

# Towards Strengthened Governance of the Shared Trans-boundary Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Lake Ohrid Region

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OCTOBER 2015

# THE SHARED TRANSBOUNDARY NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE LAKE OHRID REGION.

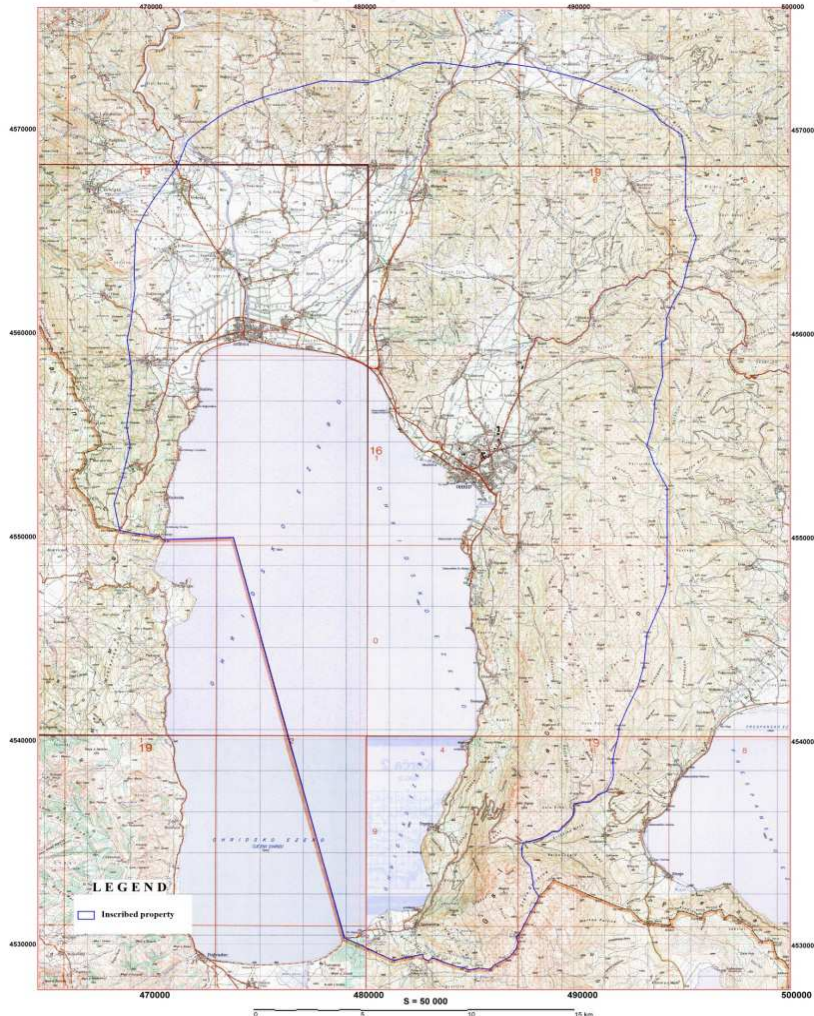


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## The World Heritage Property “Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region”

