

Project Fiche – IPA National programmes / Component I

1 IDENTIFICATION

Project Title	Towards strengthened governance of the shared transboundary natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid Region.
CRIS Decision number	2013 / 024-190
Project no.	11
MIPD Sector Code	Environment and Climate Change
ELARG Statistical code	03.27 - Environment
DAC Sector code	41040 - Site preservation
Total cost (VAT excluded) ¹	EUR 1 870 000
EU contribution	EUR 1 700 000
Management mode	Joint Management
Implementing Agency	UNESCO World Heritage Centre
Implementation management	<p>Partner 1: The Government of Albania (Ministry of Environment, Mr Fatos Bundo, Ministry of Culture, Mr Ols Lafe)</p> <p>Partner 2: The Government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Mr Dejan Panovsky, Ministry of Culture, Mr Zoran Pavlov)</p> <p>Partner 3: International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS International)</p> <p>Partner 4: International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)</p> <p>Partner 5: International Centre for the study of the preservation and restoration of cultural property (ICCROM)</p>
Implementing modality	Stand-alone project
Project implementation type	Contribution agreement with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Centre
Zone benefiting from the action(s)	<p>Albania, Korca Region: Pogradec Municipality and the surrounding Lake Ohrid area</p> <p>The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ohrid and Struga Municipalities and the surrounding Lake Ohrid area</p>

¹ The total project cost should be net of VAT and/or of other taxes. Should this not be the case, clearly indicate the amount of VAT and the reasons why it is considered eligible.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 PROJECT CONTEXT: ISSUES TO BE TACKLED AND NEEDS ADDRESSED

The project “Towards strengthened governance of the shared transboundary natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid Region” is designed to address the main problems threatening the natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid region shared between Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

It is aimed at strengthening transboundary cooperation over shared Lake Ohrid’s cultural and natural heritage, helping recognize and profile the transboundary area by assessing its values and sustainable development opportunities, improving capacities for the effective management of natural and cultural heritage, supporting integrated management planning based on active cross-sectorial cooperation and public participation. Finally, it will support the process of extension of the World Heritage property “Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region” in Albania.

The introduction of the concept of safeguarding cultural and natural heritage in a transboundary context such as the Lake Ohrid region, designated at the same time a Protected Area, is a new one for Albania. The implementation of the integrated management concept in such regards with the goal of preserving the natural and cultural heritage through the sustainable development and use of natural and cultural resources approach including tourism development and benefits for local communities is of utmost importance. The region’s striving for balancing conservation with sustainable development is reflected in the bilateral *Agreement for the Protection and Sustainable Development of Lake Ohrid and its Watershed* ratified in 2004. More recently on 2 October 2012 this objective was reconfirmed through the initiation of the process to create a transboundary biosphere reserve according the UNESCO Program “Man and Biosphere” with the signature of the “Declaration of Commitment” by the Ministers of Environment of Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The present project will take into consideration the results already achieved through existing strategies, programmes and previous projects with the aim of complementing and strengthening the national and regional strategies for natural and cultural heritage protection and management, sustainable development and tourism. The project will also contribute to furthering progress made in different fields, namely, in the agricultural and rural development sectors, in the energy efficiency of the built heritage and renewable energy resource use, and environment safeguard including waste water and solid waste disposal and climate change preparedness.

2.2 LINK WITH MIPD AND NATIONAL SECTOR STRATEGIES

In the Multi-annual Indicative Planning Document for Albania 2011-2013 Environment and Climate Change is part of the six sectors in which the EU assistance will be primarily focused. EU environment and climate legislation together are one of the largest parts of the *acquis*. Its transposition and implementation are an enormous challenge for every pre-accession country. The project will help introduce the concept of cultural and natural heritage protection and management, including in terms of climate change issues, for the mutual benefits in sectors.

The project objectives are also related to the National Cross-Cutting Environment Strategy as an integral part of the National Strategy for Integration and Development 2007-2013 by contributing to its objective of EU *acquis* transposition and implementation as well as the integrated management of Protected Areas. Foreseen activities also relate to the National Plan for the Implementation of SAA Agreement for the period 2014-2014 (Nature protection chapter).

According to the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) the identified priorities in nature conservation are:

1. The integration of biological and landscape diversity issues in other sectors;
2. Increasing and strengthening the network of protected areas;
3. Need for further research and monitoring work;
4. Education, awareness and information use and management.

The major gaps as they are recognized in the strategic documents are as follows:

- Lack of detailed plans and activities for the protection and conservation of sites and species affected by the human activities that are threatening the biodiversity value;
- Lack of human and financial capacities in implementing the objectives and duties approved, and generally weak law enforcement;
- Lack of law enforcement of relevant legislation for biodiversity conservation;
- Little knowledge on European management concepts of sites and species related to the Habitats and Birds Directives;
- Little consideration of environmental and nature conservation principles into the other sectorial development strategies;
- Low awareness environmental protection and nature conservation among local population.

