention is paid to the comparative analysis included in the original nomination dossier – how the **proposed extension compares with the original nomination**, and how the **values of the original nomination are articulated in the proposed extension**.

For transboundary nomination files, including extensions, signatures of both Governments are required.

Once the nomination file has been officially approved by the national authorities, the following calendar applies:

Timeframe	Stage of nomination process
<b>30 September</b>	A draft copy of the nomination submitted to the World Heritage Centre for comments.  Concerning draft nomination submission, Paragraph 127 of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the <i>World Heritage Convention</i> indicates that States Parties may submit draft nominations to the Secretariat for comment and review by 30 September of the year preceding the final submission. The World Heritage Centre then reviews the draft nomination and sends its comments to the State Party in view of the finalisation of the document.
<b>1 February Year 1</b>	If relevant, the State Party makes corrections, completes the nomination and submits it to the World Heritage Centre.
<b>February Year 1</b>	The World Heritage Centre analyses all nomination files received and checks for their completeness.
<b>March Year 1</b>	The World Heritage Centre transmits the nomination files that are considered complete and meet the requirements set by the Operational Guidelines to the Advisory Bodies. The Advisory Bodies then study the nomination files and send their experts on mission to the proposed properties.

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<b>June to November Year 1</b>	Advisory Bodies start preparing their evaluations. Paragraph 144 indicates that Evaluations of cultural heritage nominations will be carried out by ICOMOS, followed by Paragraph 145 which indicates that evaluations of natural heritage nominations will be carried out by IUCN. And finally, Paragraph 146 states that in the case of nominations of cultural properties in the category of 'cultural landscapes', as appropriate, the evaluation will be carried out by ICOMOS in consultation with IUCN. For mixed properties, the evaluation will be carried out jointly by ICOMOS and IUCN.
<b>December Year 1 and March Year 2</b>	Advisory Bodies Panel Meetings take place which decide recommendations on the basis of their discussion and the evaluations.
<b>28 February Year 2</b>	In case it is requested, the State Party should submit additional information by of the year in which the nomination is considered.

It is the World Heritage Committee that takes the decision concerning the inscription of a World Heritage List. The Committee after considering the nomination file and the evaluation by the Advisory Bodies may take four types of decisions as described in paragraphs 153 to 160 of the *Operational Guidelines*:

- a) to inscribe the property on the World Heritage List;
- b) to refer the consideration of the nomination to allow the State Party to provide additional information to the nomination file as presented;
- c) to defer the consideration of the nomination to allow the State Party to undertake a thorough review of the nomination file, including the selection of criteria, boundaries etc.;
- d) not to inscribe the property. This also entails that the nomination file of this property cannot be presented to the Committee again.

A World Heritage nomination process involves a considerable investment in resources, time and commitment on behalf of the national authorities. The main aim of the Upstream Process is to reduce the number of properties that experience significant problems during the nomination process and after inscription. The Upstream Process thus enables the Advisory Bodies, the World Heritage Centre and relevant technical experts to advise and cooperate with the States Parties.

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The inscription of a property is not an end in itself. The duty to protect the Outstanding Universal Value of a World Heritage property lies with the State Party where the site is located. There are a number of World Heritage procedures that have been put in place to allow the World Heritage Committee to monitor the state of conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List, namely Periodic Reporting and Reactive Monitoring.

The Periodic Reporting exercise involves an online questionnaire on the state of conservation of each World Heritage property which the Focal Points and Site Managers are invited to complete on a six-year cycle basis. The information collected from Periodic Reporting is also used to develop targeted Action Plans at national and regional levels to respond to the needs, challenges, threats, strengths and opportunities affecting the World Heritage properties located on their respective territories.

Reactive Monitoring on the basis of paragraph 174 and 172 of the Operational Guidelines is the reporting by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties that are under threat. To this end, States Parties shall submit to the Committee through the World Heritage Centre, specific reports and impact studies each time exceptional circumstances occur or work is undertaken which may have an effect on the state of conservation of the property.

### **(ii) Baseline assessments for nomination and management process**

The nomination of a property to be inscribed on the World Heritage List is a complex process to which several factors and requisites contribute. They include:

- *a mature knowledge and understanding of the property:*  
This implies knowing its process of formation and its evolution, development, history and transformations, the values recognised by societies (present and past) to the property, and the related relevant attributes, i.e. the features and characteristics, that make explicit and understandable those values.
- *an effective and adequate protection and management system clearly documented:*  
Only on the basis of a sound understanding of the property is it possible that it is effectively and adequately protected and managed, with the proper safeguarding of the property's values and attributes, communicated to the public, and transmitted to the future. Documenting the protection and management system is essential to build a shared ground for effective and accountable actions.
- *a good understanding of the World Heritage Convention and its Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the Convention.*

The World Heritage Centre with the assistance of the Advisory Bodies (ICCROM, ICOMOS, IUCN) have developed a series of resource manuals aiming to assist the States Parties in the nomination and in the management process. These are:



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- "Preparing World Heritage nominations",
- "Managing Natural World Heritage Properties",
- "Managing Cultural World Heritage Properties",

and are available at the following link: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/resourcemanuals/>

Apart from this, IUCN's Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines Series represents a major source of knowledge on protected area management.

Another useful resource is the Section II questionnaire of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting: it provides helpful suggestions on the information necessary for periodic monitoring and, indirectly, for developing nomination and management system / mechanisms.

