GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

Request for PDF-B Funds

Countries:	Republic of Albania Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia[1]
Focal Area:	Multiple Focal Area: Biodiversity and International Waters Operational Programme OP#12 - Integrated Ecosystem and Natural Resources Management (also relevant to OP#9, OP#4 and OP#2)
Project Title:	Integrated Ecosystem Management in the Transboundary Prespa Park Region
Funding Requested:	US$ 376~~388,000~~,000
Cofunding:	US$ 319,000 - KfW (cash) US$ 20,000 - Government of Albania (US$ 10,000 cash) US$ 20,000 - Government ~~of~~ FYR of Macedonia (US$ 10,000 cash) ~~US$ 150,000 - Government of Greece (Strategic Action Plan)~~ US~~$ 44,000~~$ 44,000 - Government of Greece (US$ 34,000 cash) US~~$ 10,000~~$ 10,000 - UNDP – Albania (cash) US$ -10,000 - UNDP – FYR of Macedonia (cash) US$ -~~9~~24,000 - NGOs (PPNEA, ~~BSPS~~MAP, SPP) (in-kind) US$ 6,000 – Municipality of Resen, FYROM (in-kind) US$ 3,000 – Municipality of Prespa (in-kind) US$ 6,000 - Prespa National Park authority, Albania
Estimated Full Project Cost:	US$ 1~~0~~5 million (GEF US$ 5~~6~~ million; KfW US$ 4 million; US$ 6 million governments and bilateral donors)
Requesting Agency:	UNDP
Block:	Block B
Block A Grant Awarded:	No[2]
Project Duration:	12 months

Full Project Summary

The Prespa Park region, situated in the Balkan Peninsula and encompassing parts of Albania, FYR of Macedonia and Greece, is a high altitude basin that includes the interlinked Macro Prespa and Micro Prespa Lakes and their surrounding mountains. It is considered to be an ecosystem of global significance and has been identified as one of Europe's 24 major transboundary "ecological bricks"[3]. The entire Prespa region hosts unique biotopes that are important from both a European and global conservation perspective. The lakes and wetlands are important overwintering, breeding

[1] Greece is also a full partner in implementing the project. The participation of Greece and activities to be undertaken in the Greek part of the tri-national Prespa Park region will be fully supported by funding from the Greek government and other sources.

[2] The approved Concept Paper (Annex 3) was prepared in 2001 using funding provided by KfW.

[3] Langer, H., 1990, referred to in Concept Paper.

and feeding sites for numerous species of birds. The flora is composed of over 1,500 species, of which 19 are endemic~~s~~[4]. The aquatic ecosystems are also rich in endemic species and the avifauna is highly diverse, and includes the world's largest breeding colony of the globally vulnerable ~~endangered~~ Dalmatian pelican and the endangered Pygmy cormorant. The lake area also hosts mammals, such as ~~the~~ bear, wolf and lynx, that are endangered in Europe. In addition, the lake region is considered to be of great cultural and historical importance.

The unique values of this ecosystem, however, are being **progressively eroded** ~~**at a rapid rate because of either changes in or and intensification of specific human activities and are including threatened by increasing unsustainable patterns of exploitation of natural resources, and inappropriate land-use practices, and uncoordinated sectoral policies and development activities that result in progressive soil and water contamination, loss of forest cover, erosion and degradationwildlife loss. Besides, dProlonged drought and tectonic activity over the past are contributing the last two decades have also contributed to a in the several meters of decrease inof the water level in the lakesthe lakes. How far natural causes also play a role is still uncertain. Since the Prespa Lakes rRegion extends across national boundaries, it is thereby also subject to different, uncoordinated and even conflicting management regimes and policies, which further exacerbate the threats to the ecosystem as a whole, and make unilateral and piecemeal response measures ineffective. Thus, the development and institution implementation of a regional, scale and integrated approach to the region's conservation and management is essentialof paramount importance.**

The governments of the three countries have recognized the importance of conserving the region's biodiversity through the establishment of five protected areas and a stated commitment to the development of a tripartite cooperative approach to its management as expressed through the Prime Ministerial Declaration on the creation of the Transboundary Prespa Park and the environmental protection and sustainable development of the Prespa Lakes and their surroundings, signed the 2nd of February 2000.

The overall objective of the project is to promote integrated ecosystem management of the Transboundary Prespa Park region with the participation of all stakeholders, and by enhancing cooperation among the three participating countries. The full project will significantly strengthen the institutional capacity of national, regional and local authorities to adopt an integrated approach to the conservation and sustainable use of the Transboundary Prespa Park, while ensuring the optimization of ecological, economic and social benefits arising from the use of its natural resources. It will foster the development and implementation of transboundary, inter-sectoral and participatory approaches to land-use planning, rural development, water management, and natural resource utilization. In so doing, it will encourage synergy between efforts aimed at the conservation of the region's globally significant biodiversity and important ecosystem functions, and strengthen~~ing~~ the capacity to conserve, sustainably use, and effectively manage international water bodies on an ecosystem basis. It will also strengthen the management capacity of existing protected areas in the region.

The proposed project is fully in line with the intention of the three national governments to conserve the region's biodiversity and provide for its sustainable development as evidenced through the Prime Ministerial Declaration to establish the trilateral Transboundary Prespa Park, and the creation of the Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee (PPCC) to facilitate its establishment. The ~~Committee's~~ PPCC's inclusion of national and local governments and NGOs from the three countries ensures the required broad support of all stakeholders in the project, and the active and direct participation of the local population.

[4] IUCN, Red Data Book, 1982, referred to in Concept Paper.

The approved Concept Paper is an integral part of this PDF request (see Annex ~~5~~34).