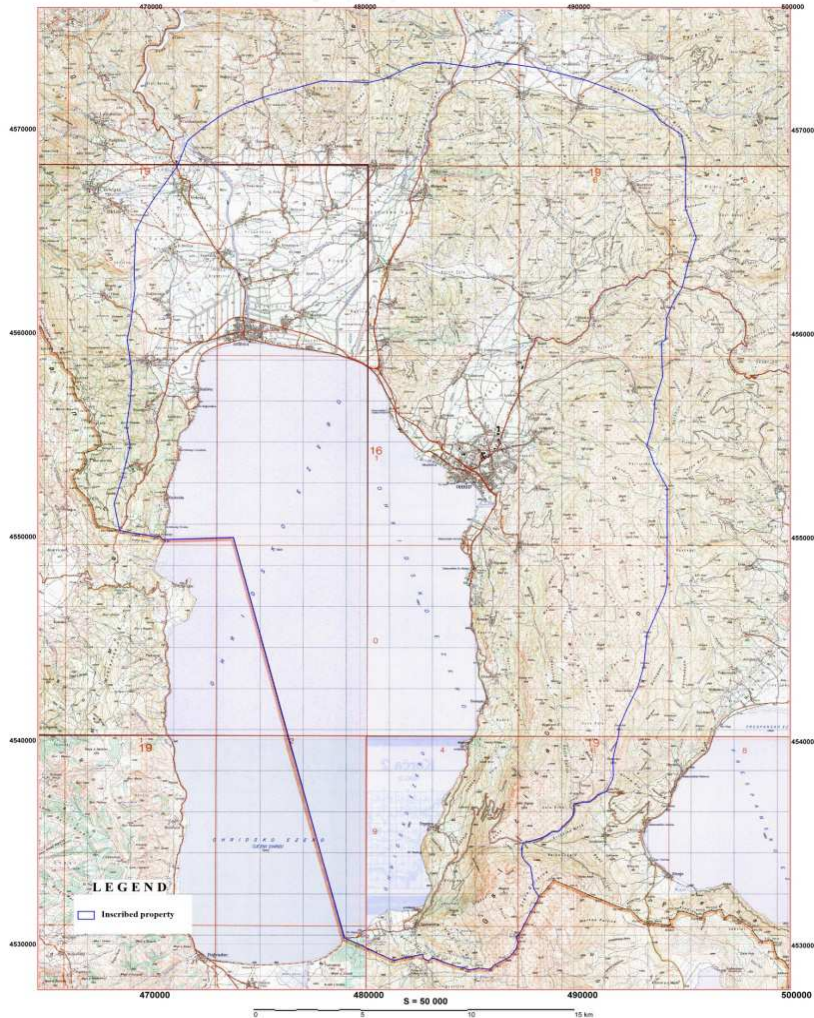
- located at an altitude of 683 m
- bounded by high mountain chains to the east and west, reaching about 2,250 m in altitude
- one of the most voluminous lakes in Europe
- total surface area of 358 km<sup>2</sup>, of which approximately two-thirds are located in the FYR of Macedonia and about one-third in the Republic of Albania
- over 1,400 native species, including around 300 species endemic to Lake Ohrid
- over 160,000 people live around Lake Ohrid, with almost 52,000 in Albania (2011 census data)
- about 300,000 visitors explore the region’s natural and cultural heritage every year.



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### “Awards” to Lake Ohrid and its surroundings

- has been given the status of an Important Bird Area (IBA) both in Albania and Macedonia
- Is part of the European Green Belt initiative, the most comprehensive transboundary conservation initiative in Europe.
- Pogradec Protected Landscape
- Prespa National Park
- Lake Ohrid Protected Landscape and
- Galicica National Park.
- With a geological and biological history of over one million years, Lake Ohrid stands out as one of the oldest lakes in Europe and a remarkable biodiversity hotspot of global importance.
- It has been estimated that it is the lake with the highest biodiversity in the world, taking into account the number of endemic species per surface area.



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## WHS

- 1979 The Lake Ohrid is first inscribed on the World Heritage List as a natural property, under criterion (iii) on superlative natural phenomena (today criterion (vii)).
- 1980 The World Heritage property is extended to cultural criteria (i), (iii) and (iv) and becomes one of the first mixed World Heritage properties.

**Criterion (i):** represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;

**Criterion (iii):** bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;

**Criterion (iv):** be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;

**Criterion (vii):** contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance.

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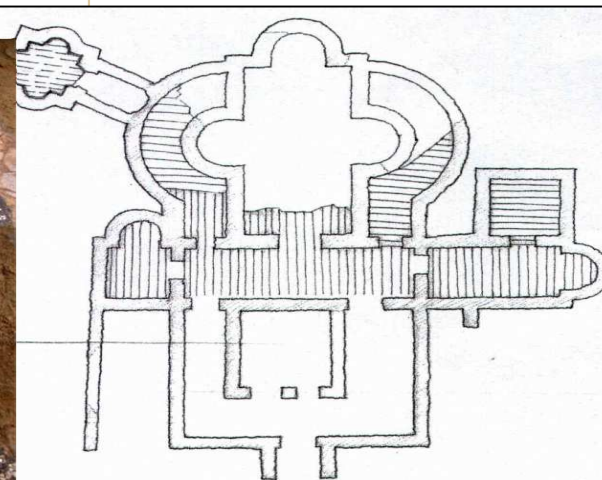
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## CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE REGION OF POGRADEC