*Careful reading of the above mentioned by those involved in nomination and management processes is recommended.*

### **The extension of "the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region":**

In case of extension of properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List, a good knowledge of the inscribed property to be extended is also important, in that the proposed extension is expected:

- a) to bear the same Outstanding Universal Value; and to
- b) justify the same criteria.

The new attributes proposed for inclusion in the nominated extension are expected to exemplify, extend, complement or amplify the Outstanding Universal Value of the inscribed property.

The criteria to be used when proposing an extension to a World Heritage property must be the same as those used for the original inscription, in this case they are (i), (iii), (iv) and (vii).

The justification of the criteria must refer to the same set of values and arguments, while explaining why and how the extension and its attributes adds to the inscribed property.

The point of departure for the extension proposal should be the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value of the Natural and Cultural Heritage of Lake Ohrid and the wording used for the criteria. This Statement is currently being finalised and will be presented to the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session.

Initial preparatory work to establish that a property has the potential to justify Outstanding Universal Value comprises:

- collecting available information on the property,
- studying or developing thematic studies,
- elaborating scoping studies of the potential for demonstrating OUV,
- preliminary assessment of the conditions of integrity and authenticity.

This work implies some basic steps, concerning different areas: scientific research; legal,

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planning and institutional framework, socio – economic profiles, current and future projects.

*The information needed to prepare a successful nomination is also crucial for establishing an effective protection and management system.*

A careful collection of already existing information concerning the property is fundamental to assess whether further research or work to ensure protection and management is needed and which are the areas concerned.

### Scientific research

With regard to research, the needed preliminary work includes, but is not limited to the following:

- survey of scientific literature, archives and other sources of information (recent and historic cartographic and photographic documentation, oral history, etc.);
- inventory of formally protected cultural / natural resources (i.e. monuments, archaeological areas, landscapes, species, etc.)
- inventory of relevant cultural/ natural resources not yet protected,
- documentation of heritage resources, including: location, ownership (where relevant), physical consistence, state of conservation etc.,
- mapping on a cartographic base of adequate scale and standards,
- preliminary identification of relevant attributes in relation to the potential Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

When the potential OUV of a property is clarified, relevant criteria selected and attributes identified, then the boundaries of the property to be nominated should be drawn.

Considerations of integrity and authenticity requirements (authenticity only for cultural properties – see relevant paragraphs of the *Operational Guidelines*) help guide their definition as well as the need to establish a buffer zone.

### **The extension of “the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region”:**

In this case, the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is already established and the criteria chosen at the time of inscription (1979 / 1980) of the part of the lake and territory located in FYR of Macedonia. What should be taken into consideration for the extension is:

- identifying the attributes that can contribute to complement / amplify the OUV;
- determining the boundaries of the proposed extension on the base of attributes distribution, consideration of integrity and authenticity and protection / management requirements.

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### Check List:

A check list to carry out this work includes, but is not limited to:

- Do boundaries encompass attributes/areas related to the proposed OUV?
- Are all the relevant attributes conveying OUV included within the boundaries?
- Do boundaries reflect the spatial requirements of processes or phenomena that provide the basis for their inscription on the World Heritage List?
- Are items or areas bearing potential to contribute to & to enhance understanding of OUV included?
- Are areas immediately adjacent to those bearing OUV included within the boundaries so as protect them from encroachment?
- Is the proposed buffer zone coherent with the pursued protection goals?
- Does the buffer zone have adequate mechanisms to add a protection layer to the property?

### Protection: Legal, institutional and planning framework:

According to the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* (see paragraphs 96 – 98), properties nominated or inscribed in the World Heritage List should “have adequate long-term legislative, regulatory, institutional and/or traditional protection and management” so as to ensure that their Outstanding Universal Value, conditions of integrity and authenticity be sustained over time.

“This protection should include adequately delineated boundaries.” (Paragraph 97, *Operational Guidelines*)

“Similarly States Parties should demonstrate adequate protection at the national, regional, municipal, and/or traditional level for the nominated property. They should append appropriate texts to the nomination with a clear explanation of the way this protection operates to protect the property.” (Paragraph 97, *Operational Guidelines*)

“States Parties should also assure the full and effective implementation of such measures.” (Paragraph 98, *Operational Guidelines*)

Therefore, thorough knowledge of the legal, institutional and planning framework is crucial to understand whether the nominated property is or can be adequately and effectively protected according to the existing laws and institutional organisation or if revision of the existing legal, institutional and planning framework is needed.

Basic steps in this regard include, but are not limited to:

- inventorying and analysing existing legal and planning documents (laws, bylaws, regulations, plans and related provisions) concerning relevant areas (i.e. area eligible for

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being nominated, possible buffer zone and wider setting);

- relevant provisions may not be limited only to protection or spatial planning but may extend to fiscal regimes, property rights, economic planning (infrastructural, industrial, rural, tourism, etc.);
- describing the institutional framework at the national, regional / provincial, municipal and local level, identifying relevant bodies, agencies, authorities etc. and their respective responsibilities, tasks as well as their mechanisms and means of implementing their duties;
- survey of human, instrumental and financial resources available for the target area;
- survey of all projects ongoing or planned within the target area and assessment of their possible impact (positive or negative) on the property, its OUV and related attributes;
- assessment of adequacy, major / minor gaps in available information (i.e., do we have all information or should we investigate further to build a clear picture?  
assessment of adequacy, potential and major/ minor gaps in protection and management framework / mechanisms / measures but also of possible conflicts with protection aims deriving by overlapping planning instruments or by scheduled projects.