2.3 LINK WITH ACCESSION PARTNERSHIP (AP) / EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP (EP) / STABILISATION AND ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT (SAA) / ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

The EU Albania 2012 Progress Report analyses the progress made by Albania in meeting the criteria and in improving its capacity to assume the obligations implied by EU membership. It identifies a number of areas where improvement and additional actions are needed concerning the environment and climate change sector. The report highlights the lack of implementation and enforcement of environmental legislation including environmental impact assessments, absence of relevant management plans or the institutional capacities to enforce them. Concerning climate change, substantial efforts are required on awareness-raising, setting a more strategic institutional approach, as well as strengthening administrative capacities and inter-institutional cooperation. This project will contribute with its focus on strengthening the capacities of management for the natural resources and identifying implications of climate change on the Lake Ohrid region.

This project is in full compliance with the **National Action Plan for the Implementation of Stabilisation and Association Agreement**, whereby the main priority is sustainable tourism development, which preserves and develops cultural and natural heritage of Albania, ensuring rapid economic growth. The development of tourism in general and of cultural tourism specifically was highlighted as a very important issue during the **Working Party on Trade**,

Industry, Customs and Taxation under the EU – Albania Cooperation Agreement, held in Tirana on 3 February 2012.

The proposal is in line with the provisions of the Stabilization and Association Agreement, which was signed on 12 June 2006 and entered into force on 1 April 2009, and in which Article 108 states that “the Parties shall develop and strengthen their cooperation in the vital task of combating environmental degradation, with the aim of promoting environmental sustainability and that cooperation shall mainly focus on priority areas related to EU *acquis* in the field of environment.”

The European Partnership² highlights priorities on short term, Section (Environment) 3.1 short-term priorities and key priorities and political requirements. Those relevant for the current proposal are the strengthening of administrative capacity and coordination at national and local level as well as the the implementation of international conventions to which Albania is party in the field of nature protection.

2.4 PROBLEM ANALYSIS

Lake Ohrid embraces exceptional natural and cultural features, and is an important transboundary site in South Eastern Europe. It is protected under various agreements, but due to high urbanization and increased tourism, the shared natural and cultural heritage of Lake Ohrid and the surrounding areas are facing several threats. Based on recent assessments and reports, and notwithstanding climate change issues, the major threats are:

- Unplanned urban development. A significant threat to the area is the rampant development especially along the shore where new buildings are constantly erected, often in an unplanned and unregulated manner. The survival of traditional buildings is threatened and affects the consistency of traditional architecture and the aesthetic value of the area. In addition, development and infrastructure projects are undertaken without relevant environmental and/or heritage impact assessments which may irreversibly affect the natural and cultural values of the Lake basin;
- Waste water and solid waste disposal into the lake and along its shores. In some areas sewage systems and waste collection are lacking or in need of improvement, polluted water from past mining activities still discharges into the lake and generally, waste water and solid waste increase manifold during the tourist season with no adequate treatment structures in some places. The waste hampers sustainable development of the area. Despite several interventions only partial and local solutions have been achieved, leaving particularly the northwestern area of the Albanian part of the lake prone to waste water and solid waste disposal with its clear negative impact across national borders;
- Habitat alteration, destruction and depletion of natural resources. The rampant urban development also causes environmental problems by direct destruction, reduced quality and fragmentation of habitats, especially the ones along the shoreline. Additional causes for environmental pressures are disturbance and land-use changes as well as, depleting fish stock and the widespread poaching of birds. Unregulated urban

² The European Partnership Document for Albania adopted by Council Decision of 18 February 2008 on the principles, priorities and conditions contained in the European Partnership with Albania and repealing Decision 2006/54EC.

sprawl and tourism development, coupled with pollution and excessive fishing and hunting activities constitute a major threat to the biodiversity of Lake Ohrid and its surrounding.