LIST OF ACRONYMS

~~BSPSM~~	~~Bird Study and Protection Society of Macedonia~~
EA	Executing Agency
EU	European Union
FYR of Macedonia	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GoA	Government of Albania
GoG	Government of Greece
GoFYROM	Government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
IPM	International Project Manager
KfW	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau
MAP	Macedonian Alliance for Prespa
MEPP	Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (in the FYR of Macedonia)
MoE	Ministry of Environment
MP	Management Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NP	National Park
NPC	National Project Coordinator
NPD	National Project Director
OP	Operational Program (of GEF)
PA	Protected Area
PDF	Project Development Facility (of GEF)
PPCC	Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee
PPNEA	Preservation and Protection of Natural Environment in Albania
PSU	Project Support Unit
SAP	Strategic Action Plan (of PPCC for Prespa catchment)
SPP	Society for the Protection of Prespa
TOR	Terms of Reference
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

1. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PDF-B OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The requested PDF Block B phase of ~~one year~~one-year duration is necessary in order to undertake or complete essential baseline studies addressing scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of the full-~~-~~sized project. The ultimate objective of the PDF B is to design a full-sized GEF Project Brief. ~~In addition~~ Specific PDF B objectives are:

- to elaborat~~eing~~ the technical basis of the full-sized project~~,~~; ~~the PDF B activities are strategically designed~~
- to establish the project's management structure~~,~~ and coordination mechanisms~~,~~; and
- to put in place the stakeholder participatory mechanisms required for the successful future implementation of the full-sized project.

Immediate Objective 1 **Establish ~~PDF B implementation structure and~~ project participation and coordination ~~and support~~ mechanisms.**

1.1 Establish project offices

~~The main project office will be centrally situated, most probably in Asamati~~the ~~area of the Municipality of Resen, FYR of Macedonia.~~ The MEPP, with the assistance of the Municipality of Resen, will provide the main office facilities.~~; possibly at the municipality at the facility of the BSPSM.~~ In Albania, a subsidiary field office~~s~~ will be located in the refurbished ~~main offices~~facility of the Albanian Prespa National Park situated in Korca, and the park's field office~~s~~ in Gorica e Madhe will also be made available for use during ~~field work~~fieldwork. The ~~SPP m~~Municipality of ~~Prespa~~~~Lemos~~Prespa is ~~suggested to~~~~will~~ provide office space in ~~its facility~~Lemos, Greece. The SPP will also make available its facility in Agios Germanos, Greece, ~~avialable~~available ~~f~~for project support. ~~in Agios Germanos, Greece.~~

(Responsible parties: UNDP/GEF and Ministry of Agriculture/Forest Service in Albania~~,~~; UNDP/GEF, MEPP and Municipality of Resen ~~and BSPSM~~ in FYR of Macedonia~~,~~; ~~MoE~~ MoE, ~~Municpality~~Municipality of ~~Lemos~~Prespa and SPP in Greece)

1.2 Select and train personnel

The Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning in the FYR of Macedonia and ~~-~~the Ministry of Environment (MoE) ~~-~~in ~~each country~~ Albania and Greece will appoint ~~its~~ their respective National Project Director~~s~~ (NPD~~s~~). UNDP, KfW, and the PPCC will jointly select the National Project Coordinators (NPCs) and the International Project Manager (IPM). ~~Once appointed, the NPCs will proceed with the selection of their support staff.. The support staff in the main project office in Asamati~~ Resen ~~will consist of one administrative assistant/accountant and a community liaison officer /social facilitator responsible for activities for in the FYR of Macedonia. One other community liason~~liaison ~~officer will also be situated in Korca/Gorica e Madhe, Albania and another one in Lemos/Agios Germanos, Greece to ensure project presence and information exchange at the field site level in those countries. The selection of project personnel will proceed on the basis of the TOR that are to be confirmed by the PPCC at the outset of the PDF B. provided in Annex 4.~~ To ensure that local capacity is at the appropriate level required by the project so as

not to experience any delays at the beginning of the PDF B, targeted training will be provided at the outset to the hired personnel. One of the initial training themes will be the explanation of donor procedures and reporting requirements. Additional training needs will be identified as early as possible by the IPC and NPCs.
(Responsible parties: UNDP/GEF, KfW, PPCC, NPCs)

~~**1.3 Review and update PDF-B workplan and TORs**~~
~~The initial workplan presented as part of this proposal, and the preliminary TORs[5] provided in Annex 4, will be reviewed , revised if necessary, by the PPCC, IPM, NPDs and NPCs, and approved by the PPCC.~~
~~*(Responsible parties: PPCC, IPM, NPDs, NPCs)*~~

1.34 Strengthen PPCC (PDF B Project Steering Committee) and its Secretariat
The PPCC and its Secretariat will have a ~~key and~~ central role in the undertaking of all PDF B activities. ~~(see TORs in Annex 4).~~ The project will support the PPCC and its Secretariat in the performance of ~~these~~ their project related tasks. The three Project Coordinators and Secretariat members will also be beneficiaries of the training to be provided at the outset of the PDF B. It is also recommended that all PPCC members, and their alternates, be beneficiaries of project training.
(Responsible parties: UNDP/GEF in Albania and FYR of Macedonia, MoE in Greece)

1.54 Establish stakeholder consultation mechanism
The project personnel will carry out regular consultations regarding the project~~,~~ and natural resources management and sustainable development issues in the Prespa Lakes area with the local populations and all other stakeholders. The dialogue will also focus upon the concept, process and implications of the Transboundary Prespa Park's establishment and management. These consultations are considered essential ~~in order~~ to provide the local population with a thorough understanding of and support for the project, as well as a way of directly including the local communities in the decision-making process. Two aspects are identified as being fundamental~~:~~: f~~F~~irst, establishing and implementing ongoing opportunities for communication with ~~and~~ the participation of the local population in PDF B implementation~~planning~~[6]~~;~~, ~~particularly a consultation process regarding the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) currently being prepared by the PPCC~~. s~~S~~econd~~ly~~, establishing a visible community outreach programme and capacity building opportunities for local stakeholders, including informing local populations on PDF B progress and accomplishments.
(Responsible parties: Three PSU social facilitators)