### Check List:

A useful, although not exhaustive check list includes the following questions:

- Are all the relevant attributes protected?
- Is the entire nominated property protected?
- Are existing measures adequate to achieve protection and sustenance of OUV, integrity and authenticity?
- Which mechanisms in the buffer zone ensure that it protects the property?
- Are these measures effectively implemented?
- Are there any gaps or goal conflicts?
- Which are the weaknesses?
- Which areas need to be covered / reinforced?
- Does anything negatively – currently or potentially - impact on the property?

### Management

Paragraph 108 of the *Operational Guidelines* states that “Each nominated property should have an appropriate management plan or other documented management system which must specify how the Outstanding Universal Value of a property should be preserved, preferably through participatory means.”

Subsequent paragraphs further articulate the overall concept of management and rationale for this requirement, but it is paragraph 111 of the *Operational Guidelines* that is particularly relevant as it contains crucial indications on the 'ingredients' of an effective management system.

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Common elements of an effective management system could include:

- a) a thorough shared understanding of the property by all stakeholders;
- b) a cycle of planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and feedback;
- c) the monitoring and assessment of the impacts of trends, changes, and of proposed interventions;
- d) the involvement of partners and stakeholders;
- e) the allocation of necessary resources;
- f) capacity-building; and
- g) an accountable, transparent description of how the management system functions.

The paragraph could in fact be used as an operational reference itself to build management systems, mechanisms and cycles and to assess the adequacy of what is already in place and what is necessary to meet the *Operational Guidelines* requirements.

Basic steps therefore include but are not limited to:

- demographic and socio – economic survey;
- collecting information on land use (directly on site and not only through existing remote databases), stakeholders/ shareholder analysis;
- SWOT analysis (thematized according to topics, i.e. tourism development, agricultural development, traditional products; accessibility; etc.); analysis of development strategies and programmes at the national and international level.

### **The extension of “the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region”:**

In the case of Lake Ohrid, it is particularly important that large scale international and national projects be carefully considered and their impacts assessed. Consider the development of the pan-European transportation corridor 8 crossing through Albania and FYR of Macedonia for instance: its impacts and subsequent effects – both positive and negative – on the inscribed property and the possible area to be extended should be evaluated. The corridor is expected to pass through Elbasan, Librazhd, Prenjas, Qafe Thane – and then towards Struga in FYR of Macedonia, with branches towards Korça and then the Albanian – Greek border, through Pogradec. The upgrading of the road between Lin and Pogradec should be contextualized in this wider picture.

Additionally, particular efforts are needed in order to compile the considerable amount of information built through several projects carried out over the decades in the region.

A complete picture of all projects and programmes is still lacking, but the knowledge of their aims and results is fundamental to build upon what has been already achieved, and, on the other hand, to carefully analyse possible shortcomings, weaknesses, or lack of effectiveness and learn from them. The examination of previous projects may also be useful sources of data.

Baseline assessments at the time of the nomination also constitute the base for monitoring the property over time and identifying any minor or significant variations that may require to be addressed through specific management actions.

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### **Check List**

A useful, although not exhaustive, check list includes the following questions:

- Is the property and its OUV known and understood by all stakeholders/shareholders?
- Which are the stakeholders/shareholders that show not having this understanding?
- How to achieve this goal?
- Which sectors of economic activity exhibit potential for sustainable/compatible development?
- Are there indicators to monitor both property and management?
- Do we have all information needed for assessing the protection and management system?
- Which are the gaps in information and data to be covered?

### **The transboundary Lake Ohrid region:**

- The elaboration of the above 'state of the art' cannot be carried out in a satisfactory and useful manner without the joint and integrated commitment and operational engagement of the authorities of both Albania and FYR of Macedonia at the national, regional and local level, with the support of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

## **(g) Transboundary Conservation**

### **(i) Protected Area categories and effective management in the context of World Heritage**

The IUCN Protected Area management category system is an important standard and tool for the planning, designation and management of protected areas. It is meant to:

- Provide a tool for planning protected area systems and wider bioregional or ecoregional conservation planning exercises;
- Encourage governments and other owners or managers of protected areas to develop systems of protected areas with a range of management objectives tailored to national and local circumstances;
- Give recognition to different management arrangements and governance types.

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The category system, as it stands now, recognised six categories of protected areas:

- I (a) Strict Nature Reserve / (b) Wilderness Area
- II National Park
- III Natural Monument
- IV Habitat / Species Management Area
- V Protected Landscape / Seascape
- VI Protected Area with sustainable use of natural resources

The wider Lake Ohrid region is home to a number of protected areas which all require a coordinated management approach. It implies coordination both at national and transboundary levels. Currently, the most relevant is IUCN category V: Protected Landscape / Seascape, which promotes harmonious interaction of nature and culture; supports lifestyle in harmony with nature; helps maintain landscape and species diversity; provides opportunities for recreation and tourism; and brings benefits to local communities. The existing World Heritage property "Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region", the recently designated Ohrid-Prespa Transboundary Biosphere Reserve, as well as the ongoing Upstream Process all add to the complexity of this matrix. It is important to note that the categories do not imply a simple hierarchy in terms of quality, importance or naturalness, nor are the categories necessarily equal in each situation, but rather should be chosen in order to maximise the chances of addressing threats to conservation under a variety of conditions. In practice, the purposes for which protected areas are managed differ greatly and they should be seen as a tool not only for conserving species and ecosystems but also for providing a range of goods and services for communities and as essential places for sustainable use of natural resources.