Four underlying causes for the above-mentioned threats have been identified:

1. Management: Institutional arrangements and capacities of stakeholders in Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for the management of the shared natural and cultural heritage of the Transboundary Lake Ohrid region are too limited. This includes:
 - Inadequate institutional arrangements for the management of natural and cultural heritage. Except for National Park Galicica in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the protected areas of Lake Ohrid are understaffed with very limited capacity, financial support and equipment to properly manage the area. With regard to cultural heritage, the regional office in Albania responsible for heritage protection is based in Korça and only recently received responsibilities to oversee also the Pogradec Region and its capacity needs to be strengthened. In the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia a draft World Heritage management plan for Ohrid prepared by the national was evaluated by the Advisory Bodies IUCN and ICOMOS with the recommendation that extensive revision should be undertaken, especially concerning the “implementation” chapter. In both countries heritage valorization and promotion require improvement and coordination. Some mandates and management responsibilities could be better defined;
 - Lack of coordination and cooperation among different levels of administrations (central/local; central/peripheral; central/central) including cross-sectoral cooperation (culture, environment, public works, etc.) and participation of the local communities and civil society.
2. Knowledge: A comprehensive understanding of the heritage and the regional values and their threats, as well as, the social and economic profile, including weaknesses and potentials are lacking. Although some data concerning the Lake’s heritage may exist there are gaps in knowledge, data organization and access that need to be filled;
3. Transboundary cooperation: The existing transboundary management structure such as the Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee are limited to monitoring (species and eco management) and promotion, thus inadequate to address numerous issues pertaining to the shared transboundary management of the lake. In addition, institutional structures are missing to support cross-border cooperation for the protection of the cultural values;
4. Awareness: integrated management based on active cross-sectoral cooperation and public participation is lacking as a result of which Lake Ohrid, and its natural and cultural heritage, is not seen as a common good that provides numerous benefits to the local communities and the society in general. There is no shared common vision both within communities and across boundaries. The lack of institutional and administrative coordination and cooperation, coupled with a limited organized and comprehensive knowledge of the current overall situation in the region prevents from building a clear vision for the future which integrates both natural and cultural heritage in the development perspective of the region.

To address these transversal issues, there is a strong need for management integration and cooperation among the different levels of the administration and management. In particular, in view of the lack of reciprocal knowledge of the activities of the various stakeholders and the

lack of communication and cooperation among the various branches of the administrative structure concerned with the natural and cultural resources of the Lake Ohrid region.

If effective management and planning in the Lake Ohrid region is to be achieved, much stronger and transparent cooperation and coordination among key stakeholders is to be accomplished. For its great transboundary potential, this project will also target and involve key stakeholders from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia such as the Municipalities of Ohrid and Struga, representatives of the Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Galicica National Park management authority, the Hydro-biological Institute Ohrid, the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and the Ministry of Culture of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

In view of the above, the World Heritage Committee acknowledged the clear need to extend the World Heritage property “Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Lake Ohrid” inscribed in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the Albanian part of the Lake (Decision 33 COM 8B.40).

Further, fostering cross-border economic, environmental and social development is specifically expected to highlight the importance of improving the solid waste but also the waste water treatment and the collector installation on the northwest shore of the Lake Ohrid to prevent much of the current leakage of the non-treated waste waters in the fragile Lake Ohrid ecosystem.

2.5 LINKED ACTIVITIES AND DONOR COORDINATION

This project builds upon previous efforts to protect and effectively manage Lake Ohrid in its transboundary context, namely the World Bank–funded Lake Ohrid Conservation Project which helped create a joint Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee and establish a joint monitoring programme.

It corresponds to the *Agreement for the Protection and Sustainable Development of Lake Ohrid and its Watershed* signed by the Prime Ministers of Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and which laid the ground for integrated protection and sustainable development for Lake Ohrid and its watershed, also calling for further work towards its designation as a UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve as well as a gaining the status of World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

In November 2011, UNESCO’s World Heritage Fund allocated an International Assistance grant to the government of Albania to carry out the April 2012 scoping mission in the framework of the World Heritage nomination upstream process which served as a basis for the elaboration of this project proposal.

Since 2001, the water and sewerage utility in Pogradec has been upgrading the water supply and sewage system of the community it serves. Pogradec, local authorities, the Albanian government, and two international donors – the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), and the German Government through its Development Bank (KfW) – have made a joint effort to modernize the water supply and sewerage system. With the water supply network completed, an upgrade of the sewage system began and is scheduled for completion by 2012. New sewage treatment tanks and lagoons have already been built and the amount of untreated sewage entering the lake has been drastically reduced.

In its essence, this project will strive for as much synergies and partnership with the above and other relevant projects implemented in the frame of the European Commission's IPA CBC Programme, and also with other development cooperation projects implemented in the target area, i.e. the Prespa Biosphere Reserve project of Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) or the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity at Lakes Prespa, Ohrid and Shkodra/Skadar project of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für International Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

2.6 LESSONS LEARNED

In 1979 Lake Ohrid in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was inscribed in the World Heritage List under natural criteria and in 1980 this property was extended to include the cultural and historical area. In 2009 the UNESCO World Heritage Committee recommended that “a transboundary extension of the property to include the Albanian part of Lake Ohrid and its watershed be considered in order to strengthen the value and integrity of the property” (Decision 33 COM 8B.40). The fragile nature of the Lake Ohrid demands a strong regulatory framework and regular monitoring for which the proposed project creates the necessary structure. In case the World Heritage Committee decides to inscribe the transboundary property, the States Parties have the responsibility to properly manage and sustain the Outstanding Universal Value of the property in the framework of the *World Heritage Convention*.