1. The Castle of Pogradec
2. tri-conch church similar with tetraconch church in Ohrid, 6<sup>th</sup> century  
Coloured floor mosaics (120 m<sup>2</sup>)
3. Via Egnatia which connected Rome with Constantinople
4. The monumental tombs of Lower Selca carved in stone dating back to IV-II century BC



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## EU-IPA \_UNESCO Project (Scoping phase \_ 2011–2014)

2012 Phase One of the Upstream process entails the Advisory Scoping Mission. In 2012 this Mission was carried out to assess the feasibility of extending the already inscribed property to Albania. This mission was carried out by two Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee (ICOMOS and IUCN) and was financed through International Assistance of the World Heritage Fund.

### THREATS IDENTIFIED:

1. Unplanned urban development,
2. waste water and solid waste disposal ,
3. natural habitat alteration and
4. destruction and depletion of natural resources.

### DUE TO:

- 1. Management challenges:** Institutional arrangements and lack of coordination and cooperation
- 2. Expertise and knowledge:** Need for comprehensive understanding of the heritage and the regional values and their threats
- 3. Transboundary cooperation:** Need to strengthen transboundary management structure
- 4. Awareness** Need for shared common vision both within communities and across boundaries

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## UNESCO World Heritage Centre - Project coordinator

### Project partners

The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Albania

The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Albania

The Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of the Republic of Macedonia

Ministry of Culture - Cultural Heritage Protection Office (CHPO)

ICCROM ( International Centre for the Study, Preservation & Restoration of Cultural Property)

ICOMOS (the International Council on Monuments and Sites)

IUCN (the International Union for Conservation of Nature)

### Budget

The European Union: 1.7 million EUR

The Government of Albania: 170,000 EUR,

Total budget: 1.87 million EUR

**Project duration** : 3 years (2015-2017)



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***Overall objective of the project :***

To contribute to the sustainable development of the cross-border Lake Ohrid region.

***Specific objectives:***

- I. To reinforce the management of the shared natural and cultural heritage of the transboundary Lake Ohrid region in view of a possible recognition as World Heritage property.
  
- II. To build a participatory process for integrated management planning and the preparation of a dossier by the Albanian authorities to extend the World Heritage property to the Albanian part of the Lake Ohrid region.



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## Results expected:

I. Improved trans boundary cooperation and management effectiveness in place for the protection and sustainable development of the natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid region

- (a) Reinforcement of transboundary cooperation (activity 1)
- (b) Establishment of integrated management mechanisms (activity 2)
- (c) Capacity Building on management effectiveness and transboundary cooperation (activity 3)

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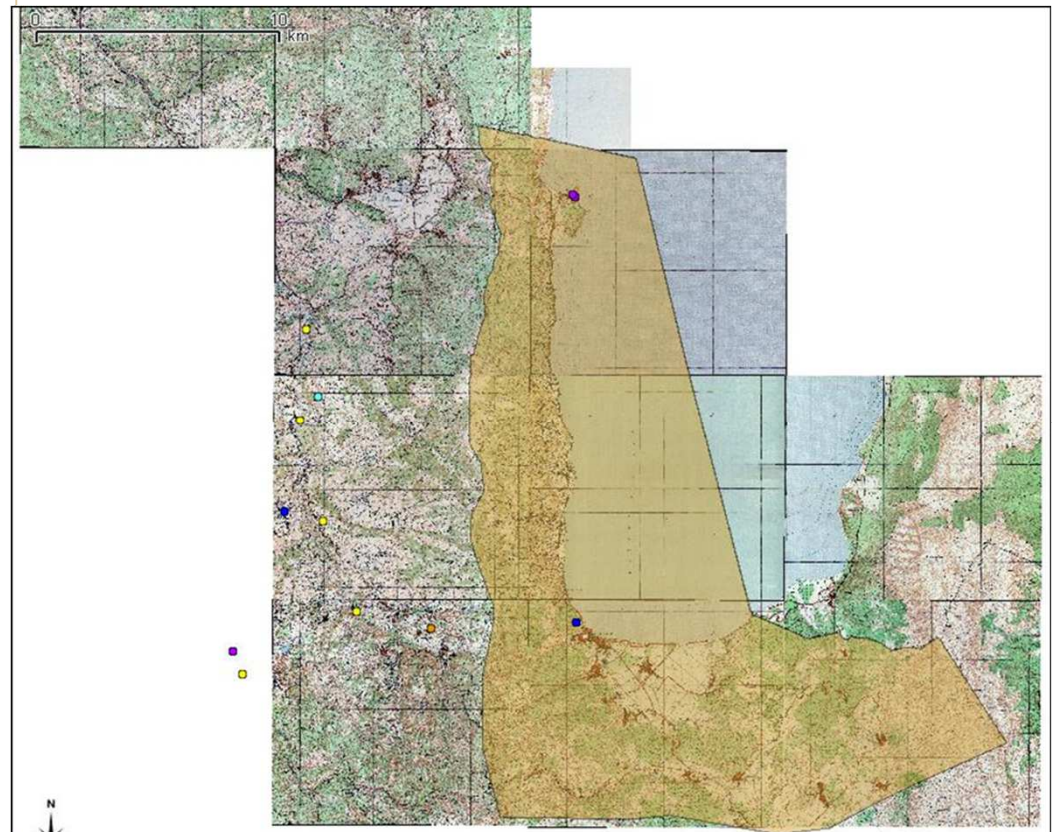