The *World Heritage Convention* sets clear objectives when it comes to the management of nominated and inscribed sites. It aims at "ensuring, as far as possible, the proper identification, protection, conservation and presentation of the world's heritage, the Member States of UNESCO adopted the *World Heritage Convention* in 1972." The *Operational Guidelines* further details management requirements and different aspects of management in Paragraphs 78, 97, 108, 110, 111, 115, 132 (also see previous section), which provides detailed explanations for what an effective management system could include.

Management effectiveness is an essential component of Protected Area management. In order to help planners and practitioners in achieving the requirements of effective management, IUCN has developed guidelines for protected area management planning effective protected area management with the Management Effectiveness Cycle (MEC) at its centre. The Management Effectiveness Cycle is organised around seven elements: context, planning, inputs, process, outputs, and outcomes. Each of these elements provides specific information necessary for the adequate evaluation of protected area effectiveness. Based on the MEC, a number of tools for evaluating management effectiveness have been developed, of which the Management Effectiveness Tracking Toll (METT) is probably the most widely used one. It would be pertinent

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to apply METT or some other recognised tool to the context of the matrix of protected areas around Lake Ohrid.

Many studies show that Protected Area effectiveness is strongly linked to having a good management plan and those sites without management plans tended to be less effective. "Managing World Natural Heritage" (2011) Resource Manual provides essential guidance for the management of World Heritage sites. It states that "although there are special issues, preparing a management plan for a natural World Heritage properties is in principle little different to producing one for any other protected area. The form and content of a management plan for a World Heritage property will therefore be determined by the nature, maturity and effectiveness of the management system which currently exists at the property." What is important is that the management plan for a World Heritage sites contains clear provisions for safeguarding the Outstanding Universal Value and provides for the protection and management of the values that are the basis for its recognition as a World Heritage property. In essence, the form of a management plan could vary and depend on the features, category and structure of each protected area. Participation of local communities and other stakeholders should be priority for any protected area management system. Active participation pertains to all phases of the management cycle. States Parties to the *Convention* are encouraged to ensure the participation of a wide variety of stakeholders, including site managers, local and regional governments, local communities, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other interested parties and partners in the identification, nomination and protection of World Heritage properties. For transboundary properties it is noteworthy that even though there may be differences in protection and management or the differences in the availability of resources for site management, there should be a management system over the entire property that straddles borders.

### **(ii) Governance of Protected Areas and Transboundary Conservation**

The concept of governance of protected areas gained significant recognition over the last decade. Governance represents the interactions among structures, processes and traditions that determine how power and responsibilities are exercised, how decisions are taken and how citizens or other stakeholders have their say.

While management defines what is done in pursuit of given objectives and the means and actions to achieve such objectives, governance speaks to who decides what the objectives are, what to do to pursue them, and with what means while considering how those decisions are taken, who holds power, authority and responsibility, and who is (or should be) held accountable.

As a result of the growing interest of the conservation community for governance, IUCN has developed a global guideline as part of the Protected Area Best Practice Guideline Series (2013). Governance types are designed to describe who holds authority and responsibility for the protected area. The guideline defines four governance types:



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- Governance by government: federal or national ministry / agency in charge; sub-national ministry / agency in charge; government-delegated management (e.g. to NGO);
- Shared governance: collaborative management (various degrees of influence); joint management (pluralist management board; transboundary management (various levels across international borders));
- Private governance: by individual owner; by non-profit organisations (NGOs, universities, cooperatives); by for-profit organisations (individuals or corporate);
- Governance by indigenous peoples and local communities: indigenous peoples' conserved areas and territories; community conserved areas – declared and run by local communities.

A recently conducted study on governance types in South-Eastern Europe suggests that the governance types all over the region strongly incline towards the following two types: governance by government and shared governance. This is an issue for consideration when it comes to the Lake Ohrid region as governance types eventually may have an impact on the level of participation of local communities and stakeholders in the management of a protected area. By definition, transboundary areas fall under the shared governance type, even though governance options may span more than one type. When it comes to transboundary conservation typology, Lake Ohrid should be considered as a Transboundary Protected Area (TBPA). According to IUCN definition, "TBPA is an area of land and/or sea that straddles one or more borders between states, sub-national units such as provinces and regions, autonomous areas and/or areas beyond the limit of national sovereignty or jurisdiction, whose constituent parts are especially dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity, and of natural and associated cultural resources, and managed co-operatively through legal or other effective means".

Taking all the above considerations into account, it becomes clear that Lake Ohrid represents a nature site of global importance with a complex matrix of protected areas and designations at national, transboundary and international levels. The transboundary and mixed (natural and cultural) nature of the site adds to this complexity a great deal. It all requires careful planning processes when it comes to new designations and management. Effective management of the Lake Ohrid region implies adequate resources, knowledge and full participation of a broad range of stakeholders, from local to national to international.

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### **(h) Main Points Raised in the Discussions**

The following points were raised in discussions after the presentations:

The multiple designations of the Lake Ohrid area (Ramsar, UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme, World Heritage, and Protected Areas) have led to a number of management planning documents. One draft Management Plan for the Pogradec Protected Area is currently in the approval process by the Ministry of Environment of Albania. However, limited experience in the implementation of such plans exists due to the lack of funds and human resources.