Apart from World Heritage designation, Lake Ohrid has been given the status of an Important Bird Area (IBA) both in Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and is part of the European Green Belt initiative, the most comprehensive transboundary conservation initiative in Europe. In Albania, designated protected areas are Pogradec Protected Landscape and Prespa National Park whereas in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia two more protected areas are designated – Lake Ohrid Protected Landscape and Galicica National Park. However, practice has shown that capacities are, yet, weak to fulfill the duties according to the international standards of the various legal protection regimes.

Due to its ecological features, history and cultural heritage, Lake Ohrid has a strong transboundary cooperation potential. Transboundary cooperation implemented through past MoU and agreement between Macedonia and Albania (notably a Memorandum of Understanding establishing a joint Lake Ohrid Management Board (LOMB) and Agreement for the Protection and Sustainable Development of Lake Ohrid and its Watershed) has proven to be effective in particular when it comes to monitoring and promotion where the main responsibilities of the Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee lie so far.

Building on the lessons learned of the past EU CBC projects as well as other regional initiatives in this field, the Pilot Actions of this project will be designed to address the crucial issue of proper waste water and solid waste treatment.

Furthermore, balanced development could only be achieved through participatory planning and co-management mechanisms in place. The experience in transboundary cooperation across the region of the Western Balkans suggests that a facilitated process with participation of both national and international organizations helps to achieve conservation and sustainable development goals.

3 DESCRIPTION

3.1 OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the sustainable development of the cross-border Lake Ohrid region.

3.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

The specific objective of this project is 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.

3.3 RESULTS

This project will focus on these 5 main results:

1. **Transboundary cooperation platform** over the shared Lake Ohrid's cultural and natural heritage established and strengthened;
2. Enhanced **recognition and profiling of the transboundary area** and its sustainable development opportunities including soft tourism;
3. **Integrated management planning** based on active cross-sectoral cooperation and public participation elaborated;
4. **Facilitated process for the extension of the World Heritage property** "Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region" in Albania;
5. **Waste campaign implemented through pilot actions on waste water treatment and solid waste.**

3.4 MAIN ACTIVITIES

Contract 1.1: The project will be implemented in Joint Management with UNESCO, which will be responsible for the first level implementation of action and will closely cooperate with the partner institutions including the partner Ministries in Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS International, IUCN and ICCROM). The project will be executed under the coordination and direct supervision of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and will include the following activities:

Activities related to result 1: Support existing **transboundary management structures**, such as the Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee and establish a joint cooperation platform with representatives of various authorities, including local and central administration, the sectors of tourism, urban and rural development, culture, nature protection, resource management and the environment.

Activities related to result 2: **Baseline assessments** and mapping of **natural and cultural heritage and their vulnerabilities**, of socio-economic current situation and trends and identification of arising **development opportunities**, also in terms of tourism. Communication materials and installation of soft tourism infrastructure will support the dissemination of the outcomes of the assessments.

Activity related to result 3: Development and implementation of an **integrated capacity-building programme** to ensure improved management of the region's natural and cultural heritage. The programme will have particular emphasis on management effectiveness, transboundary cooperation mechanisms and suitable management responses to climate change.

Activities related to result 4: Preparation of the **extension file** for the transboundary **World Heritage property** "Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region" which includes a **joint World Heritage Management Plan**, with the view of integrating it with other sectoral and development plans and/or operational instruments. Technical assistance to the World Heritage nomination Working Group will be provided.

Activities related to result 5: **Pilot actions on waste water and solid waste** will include the installation of waste disposal infrastructure such as containers and signposts and complemented by a waste management plan prepared in close consultation with the relevant authorities.

Contract 1.2: a co-financing of approx. 10 % will be provided by the Government of Albania according to the work plan that will be jointly prepared with the UNESCO. The co-financing which will cover some of the activities of the project, upon the agreement with the UNESCO, will be in addition to the contribution in kind (office space, facilities, ect.). Contribution in kind is not included in the budget table. Therefore, the Government of Albania and the UNESCO will stipulate a second separate agreement.

3.5 ASSESSMENT OF PROJECT IMPACT, CATALYTIC EFFECT AND CROSS BORDER IMPACT

Project activities are designed to contribute to the environmental priorities such as the sustainable use of natural resources, the provision of a healthy and ecological environment, the prevention of environmental contamination and degradation as well as the promotion of environmental protection. The establishment of an integrated management framework based on the natural values of the Lake Ohrid region with strengthened capacities for the key management actors will increase the implementation rate of the various environmental policies and the national and international legal regimes for environmental protection.

