

The Declaration on Skadar/Shkodra Lake

WE, the members of bilateral Skadar/Shkodra Lake Forum, gathered in Shkodra, Albania, on 1st February 2006,

RECOGNIZING the importance of both natural and cultural values of Skadar/Shkodra Lake

ALSO RECOGNIZING Skadar/Shkodra Lake as: the largest trans-boundary water body in SEE; National Park in Montenegro since 1983 and Ramsar site in Montenegro since 1995,

RECALLING the "Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation in the Field of Environment Protection and Sustainable Development Principle Implementation between the Ministry of Environment of the Republic Albania and the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of the Republic of Montenegro", signed in Podgorica, Montenegro, on 9th May 2003, as a response to the common wish of Montenegrin and Albanian environmental authorities to improve their cooperation in the field of environmental protection in general, and especially Skadar/Shkodra Lake,

FURTHER RECALLING the bilateral Vision for Skadar/Shkodra Lake, named Cross-border protected area of Skadar/Shkodra Lake, together with Bojana/Buna River, that can provide benefits for local population, which has been formulated and adopted by relevant stakeholders from Montenegro and Albanian in June 2001, in Bar, Montenegro,

NOTING that the REC/SDC project REReP 4.3.23 "Promotion of Networks and Exchanges in SEE Countries - Skadar/Shkodra Lake site" actively supported local stakeholders in their efforts to achieve better cross-border cooperation and management of natural resources of Skadar/Shkodra Lake

AWARE that responsible national institutions from both sides of the Skadar/Shkodra Lake are committed to insure better protection and to support sustainable development for the benefit of all members of local communities living in the Skadar/Shkodra Lake region

WELCOMING the Decision of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania for putting under protection Albanian part of Skadar/Shkodra Lake and Bojana/Buna River, as Nature Management Reserve, from 2nd November 2005,

ALSO WELCOMING the designation of Albanian part of Skadar/Shkodra Lake and Bojana/Buna River as Ramsar site, from 1st February 2006,

WE, members of bilateral Skadar/Shkodra Lake Forum, CONGRATULATE:

- a) National authorities from Montenegro and Albania in their success in protection of Skadar/Shkodra Lake and its natural resources, as well as in the affirmation of the sustainable development concept in national policies
- b) Ramsar Bureau for recognizing global importance of Skadar/Shkodra Lake and its inclusion on Ramsar List,
- c) Local stakeholders for their strong involvement in reaching the common interests

ALSO WHISHING to invite all parties interested in Skadar/Shkodra Lake at local, national and international level to continue with their efforts in protection and management of its natural resources and fostering sustainable development at local level,

AND ENCOURAGE all people of good will to contribute to the local development of the Skadar/Shkodra Lake region,

WE, members of bilateral Skadar/Shkodra Lake Forum, are using World Wetland Day 2006 as a special occasion to express our commitment to continue with the work on the cross-border promotion of sustainable development, for the benefit of local population living in Skadar/Shkodra Lake region.

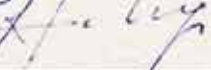
1. Mr. Mahir Hoti - University "Luigj Gjuraquci", Shkodra



2. Mr. Zoran Mrdak - National Park Skadar Lake



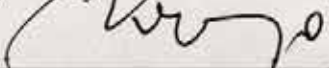
3. Mr. Ridvan Sokoli - Municipality of Shkodra



4. Ms. Veselinka Vukcevic - Municipality of Podgorica



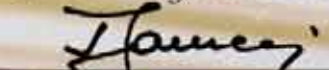
5. Mr. Myzafer Kxaja - Forestation Directorate



6. Mr. Vasilije Buskovic - Institute for the Protection of Nature



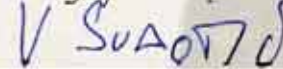
7. Ms. Tinca Garuci - Regional Education Directorate



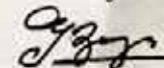
8. Ms. Tatjana Bogetic - Primary School "Savo Pejanovic"



9. Mr. Viktor Subotic - Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of the Republic of Montenegro



10. Mr. Ilir Zaja - Regional Environmental Agency



11. Mr. Agim Shima - Project Implementation Unit for GEF/WB project for Skadar/Shkodra Lake



12. Mr. Darko Savuljic - NGO "Centre for Bird Protection and Research"



13. Mr. Rasim Suma - Fishery Inspectorate