The mandate and operational status of the Lake Ohrid Management Board, its bi-lateral Secretariat and the appropriate institutional set-up was raised. The difficulties to convene the Lake Ohrid Management Board were mentioned on a regular basis.

Furthermore, local coordination of the project in Albania was raised by the participants. The Workshop proposed the establishment of an inter-ministerial coordination group which would include the Albanian Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Urban Planning and Tourism, and Ministry of Local authorities with the suggested participation of Ministry of Interior and Foreign Affairs as proposed by the Secretary-General of Albanian National Commission.

Revision of the Management Plan for the World Heritage property in FYR of Macedonia is well under way. The UNESCO Venice office is supporting the finalisation of the plan through a final workshop in the beginning of 2015. It was suggested to invite the Albanian partners for the final presentation of the Plan during the 2015 workshop and to share some of the experience with the drafting of a World Heritage management plan.

### **(i) Working Session: Situation / Institutional Stakeholder Analysis for Lake Ohrid Region**

Following the preliminary experience of SWOT analysis carried out during the Scoping Mission in April 2012, which brought to light useful information and possibilities along with some gaps in the available data, an analysis of the institutional stakeholders relevant for the development of the project was proposed.

The analysis carried out on Day Two of the Workshop has provided useful information but requires further elaboration and the acquisition of additional information concerning all levels of administrations. This concerns particularly the Albanian partners but could be usefully extended to partners of FYR of Macedonia. This could be complementary to the revision of the

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Management Plan which is currently being carried out and the finalisation of which is foreseen by early 2015.

The exercise initiated during the Workshop should be continued, expanded and detailed in order to build a clear and comprehensive view of the institutional, public and private stakeholders that need to be involved in or contacted during the project and which may also contribute to build a comprehensive and multifaceted analysis of the current situation of the target area under different perspectives (environmental situation, socio-demographic situation/ trends, economic situation / trends, institutional and administrative situation/ robustness, etc.).

Both the table elaborated during the Workshop and the results of the initial SWOT analysis carried out during the scoping mission in 2012 may be considered as preliminary tools that allow the collection of basic information needed for detailed situational, stakeholder, SWOT, and gap analyses.

*In this regard it would be useful if the partners of Albania and FYR of Macedonia could complete the table initiated during the 15-16 September 2014 Inception Workshop by adding the relevant stakeholders that need to be involved, informed or contacted during the project. It would be useful to note in case not all necessary information to complete the table is available or known so as to build also a clear picture of the information that still needs to be obtained.*

### **(j) Working Session: Project Activities – Aide Memoire on the Discussion of the Project activities Observations, Questions and Ideas**

The working session on the project activities presented and discussed among partners the activities of the Dynamic Work Plan. In the discussions the main leading / contributing partners were proposed for each activity line and comments / observations and ideas were gathered which are summarised below.

Only those Activities that were commented on in detail are indicated below. The full list of activities can be consulted in the Description of Action as well as the Dynamic Work Plan (Annex 3).

#### **Activity 4: Support to existing transboundary management structures: Organisation of 6 transboundary platform meetings for each milestone of the project**

- Need to formalise on a ministerial level the commitment to the transboundary nomination project;
- Proposal to convene a high level Meeting with participation of Ministers for 3<sup>rd</sup> Transboundary Platform Meeting in 3Q in 2015;
- High-level meeting could take place in the framework of 70th anniversary of UNESCO;
- Overview needed on the existing bilateral Memoranda.

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### **Activity 5: Defining and Understanding the property: analysis of available literature, data information, plans and existing gaps**

- What are the major developments since 2012?
- Update needed on the work undertaken for the elaboration of the Protected Area Management Plan and the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve designation to avoid duplication of work;
- Has a Stakeholder analysis been undertaken in the framework of the above projects?
- What are the major infrastructure projects planned in the area? Status of Pan European corridor project (train network).

### **Activity 6: Baseline assessments, mapping of natural and cultural heritage, including desk and field research on cultural and natural heritage assets and their potential to contribute to Outstanding Universal Value**

- Work based on previous gap analysis. Take into account experience of experts from FYR of Macedonia as research has been undertaken during the elaboration of the retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value due to the fact that the original 1979 nomination file did not contain comprehensive information.

### **Activity 8: Series of 5 two-day workshops focused on the preparation of the management plan: a) establishment of core team and management plan preparation statement b) property vision and management objectives c) stakeholder consultation and management options d) management measures e) management actions**

- Adjust calendar for training programme so that the core team for the management plan preparation can attend the presentation of the Final Management Plan for the World Heritage property in FYR of Macedonia at the beginning of 2014.

### **Activity 9: Series of 5 thematic trainings on a) monitoring b) climate change adaptation c) visitor management d) business planning f) disaster risk reduction**

- Check feasibility to integrate management of cultural assets in one of the thematic trainings i.e. visitor management;
- Through which institution to reach out to the business sectors?

### **Activity 11: Determining borders of the property and preparation of databases and GIS**

- Check status of the General Urban Plan from Pogradec to Lin;
- GIS database located with Ministries, check if regional authorities also have one;
- National Culture GIS project under way, certain districts have started - check which ones.

### **Activity 12: Drafting final management plan**

- Excellent opportunity for joint cooperative effort between different Ministries and the local authorities.

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### **Activity 13: Delivery of the final plan for approval**

- World Heritage Management should be approved by the Government, the relevant Ministries should approve it on behalf of the Government as was the case for the Management Plan for "Historic Centre of Berat and Gjirokastra".