This project also brings several added-value elements. It will have a particular focus on building lasting cross-sectoral cooperation and public-private partnership, especially in the fields of sustainable tourism development, and awareness-raising for natural and cultural heritage protection and the importance of appropriate waste management.

Reinforcing the transboundary cooperation and setting up a viable platform will further support existing transboundary initiatives such as the Drin Basin Dialogue, the network for Protected Area managers in the region and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR). For the latter, efforts have been already undertaken from both Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for the designation of a UNESCO MAB Biosphere for the Lake Ohrid area, and this project supports these by establishing cultural and natural value-based management structures for the sustainable development of the region.

3.6 SUSTAINABILITY

For the concerned stakeholders the prospect of obtaining World Heritage status is a strong motivational force throughout the project. Once inscribed the World Heritage property is monitored in the framework of the *World Heritage Convention* which is the legal instrument through which the signatory States Parties recognize their duty for the conservation of the World Heritage properties located on their territory (Article 4). The monitoring of the properties follows strict procedures set out in the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*, such as the Periodic Reporting (State-Party driven) and Reactive Monitoring process that can result in the binding World Heritage Committee decisions. If major threats are identified, properties can be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger – in those cases the Committee defines the Desired State of Conservation framework of the property and prescribes the measures to be taken by the State Party. These World Heritage mechanisms ensure continuity of the project and act as a guarantee for its sustainability.

It should also be underlined that communities are a permanent focus of the activities in the framework of the *World Heritage Convention*. Since 2003 the support of the World Heritage Centre includes technical assistance on conservation issues, on preparation of management plans and for the improvement of site management effectiveness – but also focuses on integrating local communities in the safeguarding of World Heritage properties. Increasing the benefits of World Heritage sites to their communities has thus become a key strategy to improve conservation while contributing to development and alleviating poverty. Therefore a strategic community focus underwrites the project design and also anchors the ownership of the project within the local communities of the Lake Ohrid area. It is further reflected in the various awareness raising activities about the fragility of the Lake and the unique opportunity for the Lake Ohrid area to become a model transboundary World Heritage property.

The strong capacity building component is aimed at the key persons involved on a national and local level in the management of the natural and cultural assets of the Lake Ohrid region to benefit from the knowledge transfer. The project will not only aim at the senior management level, but will also aim at training alongside a generation of young professionals to carry forward the expertise acquired during the project.

Through the programme “Environmental Protection of Ohrid Lake” Component of the Waste Water and Sanitation”, has received Technical Assistance of KfW; work has been done for the establishment of technical and human capacities, for the management of waste water treatment plant in the area of Pogradec, with the final beneficiary the Public Company “Waste Water and Sanitation Pogradec”, Sh.a.

Based on the Waste Water Strategy 2011-2017, the development of the National Master Plan for the water utility sector is under process, drafted and financed by KfW, which is expected to be completed by the end of 2012.

The Master Plan will outline needs for capital investment, and will highlight different outputs in terms of outpouring of sewage and waste water treatment plants in the area of environmental protection.

3.7 ASSUMPTIONS AND PRE-CONDITIONS

It is assumed that full institutional support to the World Heritage extension process continues from both the authorities of Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as expressed in the letters of support (attached to the Project fiche – ANNEX VI).

The main precondition for a successful project is that both Governments allocate the necessary human resources and assist in the identification of the most suitable participants for the capacity building programme. In this regard, preference should be given to those who will continue to be involved in the long-term in the management of the natural and cultural resources of the Lake Ohrid area. It is assumed that well-trained participants of this project have the willingness and capacities to share the acquired knowledge on integrated management approaches in a transboundary context throughout their careers.

Another important assumption of the project is the willingness of the relevant institutions to share previous work results and lessons learned from past projects including draft World Heritage management plan prepared by the authorities of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the EU CBC projects concerning sewage water treatment etc.

Finally, it is assumed that the cohesive efforts between the two countries continue and are not jeopardized by political instability in the region. For the region in particular, the political support and commitment to the *Agreement for the Protection and Sustainable Development of Lake Ohrid and its Watershed* should remain in place.

4 IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

The project is implemented in joint management with UNESCO, which will sign a contribution agreement with the EU Delegation to Albania according to Article 53 (d) of the Financial Regulation and the corresponding provisions of the Implementing Rules.

