Uluabat Lake
Management Plan

Site Conservation from Wetland Scale to
IRBM and Participatory Approach

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Working Areas
Uluabat Lake

- Member of Living Lakes network in 2001
- 40°10'N 28°35' E
- Area: 19.900 ha
- 30 km away from Bursa
- Depth: 3 meters (max. 6 m deep)
- Approximate surface area of 160 km²
- Volume of 150 million cubic meters.
- Ramsar Site No: 944
- IBA No:9
- Eutrophic freshwater lake
- Four islands in the lake
- The IBA is bordered to the south by steep hills covered with olive plantations, maquis and forests. The lake is surrounded by arable land and willow plantations.
Major Problems

- **Pollution**: Industrial wastes from industrial facilities around the lake, agricultural wastes, wastes from Mustafa Kemal Pasa streamlet which is one of the major incoming sources of the lake can be stated as the major pollution problems that Uluabat Lake is facing.
- **Industrial and residential pressure**: Initiatives for constituting new industrial and residential areas in the northern part of the lake is threatening the future situation of the lake.
- **Collapse of ecological balance of the lake**: Several agricultural practices around the lake (such as illegal paddy culture or overfishing) are disturbing the water balance of the lake. This deterioration in the water balance is threatening the wildlife as well as economic facilities that take place on the lake.

Uluabat Lake MP

- Initiated in 1998
- First participatory Wetland Management Plan
- WWF-Turkey's role: facilitator, getting the stakeholders together, analysis
- 2003-2006 1st Management Plan
  - Implementation took place, active participation and ownership
- 2006-2008 2nd phase of Management Plan
- Wetland Protection Regulation, National Wetland Commission, Local Wetland Commission
  - Secretariat MoEF
  - Ownership diminished
  - Single initiator is MoEF
Central and local authorities (gov) + NGO’s + local community
Shortcomings - MP

- Level of implementation
- Government authorities’ approach to participatory management
- Water quality
- Level of ownership deceases

How to move onwards?
Participatory and Integrated Water Management

For Sustainable Usage:
- Together with all sectors
  - Agriculture, industry, domestic, tourism, security, sanitation
- Decision mechanism and implementation
  - Active participation of related stakeholders together with bureaucracy
  - Participation on the framework of citizenship
- Conservation – Utilization Balance
  - Finding out the problems in a participatory manner
  - Creating the solutions in a participatory manner
  - Implementation with in a participatory manner
- Different Scale
  - National: National Water Management Strategy
  - Basin: Integrated River Basin Management
  - Sub-basin
  - Wetland
    - Sectoral Planning
      - Agriculture, domestic, industrial, national security together with conservation.
Thank you...

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Uluabat Gölü holds significant breeding populations of Pygmy Cormorant (300 pairs), Squacco Héron (30 pairs) and Spoonbill (75 pairs). Large numbers of waterfowl occur in winter (max. 429,423 in 1996, representing the highest count at any Turkish site since 1970), including Pygmy Cormorant (max. 1078), Dalmatian Pelican (max. 136), Pochard (42,500), Tufted Duck (13,600) and Coot (321,550). Other breeding birds of note include Little Egret (25 pairs) and Glossy Ibis (10 pairs). Lake water is used to irrigate surrounding fields. Uluabat Lake is one of the important fishing fields in Turkey. Crayfish was an important income for the fishing men until 1980’s. Today carp and crane are caught for commercial use. 21 types of fish live in Uluabat Lake.