### **Activity 16: Technical Assistance for the preparation of the extension file of the transboundary World Heritage property: Identifying attributes and features**

- Establish nomination group (core team), issue of capacity within ministries' staff, Ministries identify appropriate experts;
- Possible adjustment of the time frame needed as it might be worthwhile to aim for the deadline of 30 September 2016 for the submission of the extension file.

### **Activity 17: Soft-based tourism and sustainable development opportunities: assessment of current state of infrastructure**

- Particular involvement of Ministry of Urban Planning and Tourism and local authorities (regional and municipal).

### **Activity 21: Preparation and dissemination of communication material (in English and local languages)**

- Lead by local and regional authorities;
- Leaflet on World Heritage extension project in Albanian and English;
- Elaboration of common Graphic Charter – potentially across the entire Lake?
- Kit for World Heritage in Young Hands in Albanian is foreseen within Agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Albania.

### **Activity 21-24: Pilot Actions on waste water and solid waste:**

- Lead by regional and local authorities;
- Ministry of Culture enquired if possible to implement Pilot actions not only along the shore of the Lake, but also for cultural sites located in the area. During development of waste implementation plan consult on this with donor.

The above comments will be taken on board as much possible in the design and implementation of the activities and will be further followed up where necessary.

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#### **4. Conclusions and Next Steps in the Inception Phase**

The Inception Workshop reconfirmed the high interest and commitment to the project by all project partners.

The Workplan was discussed in detail and useful feedback from partners was received. In principle, there was an agreement on project activities; however, the question of local implementation was raised, in particular due to the transversal nature of project activities as a wide range of project participants are to be involved in project. The importance of involvement of the local authorities on the Albanian part of the Lake Ohrid, as well as the Ministry of Urban Planning and Tourism was stressed.

- Ensure involvement of local authorities and other relevant Ministries.

During the Workshop the proposal for an internal project coordination group between the various institutions of Albania was suggested by the Albanian National Commission to UNESCO. It is proposed that this Coordination Group is established and lead by the National Commission. A first coordination meeting could take place in mid-December 2014.

- Albanian National Commission to UNESCO establishes Coordination Group among Albanian institutions.
- Schedule first meeting for mid-December.

The only proposed adjustment in the Dynamic Work Plan would be to include as Activity 3B the establishment of an internal coordination group among Albanian institutions.

- Seek formal approval by main partners on the adjusted Dynamic Work Plan.

The revision of the World Heritage Management Plan for the property in FYR of Macedonia is in its concluding phase. The final workshop and presentation of the revised Management Plan is scheduled for early 2015. It was proposed to invite the Albanian partners to the final presentation to allow for sharing of knowledge and prepare the ground for the transboundary management planning activities of the project.

- Ensure synergies of activities.
- Plan next transboundary Platform meeting taking into account the final management plan presentation in FYR of Macedonia in early 2015.

Clear communication lines and visibility will be crucial to ensure that the objectives and outcomes of the project are properly communicated on a local, national and international level. The World Heritage Centre will finalise the first draft of the Communication and Visibility strategy and consult the partners before the end of 2014.

- Share and consult project partners on Communication and Visibility strategy before end of 2014.

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### Annex 1: Workshop Agenda

Day 1	
9.00 – 12.30	<p><b>Introductory Presentations</b></p> <p><b>Welcome and introduction of project team</b></p> <p><b>Opening remarks</b></p> <p>Sinisa Sesum, UNESCO</p> <p>Pellumb Abeshi, Ministry of Environment of Albania</p> <p>Zhulietta Harasani, Ministry of Culture of Albania</p> <p>Ardit Konomi, Prefect of Korça region</p> <p>Dejan Panovski, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, FYR of Macedonia</p> <p>Antoine Avignon, EU Delegation to Albania</p> <p>Luisa de Marco, ICOMOS</p> <p>Boris Erg, IUCN</p> <p><b>Introduction round</b></p> <p><b>Presentation of the project</b> <i>Alexandra Fiebig, Project Officer, Europe and North America unit, World Heritage Centre, UNESCO</i></p> <p><b>Current State of Albanian Part of Lake Ohrid, Protected Area in Pogradec</b> <i>Odeta Cato, Director of the Biodiversity Department, Ministry of Environment of Albania</i></p> <p><b>The State of World Heritage in Albania</b> <i>Zhulietta Harasani, Director General, General Directorate of Strategic Planning for Cultural Heritage and Diversity, Ministry of Culture</i></p> <p><b>The State of World Heritage in FYR of Macedonia</b></p> <p>- The Management Plan and the state of cultural heritage in the Lake Ohrid region; <i>Mr Zoran Pavlov, Head of Department for</i></p>

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	<p><i>Documentation, International Cooperation and Administrative Affairs, Ministry of Culture - Cultural Heritage Protection</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation on the state of cultural heritage in the Ohrid region; <i>Goran Patcev, Institute for Cultural Heritage Protection in Ohrid</i></li> </ul>
14.00 – 14.45	<p><b>Bilateral Cooperation in the Lake Ohrid Region Development of Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Ohrid Prespa Under UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme</b></p> <p><i>Dejan Panovski National Focal Point for Natural Heritage of the Ohrid region for FYR of Macedonia</i></p>
14.45 – 16.30	<p><b>The World Heritage Convention and its Procedures</b> <i>Alexandra Fiebig, UNESCO WHC and Luisa de Marco, ICOMOS</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The World Heritage nomination process</li> <li>- Baselines assessments for nomination and management process</li> </ul>
16.00 – 17.30	<p><b>Transboundary Conservation – <i>Boris Erg, IUCN</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Protected area categories and effective management in the context of World Heritage</li> <li>- Governance of protected areas and Transboundary Conservation</li> </ul>
17.30 – 18.00	Wrap-up of first day
<b>Day 2</b>	
9.00 – 10.30	<b>Working session: SWOT analysis for Lake Ohrid region</b>
11.00 – 12.30	<b>Working session: Project activities – brainstorm on detailed action, roles and responsibilities and Dynamic Work Plan, timeline</b>
12.30 – 13.15	<b>Wrap-up and conclusions</b>



