



National park Skadar Lake

Challenges and
opportunities

Public Enterprise National Parks of Montenegro, with the head quarters in Podgorica manages the National Park Skadar Lake.

The enterprise performs activities which include national parks protection and improvement function.

That function is realized through protection, improvement, promotion and sustainable use of natural and landscape values of national parks.



SWOT ANALYSIS

Strengths

Environment

- Unique landscape characteristics
- Largest Balkan lake with dynamic water regime
- Among largest marsh bird sanctuaries and wintering grounds on the Mediterranean
- Huge natural biotopes formed by water
- Wide variety of fish and water animals
- Preserved ecosystem

Cultural, Social and Economic Situation

- Ancient monuments testifying to the turbulent history of both Albania and Montenegro
- Traditional village architecture and medieval monasteries
- Traditionally diversified economic base

Infrastructure

- Good accessibility from Podgorica, Skadar(Shkodra), Tirana and coastal areas
- Low level of boat traffic

Institutional Framework

- Lake protection
- Institutional commitment
- Growing NGO sector
- MoU for the protection and Sustainable Development of Lake Skadar

Weaknesses

Environment

- Degradation of natural landscape
- Pollution of natural environment

Cultural, Social and Economic Situation

- Neglected cultural heritage sites
- Decrease of population in the Western and Southern parts
- Increase of the population in the Northern and Eastern parts
- 'Mindset' of local population
- Abandonment of traditional economic activities
- Lack of coordinated efforts in the tourism sector
- Risks of unsustainable economic activities
- Low degree of legal business

Infrastructure

- Waste water treatment
- Widespread low quality of accommodation facilities
- Lack of appropriate facilities to promote sustainable tourism
- No sufficient road connection around the lake
- Bad conditions of local roads prevent a considerable increase of users (tourists)
- The abandonment of the railway passenger traffic between Podgorica and Skadar with stops along the lake

Institutional Framework

- Lack of inadequate spatial planning
- Lack of clear development vision
- Lack of administrative capacity
- Inadequate and weak Institutional competence and realization of responsibilities
- Lack of Management plans
- Lack of trans-boundary perspective in development planning
- NGO influence is limited
- Neglecting of realistic income and employment opportunities in tourism and related sectors
- Different development priorities
- Conflicting notions of 'sustainable', 'eco', 'nature'

Opportunities

Geography

- Proximity to important tourism generating markets
- Attractive location

Cultural, Socialand, Economic Situation

- Growing economies
- Tourism market trends
- Renewed interest in cultural heritage
- Overall growing understanding of sustainability

Infrastructure

- Proposed construction and extension of main traffic connections to improve international accessibility of the area
- Initiated and planned activities in gravitating municipalities dealing with issues of pollution of the Skadar Lake basin

Institutional Framework

- International standards for protected area management
- Ongoing preparation of nationally and internationally founded programs
- Potential for World Heritage Sites
- New Law on Environmental Impact Assessment

Threats

Environment

- Possible lake regulation
- Drinking water projects

Infrastructure

- Large scale infrastructure projects in lake area
- Drim river damn construction

Institutional Framework

- Inconsistent and widely non-harmonised legislation covering the various aspects of development and management of lake Skadar area
- Control and enforcement measures
- Land and real estate ownership

Strategic orientation of the park management

- 1) Strictly protection-oriented development
- 2) Tourism-oriented development
- 3) Sustainability-oriented development

Zonation System

- Core Zone (Zone I)

General description: Natural Habitats and Wilderness Areas with high natural value on European and global scale.

General goal: Strict protection and, preservation of natural processes

- Zone Ia: Natural Habitats and Wilderness Areas without human use and access, strictly protected
- Zone Ib: Natural Habitats and Wilderness Areas strictly protected, but with low impact traditional use (fishing), pasturing or restricted and guided tourism

- **Buffer Zone (Zone II)**

General description: Preservation of the semi natural habitat, the cultural landscape and the villages around the Lake

General Goal: Active protection of the traditional land-use, the architecture, cultural monuments and the related ethnological and natural heritage

- **Transition Zone (Zone III)**

Town and intensive used area surrounding the protected areas

Strategic Objective (Vision)

Protection of the nature and the cultural heritage of extraordinary beauty and international importance integrated into a sustainable development towards vital settlements in the National Park Skadar Lake.

Strategic Fields:

- Strategic Field 1: Protection of natural values
- Strategic Field 2: Maintenance of cultural-historical heritage and ethnological heritage
- Strategic Field 3: Improvement of the socio-economic base in line with the policy of the National Park
- Strategic Field 4: Provision of required infrastructure
- Strategic Field 5: Building of essential institutional capacities

1. Protection of Natural values

- Conservation of the existing level of Park's biodiversity
- Permanent conservation of wetland and flooded ecosystems and fauna population in them.
- Decrease of impacts of all pressures (exploitation pressure, occupation of the space, pollution) blocking vital processes and leading to instability of natural cycles in the ecosystem of the open water
- Provision of natural and undisturbed development of land ecosystems and inside them of biologic diversity components
- Education and awareness raising of local residents and visitors on natural protection

2. Preservation and rehabilitation of cultural values

- Revitalisation of traditional (fishermen) settlements and preservation of traditional architecture in the area
- Preservation and promotion of traditional activities
- Education and awareness rising of local residents and visitors on cultural heritage

3. Improvement of the socio-economic base in line with the policy of the National Park

- Cooperation with local communities/residents in social and economic activities
- Enhancement of the ecological use of resources in economic activities (e.g. tourism, agriculture, exploitation, construction, forestry, fishery, use of water)
- Linking visitors/tourists with local services and local production
- Education and awareness rising of local residents on sustainable development

4. Provision of required infrastructure

- Accurate marking of the areas referring to their respective use and protection status
- Development and maintenance hiking and biking trails and utilisation of the local roads
- Development and maintenance of facilities for the access to the lake
- Implementation of an effective pollution control and waste management system
- Establishment of an effective visitor guiding system
- Strengthening the regional tourism destination

5. Building of essential institutional capacities

- Improvement of spatial planning and land management capacity
- Establishment of an appropriate information management and monitoring system
- Improvement of relations to and communication with local residents
- Improvement of the financial base of the National Park Skadar Lake
- Coordination of projects/programs of international donors focussed on Skadar Lake area and establishment of international partnerships



THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!