Immediate Objective 2 Determine project area boundary

The Transboundary Prespa Park is still not formally established. Thus, it does not have legal boundaries or an organisation with a mandate to manage it as a unit. During the PDF B phase, the establishment of the park ~~should be taken a step further~~will be further defined. Thus, the project will support the following actions:

2.1 Appraisal of catchment area versus ecosystem boundaries
The boundary of Transboundary Prespa Park has ~~yet to~~ been defined in the Prime Ministerial Declaration of February 2000 as "the Prespa Lakes and their surrounding catchment" (see Annex 2 of the Concept Paper). The SAP describes the boundaries of the catchment in more details. Nevertheless, ~~Thus,~~ the actual project site boundary will still require resolution. The main point to be clarified is whether the project area will be defined on the basis of the Prespa Lakes' catchment

[5] ~~The consultancy mission of Grigoriev and Mes in March-April 2002 delivered~~ A preliminary ~~a~~ set of TORs~~, for each position of~~ for all project staff and short-term consultants has been prepared.~~; t~~ The PPCC will review and revise~~revise~~ them ~~against~~in ~~the~~ light of the Strategic Action Plan (SAP).

[6] The PPCC is currently preparing a consultation process regarding the SAP.

area in a strict sense, or whether it should be defined on the basis of an ecosystem. The definition has to be logical and practical.

The need to define the ~~boundary implementation area of the~~ project area is most ~~urgent~~ acute in the FYR of Macedonia, where two national parks, Galicica and Pelister, ~~are~~ fall only partially within the Prespa Lakes'~~,~~ catchment. One half of the former is in the watershed and ~~only~~ approximately only ten percent of the latter falls within the defined catchment boundary.
(Responsible parties: PPCC, IPM, NPCs, consultants)

2.2 Project site confirmation

The PPCC should play a particularly strong role and bring in national expertise in ~~selecting~~ finalizing the project, as opposed to the park, boundary. Since the boundary of the project may ~~be a possible theme of dispute~~possibly be contentious, it is recommended that the national consultants ~~should~~ be assisted by an international consultant in this analysis and the formulation of the final project boundary recommendation.
(Responsible parties: PPCC, IPM, NPCs, consultants)

Immediate Objective 3 Improve required baseline information base

The following activities will be undertaken through consultancies. ~~See Annex 4 for the TOR for the specific themes.~~ The PDF B studies will build upon ongoing and completed studies to the fullest extent.~~,~~ ~~including~~ I~~i~~n the first place, the Strategic Action Plan[7] for the Sustainable Development of Prespa Park funded by the Ministry of Environment of Greece through the SPP and undertaken by the PPCC will be the principal guiding document within wh~~i~~ech the PDF B will be nested. Other initiatives include~~,~~ the study of SPP on optimum water level fluctuation and management of wet meadows of ~~the lake~~ Micro Prespa Lake, the international programme ~~on~~for the conservation of pelicans (IUCN-SPP), as well as the KfW commissioned feasibility study for the Albanian Prespa National Park ~~Prespa.~~, ~~as well as the Strategic Action Plan for the Sustainable Development of Prespa Park funded by the Ministry of Environment of Greece and undertaken by the PPCC that is expected to be completed in May 2002 (see Annex 6 for these and other references).~~

3.1 Biodiversity and ecosystems

~~3.1.1 In~~3.1.1 In-depth threats definition and root causes analysis

Although a considerable amount of information on the region's biodiversity exists, some gaps and other deficiencies have also been noted. Most of the existing information is of the species presence-absence variety. ~~Not much~~There are deficiencies in information ~~exists~~ on species' ~~presence, populations,~~ movements, ~~or~~ critical habitats, trends in fragmentation of habitats, and ecological processes, as well as on human activities that both threaten and help sustain~~ing~~ biodiversity.

Thus, this study will focus on the compilation and appraisal of existing information, the further definition of critical gaps in knowledge, and the formulation of directly relevant and applied needs for upgrading the information base. An ~~important~~ essential part of this study will be the detailed definition and analysis of threats to the region's biodiversity and their root causes so as to formulate effective interventions during the full~~-~~sized project.
(Responsible parties: NPCs, consultants)

~~3.1.2 Transboundary~~3.1.2 Transboundary ~~d~~Diagnostic ~~ecosystem a~~Analysis

A qualified consultant or institution will perform a transboundary diagnostic analysis ~~of transboundary biological and ecosystem diversity and~~ of issues or concerns related to ~~their~~ conservation and sustainable use of water – quantity and quality – and biotic resources. A threats/root cause analysis specific to transboundary issues will also be undertaken in the three

[7] The SAP has been completed and in now undergoing a consultation process due to finish in September 2002~~is expected to be completed in July May-June 2002~~.

countries,. including issues related to the lake and its watershed, such as pollution, sedimentation, overharvesting and excessive withdrawals of water. Threats from pollution and withdrawal of water for irrigation from all countries will be examined, including Greece, and activities will be proposed to mitigate or resolve these threats. Sites of special concern will be are indicated in the SAP and partly determineand the effective interventions for implementing effective transboundary management will be determined.

(Responsible parties: PPCC, IPM, NPCs, consultants)

3.2 Socio-economic conditions and trends

The inhabitants of the Prespa region are mainly occupied in the primary sector of production, with agriculture being providing theproviding the main principal source of income. Herding and fishing also contribute to the agricultural economy production of the area in varying degrees, depending on the country. The secondary sector is fairly developed only in the Resen area (FYR of Macedonia), while the tertiary sector is largely confined to tourism, which represents an important economic activity, at least in the FYR of Macedonia and Greece.

Large parts of the ecosystems of the Prespa Lakes region have been converted or transformed into agricultural systems of various kinds, or have been replaced by towns, villages and other man-made infrastructure. Nevertheless, many of the people in the area still live in relatively poor conditions and exhibit a strong dependence on natural resources for subsistence.

A study will be undertaken to update and collate existing information on the region's socio-economic conditions and trends, including those in population, demography, occupation, and income. The dependence of local populations on natural resources will be of paramount interest. An assessment of the local population's actual uses of natural resources, their viability, and theirir cumulative impact of these uses on biodiversity will be undertaken as part of the study.