## Annex 2: Participant List

	Name	Title	Country / Organisation	Email
1	Pellumb Abeshi	General Director of Environmental Policies as coordinator for the Ministry of Environment	Albania	<a href="mailto:pellumb.abeshi@moe.gov.al">pellumb.abeshi@moe.gov.al</a>
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6	Boris Erg	Director of IUCN South Eastern Europe	IUCN	<a href="mailto:Boris.Erg@iucn.org">Boris.Erg@iucn.org</a>
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11	Ardit Konomi	Prefect of Korca Region	Albania	<a href="mailto:arditkonomi@gmail.com">arditkonomi@gmail.com</a>
12	Johan Koroveshi	Architect of Director of Regional Directorate of Cultural Heritage	Albania	<a href="mailto:johannkoroveshi@gmail.com">johannkoroveshi@gmail.com</a>

	Name	Title	Country / Organisation	Email
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17	Dejan Panovski	National Focal Point for Natural Heritage of the Ohrid Region, Representative of the Bilateral Secretariat for the Protection of the Ohrid Lake Basin, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning	FYR of Macedonia	<a href="mailto:dejpan11@gmail.com">dejpan11@gmail.com</a>
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20	Daniel Risteski	Officer at the Municipality of Debarca	FYR of Macedonia	
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23	Igor Trajkoski	Mayor at the Municipality of Debarca	FYR of Macedonia	<a href="mailto:trajkoskiigor@yahoo.com">trajkoskiigor@yahoo.com</a>
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### Annex 3: Dynamic Work Plan discussed during Workshop

No	Activity	2014		2015				2016				2017		Participating / contributing partners / institutions:
		3 Q	4 Q	1 Q	2 Q	3 Q	4 Q	1 Q	2 Q	3 Q	4 Q	1 Q	2 Q	
1	Preparation of Terms of Reference and preparation of the detailed work plans													UNESCO
2	Finalisation of selection procedure of the sub-contractors													UNESCO
3	a) Organisation of Kick-off workshop and project launching ceremony													UNESCO
	b) establishment of an internal coordination group among Albanian institutions <i>(new proposed activity)</i>													Albanian National Commission to UNESCO
4	<b>Support to existing transboundary management structures:</b> Organisation of 6 transboundary Platform meetings for each milestone of the project													Joint Bilateral Secretariat, concerned Ministries, UNESCO and Advisory Bodies

		2014		2015				2016				2017	2017	
No	Activity	3 Q	4 Q	1 Q	2 Q	3 Q	4 Q	1 Q	2 Q	3Q	4 Q	1 Q	2 Q	Participating / contributing partners / institutions:
5	<b>Defining and Understanding the property:</b> Analysis of available literature, data, information, plans and existing gaps													All project partners, with a specific focus on cultural resources and planning system (particularly Ministry of Urban Planning and Tourism)
6	Baseline assessments, mapping of natural and cultural heritage, including desk and field research on cultural and natural heritage assets and their potential to contribute to OUV													Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Culture with project partners
7	Capacity building programme: Development of the programme content and elaboration and preparation of the training materials													UNESCO / Selected Contractors

		2014		2015				2016				2017	2017	
No	Activity	3 Q	4 Q	1 Q	2 Q	3 Q	4 Q	1 Q	2 Q	3Q	4 Q	1 Q	2 Q	Participating / contributing partners / institutions:
8	Series of 5 two-day workshops focused on the preparation of the management plan: a) establishment of core team and management plan preparation statement b) property vision and management objectives c) stakeholder consultation and management options d) management measures e) management actions													Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Urban development and Tourism and Ministry of Local Authorities, All including CSO and business sector, universities
9	Series of 5 thematic trainings on a) monitoring b) climate change adaptation c) visitor management d) business planning f) disaster risk reduction													All including CSO and business sector, universities
10	<b>Elaboration of integrated management plan for transboundary Lake Ohrid region</b> Stakeholders analysis - conduct detailed analysis													All including CSO
11	Determining borders of the property and preparation of databases and GIS													Ministry of Urban Planning and Tourism and Ministry of Environment; in cooperation with Ministry of Culture

		2014		2015				2016				2017	2017	
No	Activity	3 Q	4 Q	1 Q	2 Q	3 Q	4 Q	1 Q	2 Q	3Q	4 Q	1 Q	2 Q	Participating / contributing partners / institutions:
12	Drafting final management plan													Ministry of Urban Planning and Tourism, Ministry of Environment; in cooperation with Ministry of Culture, local authorities (regional and municipalities)
13	Delivery of the final plan for approval													Selected contractors with beneficiaries
14	<b>Technical Assistance for the preparation of the extension file of the transboundary World Heritage property:</b> Identifying attributes and features													All partners, individual experts
15	Technical Assistance for the preparation of the comparative analysis													All partners, individual experts
16	Technical Assistance for the preparation of the nomination / extension dossier													All partners, individual experts
17	<b>Soft-based tourism and sustainable development opportunities:</b> Assessment of current state of infrastructure													Ministry of Urban Planning and Tourism, Ministry of Environment; in cooperation with Ministry of Culture, local authorities (regional and municipalities) and universities