UNESCO will closely cooperate with the partner institutions including the partner Ministries in Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS International, IUCN and ICCROM). The project will be executed under the coordination and direct supervision of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

4.1 INDICATIVE BUDGET

Indicative Project budget (amounts in EUR)

PROJECT TITLE			SOURCES OF FUNDING										
			TOTAL EXPENDITURE	TOTAL PUBLIC EXPENDITURE	IPA CONTRIBUTION		NATIONAL PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION					PRIVATE CONTRIBUTION	
	IB (1)	INV (1)	EUR (a)=(b)+(e)	EUR (b)=(c)+(d)	EUR (c)	% (2)	Total EUR (d)=(x)+(y)+(z)	% (2)	Central EUR (x)	Regional/Local EUR (y)	IFIs EUR (z)	EUR (e)	% (3)
Activities 1,2,3,4,5													
Contract 1.1	X	–		1 700 000	1 700 000	90							–
Contract 1.2	X	–		170 000			170 000	10	170 000				
TOTAL IB													
TOTAL INV													
TOTAL PROJECT				1 870 000	1 700 000	90	170 000	10	170 000				

NOTE: DO NOT MIX IB AND INV IN THE SAME ROW. USE SEPARATE ROWS.

Amounts net of VAT:

- (1) In the Activity row, use "X" to identify whether IB or INV;
- (2) Expressed in % of the **Public** Expenditure (column (b));
- (3) Expressed in % of the **Total** Expenditure (column (a)).

4.2 INDICATIVE IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE (PERIODS BROKEN DOWN BY QUARTER)

Contracts	Start of Tendering/ Call for proposals	Signature of contract	Project Completion
Contract 1.1	N/A	4Q 2013	2Q 2016
Contract 1.2	N/A	4Q 2013	2Q 2016

UNESCO, in close consultation with the Beneficiary Institutions, will be responsible for the establishment of the Description of Action. The implementation phase is 30 months. During the planning phase (3 months), the terms of references, the detailed work plan for the sub-activities and the inception workshop will be prepared by UNESCO in cooperation with the relevant partners. The project core phase for the implementation of sub-activities will last 24 months, followed by 3 months for evaluation and the financial closure.

4.3 CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

4.3.1 *Equal Opportunities and non discrimination*

UNESCO and its long-standing partners ICOMOS, ICCROM and IUCN promote gender equality and equal opportunities which will be extended to this project.

4.3.2 *Environment and climate change*

A key concern of the project is the integration of the protection of the natural values of into the management priorities of the relevant authorities of the Lake Ohrid region. A climate change adaptation strategy will be developed to raise climate change awareness among main stakeholders of the Lake Ohrid region.

4.3.3 *Minorities and vulnerable groups*

UNESCO and its long-standing partners ICOMOS, ICCROM and IUCN promote equal opportunities, rights and community-based management which will also be extended to this project.

4.3.4 *Civil Society/Stakeholders involvement*

During the identification phase, a two-day workshop was organized in April 2012, for consultation with the main stakeholders of the Lake Ohrid area on the feasibility of the World Heritage extension project and for training purpose on the basic World Heritage nomination procedures. Representatives from the regional and local authorities of the Albanian part of Lake Ohrid were present and exchanged their views. The representative from the Ministry of Environment of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia also attended the meeting and presented the transboundary work undertaken in the framework of the Lake Ohrid Watershed

Committee. The mission experts also met with the representative of a local NGO platform and briefed about the main project objectives and possibilities for future involvement in the process in the framework of the stakeholder consultations.

During the implementation phase, this project will look into potential cooperation of stakeholders and build various levels of partnerships. The project will also help to establish dialogue and cooperation across sectors and various levels of administration, all inclusive of local communities and civil society.

ANNEXES

Documents to be annexed to the Project fiche

- 1. Log frame;**
- 2. Description of Institutional Framework;**
- 3. Reference list of relevant laws and regulations only where relevant;**
- 4. Details per EU funded contract(*) where applicable;**
- 5. Project visibility activities;**
- 6. Letters of support and Decision of the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session concerning the World Heritage Upstream Process.**

LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR Project Fiche		Towards strengthened governance of the shared transboundary natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid Region	Contracting period expires no later than three years from the date of conclusion of Financial Agreement Execution period expires within a maximum of two years from the end date of contracting	
		Total budget	1,870,000	IPA budget: 1,700,000 EUR
Overall objective	Objectively verifiable indicators (OVI)	Sources of Verification		
To contribute to the sustainable development of the cross-border Lake Ohrid region	Institutional endorsement and implementation of plans and activities for the protection and conservation of sites	National Biodiversity Report; EU Progress Report Albania, UNESCO Country programming document for Albania		
Specific objectives	Objectively verifiable indicators (OVI)	Sources of Verification	Assumptions	
To reinforce the management of the shared natural heritage of the transboundary Lake Ohrid region.	<p>1.1 Transboundary cooperation platform is carried forward by the national authorities and meets on a regular basis to develop joint cross-sectoral management actions for the Lake Ohrid region;</p> <p>1.2 Strong regulatory and monitoring framework put in place for the protection of the natural and cultural values of the region;</p> <p>1.3 Pollution of the lake water and the shores reduced as the local stakeholders make use of waste and waste water infrastructure.</p>	<p>1.1 List of institutions with a permanent role in the cooperation platform;</p> <p>1.2. Extension file for the World Heritage property “Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region” .including transboundary World Heritage management plan;</p> <p>1.3. Annual Report of the Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilateral agreement on transboundary cooperation remains in place and receives full institutional support at national, regional and local level. Selected representatives of the key stakeholders continue to be directly engaged in the long-term in the target area and have ability and willingness to share the knowledge and competences acquired during the project. 	
Results	Objectively verifiable indicators (OVI)	Sources of Verification		Assumptions
1. Transboundary cooperation platform over the shared Lake Ohrid’s cultural and natural heritage	1.1 The transboundary cooperation platform is strengthened and carried forward by the national, regional and local authorities	1.1 Platform member list and meeting schedule.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political commitment to cross-border cooperation remains in place. Institutional changes do not affect project implementation.

established and strengthened			
2. Enhanced recognition and profiling of the transboundary area and its sustainable development opportunities, also in terms of soft tourism;	<p>2.1 Strategy document identifying sustainable development opportunities including soft tourism based on cultural and natural heritage elaborated;</p> <p>2.2 Communication material – 4 leaflets on the main values (in English and local languages) elaborated, produced and distributed</p> <p>2.3 Soft nature-based tourism infrastructure (walking paths, information boards, viewpoints etc.) put in place.</p>	<p>2.1 Strategy document;</p> <p>2.2 Communication material – 4 leaflets on the main values (in English and local languages);</p> <p>2.3 Photo documentation of the report from setting up soft nature-based tourism.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full engagement of institutional partners; willingness to share previous work results by relevant institutions.
3. Integrated management planning based on active cross-sectoral cooperation and public participation elaborated;	<p>3.1 Integrated capacity building programme, with particular emphasis on management effectiveness and transboundary cooperation (with support of the Advisory Bodies) elaborated and implemented;</p> <p>3.2 At least 40 experts on cultural and natural heritage and natural resources management participated in training workshops.</p>	<p>3.1 Training evaluations with feedback from the participants;</p> <p>3.2 Lists of participants of the training workshops programmes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full engagement of institutional partners and public interest; willingness to share previous work results by relevant institutions.
4. Facilitated process for the extension of the World Heritage property “Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region” in Albania;	<p>4.1 A transboundary Working Group for World Heritage nomination meets at least twice during the project;</p> <p>4.2 Transboundary World Heritage Management Plan for Lake Ohrid region including a Climate Change adaptation chapter prepared;</p>	<p>4.1 Working group meeting reports including participants lists;</p> <p>4.2 Transboundary World Heritage Management Plan for Lake Ohrid region;</p> <p>4.3 Extension files for examination by the World</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The governments of Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to support the nomination process as expressed in letter of support to the Upstream process of 3 March 2012 by the Ambassador and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Full engagement of institutional partners and public interest; willingness to share previous work results by relevant institutions.

	4.3 Extension file ready for examination by the World Heritage Committee.	Heritage Committee.	
5. Waste campaign implemented through Pilot actions on Waste Water and Solid Waste	5.1 Waste management plans adopted by the local communities; 5.2 Number of waste water and solid waste infrastructure (containers, signposting etc.) put in place and operational.	5.1 Waste campaign plan and implementation report; photo documentation; project documents; 5.2 Waste water and solid waste infrastructure, implementation reports including photo documentation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Willingness to share previous work results by relevant institutions.
Activities to achieve results	Means / contracts	Costs	Assumptions
<i>Activities related to result 1:</i> Support existing transboundary management structures <i>Activities related to result 2:</i> Baseline assessments and mapping of natural and cultural heritage and their vulnerabilities <i>Activity related to result 3:</i> Development and implementation of an integrated capacity-building programme <i>Activities related to result 4:</i> Preparation of the extension file for the transboundary World Heritage property “ <i>Activities related to result 5:</i> Pilot actions on waste water and solid waste	Contribution Agreement with UNESCO	EUR 1,870,000 IPA contribution 1,700,000 National contribution 170 000	

Description of Institutional Framework

UNESCO is the only specialized Agency of the United Nations with a mandate for Education, Science and Culture. Cooperation between the European Commission (EC) and UNESCO dates back to 1964, but it was only in 1996 that the first cooperation agreement was concluded between the two institutions. In April 2003, the European Community and the United Nations (UN) signed the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement (known as FAFA) and subsequently, UNESCO adhered to FAFA in February 2004.