(Responsible parties: NPCs, consultants)

3.3 Actual and alternative livelihoods

Options for sustainable alternative livelihoods and uses of natural resources will be determined and assessed. The work will involve:

- Analysis of economic and environmental viability of current production systems in agriculture, fisheriesy and forestry;
- Analysis of the use of natural vegetation for firewood and possible improvements towards the establishment of a sustainable system;
- Assessment of options and recommendations for the promotion of alternative livelihoods (medicinal plants, animal husbandry, eco-tourism, communal forests); and,
- Definition of viable incentive mechanisms for promoting sustainable production in different sectors (incl. agro-industry)., including agro-forestry.(primary and secondary).

(Responsible parties: NPCs, consultants)

3.4 Environmental/biodiversity awareness

Current levels of overall environmental awareness and concern for biodiversity conservation among the local population and other stakeholders are not high. The study will refine the understanding of the current levels of environmental awareness, determine what programmes are in place already, and will subsequently define the additional requirements, programming needs and delivery mechanisms to heighten the levels of awareness. All stakeholders in the region will be included in this study.

(Responsible parties: NPCs, consultants)

3.5 Legislative/ regulatory and policy base, including compliance and enforcement options and mechanisms

The existing legislative, regulatory and policy base governing land, water and natural resource use in the region will be assessed for the three countries. The assessment will focus upon the definition of specific gaps and deficiencies that inhibit ~~or preclude~~ effective approaches to biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, regional planning, and the adoption of an integrated approach to the management and development of the region. As part of this assessment, the effectiveness of existing compliance and enforcement mechanisms will also be analysed. Recommendations arising from this analysis will provide the basis for the formulation of institutional reforms that will be undertaken during the full project in order to realize the project's objectives.
(responsible parties: NPCs, consultants)

~~**3.6 Hydrogeological study**~~

~~There has been a progressive lowering of the water level in the lakes over the last two decades. Besides this being a general concern among some stakeholders, it is now negatively affecting certain species (particularly, the pelican colonies in Micro Prespa Lake).~~

~~There is no clear understanding of what is happening with the water (for example, on aspects such as the diverted Devolli River, the water use for human consumption and agricultural uses, and the underground flow of Prespa Lake waters into Ohrid Lake). In order to arrive at an improved understanding and subsequent improved water management, the following steps will have to be taken:~~

1. ~~definition and agreement between all involved stakeholders and the local population on the water management objectives;~~
2. ~~assessment of actual information available to estimate the actual water balance (making a preliminary estimate of the water inflows and outflows of Micro and Macro Prespa Lakes);~~
3. ~~recommendations for water management, and determination of further actions and potential investments to be undertaken during the full sized project.~~

~~*(Responsible parties: PPCC, IPM, NPCs, consultants)*~~

3.6 Integrated ~~h~~Hydrogeological study – Water resource~~level~~ management plan

High priority is to be given to the establishment of a water level management plan for the Prespa Lakes (implementation of the plan should start in the full project). Over the last two decades, there has been a progressive lowering of the water level in both lakes. For several reasons this is a general concern among local stakeholders, as the pelican colonies on Micro Prespa Lake are~~one of it~~ being ~~the~~ affected ~~pelican colonies on Micro Prespa Lake~~.

Some studies have been made on the lakes, but there is still a widely perceived lack of information on the lakes' hydrogeology and its interaction with climatic factors. The study proposed for the PDF B phase will be a ~~first step~~first step in the development of a baseline for monitoring, which will be a primary ~~has to be the main~~ input for effective water level management.

The initial PDF B study must~~has to~~ assess the actual information available to estimate the average annual water balance (model), analyse the causes of water level change (tectonic opening of karstic outflow channels from Macro Prespa to Ohrid Lake; decreased levels of precipitation; water consumption for agriculture and other purposes), the effects of the actual water level decline, describe the relationship between water management and land-use in the catchment, and propose an agenda for necessary actions.

Based on this preliminary information, under the co-ordination of the PPCC, in line with the SAP and considering the experiences from the WB-GEF Ohrid Lake project, a first water management plan for the Lakes should be prepared. This plan will include:

- definition and agreement among all involved stakeholders and the local population on the water management objectives;
- description of the legal and institutional arrangements/limitations in each country with regard to water management of the Prespa Lakes;
- recommendations for water management, and determination of further actions and potential investments to be undertaken during the full-sized project, such as
    a. the specific monitoring needs in each country (equipment, infrastructure and operation) ~~(this could start already during the PDF B)~~;
    b. the works needed to control water in- or outflows;
    c. financial incentives for the local population.
- proposal for institutional arrangements and financing requirements for the implementation of the plan.

More details on this integrated study and management plan are provided in the Terms of Reference (Annex 4).
(Responsible parties: PPCC, IPM, NPCs, consultants)

3.7 Institutional arrangements for a transboundary park management authority

The mandate of the PPCC is based on the Prime Ministerial Declaration, but it does not have a legal base, nor are the Transboundary Prespa Park and the Committee and its Secretariat legally established. In order to promote effective and integrated management in the Prespa Park region, the PDF B will provide an opportunity to examine and formulate possible institutional options for realizing effective management of the transboundary protected area based on the relevant proposals of the SAP. –Models available in the world, such as the Bodensee and the International Joint Commission for the Great Lakes, will be assessed, and recommendations will be formulated for the establishment of a ~~high level~~high-level inter-governmental management authority, involving all three Prespa countries, for the management of the area.
(*Responsible parties: PPCC, IPM, NPCs, consultants)*

3.8 Social infrastructure investment needs

The Prespa region's local population is in dire need of essential social infrastructure. Without it, the lakes' waters and surrounding lands are being progressively polluted and remaining forests are being destroyed for firewood. The particular needs of the communities around the Prespa Lakes are different. The actual situation and needs will have to be assessed and quantified on a location specific basis. ~~This work will be done by one team of national and international experts~~A team of national and international experts will do this work. Main aspects to be looked into will be solid waste, sewage, drinking water, ~~and~~ alternative sources of energy, communication and transport.
(Responsible parties: NPCs, consultants)