		2014		2015				2016				2017	2017	
No	Activity	3 Q	4 Q	1 Q	2 Q	3 Q	4 Q	1 Q	2 Q	3Q	4 Q	1 Q	2 Q	Participating / contributing partners / institutions:
18	Technical Assistance for the elaboration of strategy document identifying sustainable development opportunities including soft tourism based on cultural and natural heritage													Ministry of Urban Planning and Tourism, Ministry of Environment; in cooperation with Ministry of Culture, local authorities (regional and municipalities) and universities
19	Planning and Producing soft-tourism infrastructure													Ministry of Urban Planning and Tourism, Ministry of Environment; in cooperation with Ministry of Culture, local authorities (regional and municipalities) and universities
20	Putting in place soft tourism infrastructure													Ministry of Urban Planning and Tourism, Ministry of Environment; in cooperation with Ministry of Culture, local authorities (regional and municipalities) and universities
21	Preparation and dissemination of communication material (in English and local languages)													Mandated regional and local authorities

		2014		2015				2016				2017	2017	
No	Activity	3 Q	4 Q	1 Q	2 Q	3 Q	4 Q	1 Q	2 Q	3Q	4 Q	1 Q	2 Q	Participating / contributing partners / institutions:
22	<b>Pilot Actions on waste water and solid waste:</b> Setting-up of a coordination group and development of a waste implementation plan													Mandated regional and local authorities
23	Purchase of infrastructure, installation and operationalisation of infrastructure													In cooperation with mandated regional and local authorities
24	Waste awareness campaign													Mandated regional and local authorities and all three Municipalities
25	Progress Report to the Donor													
26	Evaluation													
27	<b>Final reporting and closure of the project</b>													



## Annex 4: Situation Analysis

NAME	MANDATE	Detail of TASKS (according to law)	HUMAN RESOURCES	RESULTS achieved	GAPS
<b>Regional Directorate of Cultural Heritage - Korça Region</b>	Law ch 9048/2005 Inventory, conservation, Possible future competences: (144 monuments under their responsibility, 100km distance between extreme points of the concerned territory)		3 sector for 4 cities each sector: 1 architect – 1 worker (new sector Pogradec 2014) ...	Formal protection of historic centres of Pogradec and Korça ongoing. Regulations for both exist – in Korça already formalised – in Pogradec finalisation is under preparation. ...	Human resources inadequate in terms of number and educational background  ...
<b>General Directorate of Strategic Planning for Cultural Heritage and Diversity – Ministry of Culture - Albania</b>					
<b>Other relevant Directorates of the Ministry of Culture in Albania</b>					
<b>Regional directorate forestry services - Korça - Albania (12 in all country)</b>	Law protected areas 2002 (amend. 2008) Data collection flora fauna, biodiversity, protection (hub for building permits preliminary comments for central office) Possible future separated office for protected areas in the		6 -7 staff Trained in forestry and agriculture further detail needed	Take inventory in Prespa park (for the MAB nomination) ...	Staff inadequate in terms of Number and professional profile  ...

NAME	MANDATE	Detail of TASKS (according to law)	HUMAN RESOURCES	RESULTS achieved	GAPS
	region				
<b>Committee for Protected Landscape Pogradec (inter-ministerial)</b>	Order of Ministry of Environment (reference?) <b>Monitoring, guidance, advice... no operational tasks</b>				
<b>Branch for Protected Areas Ministry of Environment central directorate</b>				Management Plan for Pogradec Protected Landscape ...	
<b>Directorate of Biodiversity</b>					
<b>Directorate for forestry central level Ministry of Environment - Albania</b>					
<b>Inspectorate for Forestry, Water, Environment Law implementation - Ministry of Environment - Albania</b>					
<b>Directorate for Projects and European Integration - Ministry of Environment - Albania</b>					
<b>Bilateral Secretariat for the Protection of the Ohrid Lake Basin</b>	FYR of Macedonia – Albania 2004 Bilateral agreement Collect information from stakeholders on the property		Staff is employed in the Ministries of environment of both countries In FYR of Macedonia: 2 technical supporting staff (September 2014) professional profile: tourism	Lobbying for projects; Activities mandated by bilateral agreement; Periodical meeting among technical staff.	Staff insufficient Bilateral committee cannot meet frequently – frequent changes at political levels existing structures are weak need for permanent

<b>NAME</b>	<b>MANDATE</b>	<b>Detail of TASKS (according to law)</b>	<b>HUMAN RESOURCES</b>	<b>RESULTS achieved</b>	<b>GAPS</b>
			background and lawyer		functioning body dealing with management issue
<b>Bilateral Management Board Albania – FYR of Macedonia</b>					
<b>Ohrid Municipality – department for cooperation with UNESCO</b>					Staff should be set up
<b>Local authorities</b> (exact list and type needed)					Information not available at the time of Inception Workshop 15-16.9.2014
<b>Ministry for local authorities</b>	Reform foreseen for local representation				
<b>Prefecture for Korça</b>	Reference needed				
<b>Other relevant Ministries and Directorates</b> (exact list needed)					

**Annex 5: Pictures**

