



Lake Ohrid Drilling: Scientific Collaboration On Past Speciation Conditions in Ohrid (SCOPSCO)

Transboundary Lake Ohrid between Albania and Macedonia is considered to be the oldest continuously existing lake in Europe with an age of likely three to five million years. The lake has a surface area of 360 km² and is 289 m deep. An extraordinary high degree of endemism, including more than 210 described endemic species, makes the lake a unique aquatic ecosystem of worldwide importance. The importance was emphasized, when the lake was declared UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979.

Specific goals of the SCOPSCO project are (i) to obtain more precise information about age and origin of the lake, (ii) to obtain a continuous record containing information on tectonic and volcanic activities and climate changes in the central northern Mediterranean region, and (iii) to understand the impact of major geological/environmental events on general evolutionary patterns and on generating an extraordinary degree of endemic biodiversity as a matter of global significance.

Following the successful completion of several pre-site surveys between 2004 and 2008 including several seismic reflection and coring campaigns, the research initiative **SCOPSCO** announces an international workshop to be held close to the city of Ohrid, Republic of Macedonia, on **October 13 - 17, 2008** under the auspices of the ICDP.

Members of the international scientific community, who are interested in contributing to the planning of and participating in the research of the project, are invited to apply for participation in the workshop. Funding through ICDP is available to subsidize the travel expenses of up to 40 participants who intend to contribute for developing a drilling proposal. Preference will be given to scientists from ICDP member countries. The agenda of the workshop will include reviews of existing datasets and interpretations as well as discussions on objectives and intended achievements, required laboratory analyses and techniques, scientific collaboration and responsibilities, drill sites and operations, logistics and legal issues as well as funding. A half-day excursion will be carried out at Lake Ohrid and its vicinity.

Applicants are requested to register by submitting a registration form (http://www.geologie.uni-koeln.de/coord_ohrid.html) and an abstract for presentation or a brief summary with their motivation to Bernd Wagner, University of Cologne, Institute of Geology and Mineralogy, Zùlpicher Str. 49a, D-50674 Cologne, Germany (wagnerb@uni-koeln.de). The deadline for registration is **August 15, 2008**.