Immediate Objective 4 Strengthen the protected areas' management and management plans

The protected areas that have been established in the Prespa region are in different stages of development and at different stages of their operational and management capability. Pelister, the oldest, was created in 1948 and the newest is the Albanian Prespa National Park, established in 1999. The PDF B will support work on the following ~~issues~~:

4.1 Analysis of the actual situation of the protected areas and support to~~of the~~ preparation/ -completion of their management plans

First, an assessment will be undertaken of ~~the actual situation of~~ the protected areas[8] actual management capacity~~. will be undertaken~~. Essential requirements to improve their management ~~capacities~~ capacity will be identified. These may include infrastructure, equipment, staff and ~~their~~ training. In addition, assistance will be provided for~~in~~ the completion of started management plans ~~in two of the areas of~~for Pelister NP and the Ezerani Reserve, and the preparation of management plan frameworks ~~in~~ for Galicica NP and the Albanian Prespa NP~~two others~~. ~~The management plans will be streamlined in a similar framework and will take into account EU guidelines. The creation of a trust fund should be considered as an option for providing for a sustainable financing mechanism.~~ Local communities or stakeholders will be directly involved in the preparation of the management plans.
(Responsible parties: NPCs, consultants)

4.2 Definition of activities and requirements in existing protected areas
On the basis of the management plans, future management activities and associated investments (infrastructure, management capacity, etc.) will be defined for implementation during the full project.
(Responsible parties: NPCs, consultant)

Immediate Objective 5 Identify and mobilize co-financing sources

At present, the principal co-financing source will be KfW, contributing approximately US$ 4 million directly to the full sized project, with an additional US$ 8.8 million in other programs in the Prespa region (see Annex 6 of the Concept Paper, in Annex ~~5~~ 3 of this document). During the PDF B, additional assessment will focus upon the following:

5.1 Analysis of all existing donor programmes and activities in the Prespa region
All existing and planned programmes of all donors in the Prespa region will be identified and analysed in terms of their complementarity to the objectives of the project.
(Responsible parties: PPCC, IPM, NPCs)

5.2 Definition of potential donor sources
On the basis of the foregoing assessment, other potential donor sources and amounts of co-financing will be identified. Meetings with potential donors will be convened. Subsequently, negotiations will be entered into to secure additional amounts of co-financing.
(Responsible parties: PPCC, IPM, UNDP/GEF, KfW)

5.3 Assessment of options for establishing a trust fund
Taking into account examples elsewhere and the regional context of Transboundary Prespa Park, options for creating and operating a trust fund will be assessed. The fund would be used for financing the recurrent costs of managing the Transboundary Prespa Park.
(Responsible parties: PPCC, IPM, UNDP/GEF, KfW)

Immediate Objective 6 Prepare GEF Project Brief and draft Project Document

The GEF Project Brief and draft Project Document will be prepared under contract by an international GEF expert. The International Project Manager and the National Project Coordinators will also play an important role in the preparation of the following:

6.1 Logframe

[8] In fact there are 3 National Parks, Pelister and Galicica in FYR of Macedonia and Prespa NP in Albania, Greece has the Prespa National Forest and FYR of Macedonia also has the Strictly Protected Bird Reserve of Ezerani. Thus, there are currently five protected areas in the Prespa region.

A logical framework will be prepared focussing upon the outcomes of the project, indicators to be used in measuring success in achievement of the outcomes, means of verification, and the definition of project assumptions and risks.
(Responsible parties: GEF expert, IPM, NPCs)

6.2 Outcomes and activities

Project ~~outcomes and~~ activities to be undertaken to achieve the outcomes will be identified by the GEF expert in consultation with the IPM, the National Project Coordinators, the PPCC and stakeholders.
(Responsible parties: GEF expert, IPM, NPCs)

6.3 Budget and incremental cost analysis

An output-based budget will be formulated for the full-sized project by the GEF expert in close consultation with the IPM, the National Project Coordinators and the PPCC. In doing so, the respective costs associated with the baseline activities and the sustainable baseline will be distinguished from the incremental costs required to achieve the full project's objectives. GEF funds will only be used to finance the project's incremental costs.
(Responsible parties: GEF expert, IPM, NPCs)

6.4 Scheduling

The timeframe and associated workplan for the full project will be determined and approved by the PPCC. Consideration will be given to staging the project over two or three phases, each one with milestones that will have to be met prior to proceeding to the next stage.
(Responsible parties: GEF expert, IPM, NPCs)

6.5 Implementation arrangements

The organizational structure for the full project's implementation will be determined and approved by the PPCC. It is possible that the implementation arrangements to be employed for the PDF B phase, if proven successful, will be utilized for the full project as well.
(Responsible parties: GEF expert, IPM, NPCs, PPCC)

6.6 Preparation of GEF Project Brief

The GEF expert will prepare the Project Brief on the basis of the work conducted during the PDF B and in close consultation with the IPM, National Project Coordinators and the PPCC. A first draft will be circulated for review to the PPCC. The draft Project Brief will incorporate: a threats and root causes analysis; detailed institutional arrangements for project implementation that ensure the full and active participation of all stakeholders; the detailed design of all project objectives, outputs, and activities; a stakeholder participation plan; the incremental cost analysis; the logical framework for the project; and, the project monitoring and evaluation plan.