Besides its support of educational and science programs, UNESCO is also involved in efforts to protect the natural environment and humanity's common cultural heritage. In 1972 it instituted an international agreement, the *World Heritage Convention* for the protection of cultural and natural heritage and to establish a World Heritage List of properties that would enjoy government protection. The World Heritage Centre acts as Secretariat to the Convention and through its regional desks, such as the Europe and North America Unit, administers all matters related to World Heritage in the different regions.

The main institution responsible for the nature conservation in Albania is the Ministry of Environment, where the main departments are the Directorate of Biodiversity and the Directorate of Forestry and Pasture, under the General Directorate of Environmental Policy. At the local level the Directorate of Forest Service is present in the 36 districts (Rrethe) with local offices which staff is responsible for the management of the protected areas.

With regard to cultural heritage, the institutions responsible for its protection and management are the Ministry of Culture and the Academy of Science. The Department of Cultural Heritage, which is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Culture, oversees the Institute of Monuments of Culture, the nine National Museums and the Centre for Inventorying Cultural Property, as well as the recently established National Archaeological Service. The Academy of Sciences has institutes relating to specific scientific fields including the Institute of Archaeology and the Institute of Popular Culture; the latter of which is mainly dealing with questions of folklore.

The Institute for Cultural Heritage is responsible for the built heritage and its conservation and is articulated in regional branches which oversee any work undertaken on protected monuments, authorizations for conservation works being issued in the central Office in Tirana. The National Archaeological service is responsible for preventive and rescue archaeology, whilst the Institute of Archaeology, now part of the Albanian Logical Studies Centre deals with research and archaeological excavations.

Apart from the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Culture, the main stakeholders on the Albanian side of the lake are represented by the Municipality of Pogradec, Communes of Buçimas and Tushemisht, the Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee, the Directorate of Forest Service Pogradec, the Directorate of Forest Services Korça (Prespa NP), the Regional Directorate of Korça for National Culture and the Archaeological Museum of Korça-Institute of Archaeology.

From the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia the following institutions will form the institutional framework: the Municipalities of Ohrid and Struga, representatives of the Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the

Galicica National Park management authority, the Hydro-biological Institute Ohrid, the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and the Ministry of Culture of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Three international non-governmental or intergovernmental organizations are named in the 1972 *World Heritage Convention* to advise the Committee in its deliberations. The so-called Advisory Bodies are the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM).

The Advisory Bodies have been identified as the most suitable project partners for this project due to their extensive experience in dealing with safeguarding of cultural and natural properties, be they designated World Heritage or not.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature is an international, non-governmental organization that provides the World Heritage Committee with technical evaluations of natural heritage properties and, through its worldwide network of specialists, reports on the state of conservation of listed properties. With more than 1000 members, IUCN was established in 1948 and with its headquarters located in Gland, Switzerland. The regional office for South-Eastern Europe will be the main project partner for this project.

The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)

The International Council on Monuments and Sites provides the World Heritage Committee with evaluations of cultural and mixed properties proposed for inscription on the World Heritage List. It is an international, non-governmental organization founded in 1965, with an international secretariat in Paris.

The International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM)

The International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property is an intergovernmental body which provides expert advice on how to conserve listed properties, as well as training in restoration techniques. ICCROM was set up in 1956 and is located in Rome. ICCROM has been designated the strategic partner for capacity-building initiatives for in the framework of the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy.

ANNEX III - Reference list of relevant laws and regulations only where relevant

- The Law on Environmental Protection;
- The Cultural Heritage Act;
- The Law on Territorial Planning;
- The National Water Strategy;
- The National Waste management plan;
- The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan;
- The National Strategy for Tourism Development.

ANNEX IV - Details per EU funded operation (*) where applicable

The project will be implemented through a contribution agreement with UNESCO according Article 53 d (1) c of the Financial Regulation and the corresponding provisions of the Implementing Rules.

ANNEX V - Project visibility activities

A communication and visibility plan will be prepared in detail in accordance with the *joint visibility guidelines for EC-UN Actions in the Field*. The visibility activities will be implemented in close collaboration with the governments of Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in consultation with the EU Delegation to Albania.

The high media attention to the UNESCO World Heritage program should be highlighted here. The World Heritage aspect of the project will generate high visibility for the project.

At international level the project's visibility will further be promoted through the UNESCO network and relevant websites (World Heritage Centre, UNESCO Venice Office, etc). Similar efforts to promote the visibility of the project will be undertaken by the relevant Ministries and their communication channels and through the wide networks of the Advisory Bodies in their respective heritage, conservation and environment protection communities.

ANNEX VI – Letters of support and Decision of the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session concerning the World Heritage Upstream Process.