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## Results expected

### II. The important cultural and natural assets of the Lake Ohrid region identified and safeguarded by the local and national authorities

- (a) Profiling of the transboundary area and its sustainable tourism opportunities (activity 4)
- (b) Technical Assistance for the preparation of the extension file of the World Heritage property (activity 5)
- (c) Implementation of waste awareness campaign through Pilot Actions on Waste Water and Solid Waste (activity 6)



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## Activities to date:

15 – 16 September - **The Inception Workshop.**

25 - 26 march 2015 - **First Management Planning Workshop** : as part of a series of five workshops to support the elaboration of an integrated management system for the Lake Ohrid Region, took place in Korça, Albania).

3 - 4 June 2015 - **Second Management Planning workshop** in the framework of this project took place on at the Regional Centre for Restoration (IMK) in Tirana, Albania.

Around 20 Albanian and Macedonian experts, supported by 6 international experts from the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee (IUCN, ICCROM and ICOMOS), gathered at the second Management Planning “Visioning” Workshop to discuss and develop joint vision statements for the Albanian part of the Lake Ohrid region.

The experts from IUCN, ICOMOS and ICCROM gave presentations on theoretical aspects of management of World Heritage properties and the progress in the ongoing baseline assessment of natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid region. The Macedonian experts shared their experience in developing a vision and management objectives for the existing property.

2 October 2015 **“Transboundary Platform Meeting”**, in Ohrid, Macedonia.

9-10 December 2015 **“Operationalising the activities foreseen”**, in Pogradec Albania.

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Updated Dynamic Work Plan - Lake Ohrid region project (update June 2015)		Projected on 09/2014 : Adjusted as on 06/2015:	2014		2015				2016				2017	
No	Activity	Required action	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q
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 core and extended stakeholder group among Albanian institutions		■	■										
4	<b>Support to existing transboundary management structures:</b> Organisation of 6 transboundary Platform meetings for each milestone of the project	Selected contractors / UNESCO	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
5	<b>Defining and Understanding the property:</b> Analysis of available literature, data, information, plans and existing gaps	Selected contractors		■	■	■	■	■						
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	Selected contractors		■	■	■	■	■						
7	<b>Capacity building programme:</b> Development of the programme content and elaboration and preparation of the training materials	Selected contractors / UNESCO		■	■	■	■	■						





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No	Activity	Required action	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q
14	<b>Technical Assistance for the preparation of the extension file of the transboundary World Heritage property:</b> Identifying attributes and features	Selected contractors with beneficiaries												
15	Technical Assistance for the preparation of the comparative analysis	Selected contractors with beneficiaries												
16	Technical Assistance for the preparation of the nomination / extension dossier	Selected contractors with beneficiaries												
17	<b>Soft-based tourism and sustainable development opportunities:</b> Assessment of current state of infrastructure	Selected contractors												
18	Technical Assistance for the elaboration of strategy document identifying sustainable development opportunities including soft tourism based on cultural and natural heritage	Selected contractors with beneficiaries												
19	Planning and Producing soft-tourism infrastructure	Selected contractors												



THANK YOU!

FALEMINDERIT!

HVALA!

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