The Project Brief's first draft will be discussed at meetings of the PPCC, and at regional centres in each of the three countries. On the basis of the foregoing discussions and reviews, the draft will be revised and submitted to UNDP/GEF and to KfW for technical review. Subsequently, it will be finalized and submitted to the GEF Secretariat for review and endorsement. The draft Project Document will be prepared by the GEF expert upon the Project Brief's endorsement by the GEF Secretariat.
(Responsible parties: GEF expert, IPM, NPCs)

2. OUTPUTS OF THE PDF-B

The main outputs of the PDF B are to include the following:

- ~~establishment of the structure for implementation of the PDF B phase, and a legalized standing for the PPCC, and a strengthened Secretariat (Objective 1);~~
- initiation of a fully participatory and consultative process involving local level stakeholders, inter-sectoral consultations, and initial co-ordination with national, regional and international donors and partners (Objective 1);
- determination of and agreement ~~of exact~~on the ~~-~~boundaries ~~for~~ of the ~~Transboundary Prespa Park and the full~~ project area (Objective 2);
- preparation of a baseline biodiversity assessment and a threats/root causes analysis (Objective 3);
- improved baseline information required for the design and implementation of the full project (Objective 3);
- preparation of a study of the threats to the Prespa L~~l~~akes ecosystem and identification of measures to mitigate threats (Objective 3);
- identification of the specific transboundary problems affecting the Prespa Park region through a **Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis**, with emphasis on issues of water quality and quantity i.e., pollution from human settlements in Albania, Greece and Macedonia, as well as withdrawal of water for irrigation (Objective 3);
- identification and examination of priorities for action through broad consultations among all stakeholders, including mitigation measures regarding issues of water quality and quantity (Objective 3);
- strengthened protected area management capacity (Objective 4);
- definition of sources and mobilization of co-financing (Objective 5);
- appraisal and design of options for a trust fund for administration of recurrent PA costs and, if the recommendations are positive, the establishment of the fund (Objective 5); and,
- development of a comprehensive GEF Project Brief and draft ~~UNDP~~ Project Document for submission to the GEF Secretariat ~~Council~~ in ~~July~~ August 2003 (Objective 6) for the GEF Fall Council meeting.

3. NATIONAL LEVEL SUPPORT

In recognition of the ecological and historical/cultural significance of the transboundary Prespa Lakes region, the Prime Ministers of the three neighbouring countries (Albania, the FYR of Macedonia, and Greece) issued a Declaration on 2nd February 2000 announcing the creation of the "Prespa Park" as the first transboundary protected area in South Eastern Europe[9]. The Prime Ministerial Declaration proposes enhanced collaboration among the competent authorities of the three countries and outlines that the following joint actions should be undertaken: [10]

a) maintain and protect the unique ecological values of the "Prespa Park";
b) prevent and/or reverse the causes of the Park's habitat degradation ;
c) explore appropriate management methods for the sustainable use of the Prespa Lakes' waters;
d) spare no efforts so that "Prespa Park" becomes and remains a model of its kind as well as an additional reference to the peaceful collaboration among the countries.

As a follow-up to the Declaration of Prespa Park, the three states have established an interim "Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee" (PPCC) which includes representatives from the environmental authorities, local government, and NGO community in each country, as well as the

[9] See Map in ~~Annex 3~~Concept Paper (Annex 3).

[10] See Annex 2 of the Concept Paper (Annex 3 of this document) for ~~a full text of~~ the Declaration of Prespa Park.

Ramsar Convention Bureau/MedWet as observer[11]. The main responsibility of the Co-ordination Committee is to ensure co-ordination among the three countries and concerned stakeholders to facilitate the establishment of the trilateral Prespa Park, the protection of its ecosystems and the sustainable development of the region. The ~~Committee~~ PPCC ~~has~~ must~~to~~ become the formal body responsible for the implementation of the proposed transboundary, tri-lateral environmental and sustainable development program, benefiting the lake region. In other words, the PPCC should become a formally and legally established entity, capable of co-ordinating the full GEF project.

The proposed project is, therefore, completely in line with the priorities of the three countries and is driven by the representatives of the three countries through the PPCC.

In addition, the ~~following supporting measures have been taken by the three countries~~three countries have taken the following supporting measures:

In Albania:

- Prespa National Park was established in 1999 for the rehabilitation and sustainable protection of critical terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems of the Macro and Micro Prespa Lake area.
- The Council of Ministers ratified the Ramsar Convention in March 1996.
- The Ministry of Environment has been established in 2001 to replace the former National Environmental Agency.

In Greece:

- Prespa National Forest was designated in 1974 for the protection of Micro and Macro Prespa Lakes and their catchment area, and, in 1975, the same area was declared a "landscape of exceptional beauty".
- The Greek side of the wetland system is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the EEC Birds Directive.
- The entire Prespa catchment area and the lakes have been included in the Greek National List of the NATURA 2000 protected sites network, according to the EEC Directive on Protection of Fauna, Flora and their Habitats, and the EEC Birds Directive.
- The Ramsar Convention was ratified in 1974 by Greece as one of the founding countries. The amendment was ratified through Law 1950 in 1991. Micro Prespa was declared a Ramsar site in 1974. Moreover, Greece has also recently applied for the recognition of the Macro Prespa Lake as a designated Ramsar site.

In the FYR of Macedonia:

- Pelister National Park was established in 1948 for the protection of a globally unique mountainous ecosystem to the east of Macro Prespa Lake.
- Galicica National Park was established in 1958 for the rehabilitation and protection of unique terrestrial ecosystems straddling the Galicica Mountain located between the Macro Prespa and Ohrid Lakes.
- Bird Sanctuary Ezerani was established in 1996 (declared Ramsar site), bordering the northern section of Macro Prespa Lake for the protection of migratory waterfowl and other water bird species.
- Macro Prespa Lake was declared a "Natural Monument" in 1977 (Official Gazettement 45/77).
- Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation on Sustainable Development and Environment signed in 2000 between MEPP of FYR of Macedonia and M~~o~~EPP of Greece.

[11] See Annex 3 of the Concept Paper (Annex 3 of this document) for a full description of the composition and responsibilities of the ~~Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee~~PPCC.

- Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation signed in 2000 between MEPP of FYR of Macedonia and MoE of Albania (supplementing a 1996 agreement).
- Appointment of coordinators for bilateral cooperation in environmental protection by FYR of Macedonia and Greece (2002).

Furthermore, a "Partnership Agreement" between the Albanian Prespa National Park and Galicica National Park in the FYR of Macedonia was signed on February 4, 2001, within the framework of the Europark Expertise Exchange Program.

The PDF B will build upon the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for the Sustainable Development of Prespa Park funded by the Ministry of Environment of Greece with a grant of USD 150,000 for a first synthesis of the environmental and socio-economic status of the Prespa Park area, identification of gaps in knowledge, formulation of strategic policy and management axes, and assessment of priorities for specific projects and activities in the region. This Plan is co-ordinated by the PPCC and was finalized in May 2002; it is undergoing a process of consultation due to finish in September 2002.~~is scheduled to be completed around~~in ~~May~~July ~~2002.~~ The PDF B project will be coherent with the SAP and closely ~~strongly coordinated with~~coordinated with its processes of finalization and implementation~~the SAP~~.

~~See~~ Annex 1 provides ~~for~~ the letters of support for the PDF B project from Government Officials.

4. JUSTIFICATION FOR PDF GRANT

This PDF B request was preceded by a study financed by the KfW that culminated in the preparation of the Concept Paper (Annex 35) that was approved by the GEF Secretariat in November 2001. The information gathered during this study nevertheless requires further elaboration and refinement in order to develop a full sized project. Albania and FYR of Macedonia still have limited resources and experience in the preparation of internationally supported projects and thus will require international assistance in preparing the full sized project. In particular, the countries will require support to undertake the following critical activities:

- Preparation and ~~conduct~~ implementation of key targeted baseline studies;
- Definition of threats and root causes of biodiversity loss and unsustainable utilization of natural resources;
- Definition of the project area boundar~~ies~~y;
- Developing truly participatory mechanisms that are inclusive of all stakeholders;
- Assessment of alternative livelihood options;
- Determination of needs and preparation of proposals in social infrastructure and other investments necessary for a sustainable development of the Prespa catchment;
- Development of options for a transboundary management regime;
- Definition of a sustainable financing mechanism (trust fund);
- Mobilizing and securing co-financing;
- Preparing GEF and UNDP documentation to required standards (logframe, Incremental Cost Analysis, Project Brief, draft Project Document);
- Undertaking an Incremental Cost Analysis.

Considering the spatial extent, the transboundary nature, as well as the regional and global significance of this complex and innovative project, the PDF B will be of utmost importance to enable the undertaking of the above activities.

5. ITEMS TO BE FINANCED

The following budget is organized by Objectives and Activities to be undertaken during the PDF B.

Objectives / Activities	Amount* / Contributing Organization							Administrative responsibility
	GEF	KfW	UNDP	GoA	GFYROMM	GoG **	NGOs ***	
Objective 1 Establishment of Participation and Coordination mechanisms								
• Coordination mechanism/ meetings/travel	24,000 12,000	4,000	20,000			-		KfW/UND
• Training	28,000							UNDP
• Establishment of participatory mechanisms/ processes/travel								UNDP/KfW
Objective 2 Project Boundary Definition								
• Analysis and Demarcation	33,050							UNDP/Kf
Objective 3 Upgrading of Baseline Information				10,750	10,750	23,640	12,890	UNDP
• Biodiversity Analysis (3)	21,150	16,580						UNDP
• Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis	17,190	8,290						UNDP
• Socio-economic Analysis (3)	11,900	13,030						KfW
• Actual and Alternative Livelihoods Analysis (3)	13,220	11,840						UNDP
• Environmental Awareness/ Education Analysis (3)	13,220 15,860	4,735 4,735						UNDP UNDP
• Legal/Regulatory Analysis (3)	26,440	47,370						KfW
• Hydrogeological Study/Water level management plan	11,900	66,310						UNDP KfW
• Institutional Arrangements for a Management Authority								
• Infrastructure Investment Analysis								

Objective 4 Strengthening Protected Area Management and Management Plans • Analysis of management needs • Completion of 2 MPs • Frameworks for 2 MPs		52,110 26,050 11,840		2,870	2,870	6,310	3,450	KFW KfW KfW KfW
Objective 5 Identification and Mobilization of Co-financing Sources • 2 workshops for potential donors • Contact and follow-up by specialist and assessment of trust fund options	7,940 18,500	5,920		1,030	1,030	2,270	1,240	UNDP UNDP UNDP
Objective 6 GEF Project Brief and Draft Project Document Preparation GEF expert (6 weeks and travel) National experts as required PPCC meetings and input	35,700 3,970 2,650			1,350	1,350	2,970	1,620	UNDP UNDP UNDP UNDP
Other Translation Travel (Government officials, PPCC) Project offices' communications Publications Project administration	19,830 14,540 15,860 13,220 15,860	35.530 10,660		4,000	4,000	8,810	4,800	 KfW KfW KfW KfW KfW
Total	**376,000**	**319,000**	20,000	20,000	20,000	44,000	24,000	

~~In the intervening time between the end of the PDF-B phase and the beginning of the full project, there will be a period of reviews, negotiations, and approvals that may last several months. To ensure that momentum and stakeholder commitment and involvement in the region is maintained, a financial allocation should be reserved to permit the project offices to continue functioning during this critical time. To start with, an allocation for six months is budgeted for in order to maintain national project staff and regular PPCC meetings.~~

Objectives / Activities	Amount* / Contributing Organization							Administrative responsibility
	GEF	KfW	UNDP	GoA	GoFYROMOM	GoG**	NGOs***	
Objective 1 **Establish Basis for PDF B Implementation** • 3 NPDs and other government personnel • Project offices • 3 NPCs • International Project Manager • Prespa Park Coordination Committee and Secretariat • Project Office Administrator • 3 Social Facilitators • PPCC meetings • Training								
					10,000			
3,000	3,000		10,000	6,000	4,000	18,000		KfW
26,000			–		0	0		UNDP
40,000	40,000		6,000		13,000			UNDP/KfW
17,000	6,000			4,000	0			KfW
						6,000		
6,000			–		10,000	0		KfW
14,000			4,000		0			KfW
4,000	4,000							KfW
12,000		20,000						UNDP
		0			7,000			

Objective 2 **Project Boundary Definition** • International expert • National experts (3)	 10,000 15,000							 UNDP KfW
Objective 3 **Upgrading of Baseline Information** • Biodiversity Analysis (3) • Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis • Socio-economic Analysis (3) • Actual and Alternative Livelihoods Analysis (3) • Environmental Awareness/ Education Analysis (3) • Legal/Regulatory Analysis (3) • Hydrogeological/Climatological Study/Water level management plan • Institutional Arrangements for a Management Authority • Infrastructure Investment Analysis	 16,000 13,000 9,000 10,000 10,000 12,000 20,000 9,000	 14,000 7,000 11,000 10,000 4,000 4,000 40,000 56,000						 UNDP UNDP KfW UNDP UNDP UNDP KfW UNDP KfW
Objective 4 **Strengthening Protected Area Management and Management Plans** • Analysis of management needs • Completion of 2 MPs • Frameworks for 2 MPs		 44,000 22,000 10,000						 KfW KfW KfW
Objective 5 **Identification and Mobilization of Co-financing Sources** • 2 workshops for potential donors • National expert • Assessment trust fund options	 6,000 4,000 10,000	 5,000						 UNDP UNDP UNDP

~~**Objective 6**~~									
~~**GEF Project Brief and Draft Project Document Preparation**~~		~~27,000~~							~~UNDP~~
~~GEF expert (6 weeks and travel)~~		~~3,000~~							~~UNDP~~
~~National experts as required~~		~~2,000~~							~~UNDP~~
~~PPCC meetings and input~~									
~~**Other**~~									
~~Translation~~		~~15,000~~							~~KfW~~
~~Travel (Government officials, PPCC)~~		~~11,000~~							~~KfW~~
~~Project offices' communications~~		~~12,000~~							~~KfW~~
~~Publications~~		~~10,000~~							~~KfW~~
~~Project administration~~		~~12,000~~	~~9,000~~						~~KfW~~
~~Financial allocation to bridge gap until start of full project~~		~~30,000~~	~~30,000~~						~~UNDP/KfW~~
	~~**Total**~~	~~388,000~~	~~319,000~~	~~20,000~~	~~20,000~~	~~20,000~~	~~44,000~~	~~24,000~~	

* All costs are in US$, exchange rate applied for costs in euros: 1 US$ = 1,1 €

** The Government of Greece is already financing the preparation of the Strategic Action Plan for the Prespa region for the sum of $US 150,000

*** In kind contributions from Municipalities, Prespa National Park authority, Albania and NGOs (—NGOs are: PPNEA, ~~BSPS~~MAP, SPP)

6. EXPECTED DATE OF PREPARATION COMPLETION

The PDF Block B implementation is anticipated to commence in October~~August~~ 2002 and to be completed in October~~August~~ 2003. The Full Project Brief is expected to be submitted to the GEF Council in October~~July~~ ~~August~~ ~~2003~~ 2003.

7. SPECIAL FEATURES

The proposed project exhibits several innovative and significant features. One central theme of the project, and of the PDF B phase itself, is the strong commitment to ensuring the development and implementation of a truly participatory and grassroots level stakeholder involvement process. Every effort will be made to ensure that all stakeholders, and especially the local population, are not only aware of the project and its objectives, but also are given every opportunity to participate in its formulation and subsequent implementation. Every effort will be made to provide for direct stakeholder ongoing involvement, as opposed to mere consultation at selected intervals. The hiring and deployment of community liaison officers that will be on site in the region, and the location of project offices in the region will provide for increased involvement and a sense of direct ownership of the project by local stakeholders.

The project will also develop and strengthen hitherto relatively low levels of cooperation among the countries in the management of shared resources of global significance. In so doing, the project will help foster the implementation of shared approaches to management of the region, including the standardization of policies and regulatory regimes, management objectives, standards for resource

use limits and practices, monitoring and reporting procedures and mechanisms, and land and water use planning. One other innovative feature will be the development of an inter-governmental management authority tasked with the management of the Transboundary Prespa Park. The Park's boundaries, in fact, will also be established through the project, and the definition of its management requirements at a ll landscape level will also be pp rovided.

88. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The potential organizational arrangements to be employed for PDF B implementation were developed, and subsequently presented and modified in the course of discussion with all of the of the stakeholders. At the end, all stakeholders endorsed the organizational structure presented below as being viable and representing the most effective and efficient arrangement for PDF B execution. Moreover, if the structure will be is deemed effective at the conclusion of the PDF B, it was felt by all stakeholders that it should be maintained for the full project and it could serve as the basis for an effective mechanism for transboundary management in the future.

The organogram below illustrates how the PDF B implementation is to be structured. UNDP and KfW will first formalize an arrangement between themselves regarding financial and operational responsibilities and then with the recipient countries' (Albania and FYR of Macedonia) Ministries of Environment (MoE). The two Ministries will also have to make an arrangement with their counterpart Ministry in Greece to ensure its full participation. UNDP will also make its own implementation arrangements with the two UNDP Country Offices for national execution of the PDF B. Each MoE – including Greece - will appoint a National Project Director (NPD) for each country. This These will not be a positions paid for from PDF B funds in Albania or FYR of Macedonia but by the Governments of the countries as countries as an in-kind contribution.

The PPCC, in the role of Project Supervisory Committee, will ensure PDF B coordination. The MoE of Albania and FYR of Macedonia will agree upon execution arrangements of the PDF B by the PPCC. The MoE- designated NPDs will be *ex-officio* members of the PPCC. The Greek MoE is also expected to give itsthis authorization to the Committee and its NPD will also be an *ex-officio* member of the PPCC. The existing PPCC Secretariat will assist the PPCC in performing its functions on a daily basisin the daily work. It is clear, however, that tThe incremental costs associated with the PPCC and Secretariat performing the above functions for the project will be covered through PDF B funds.

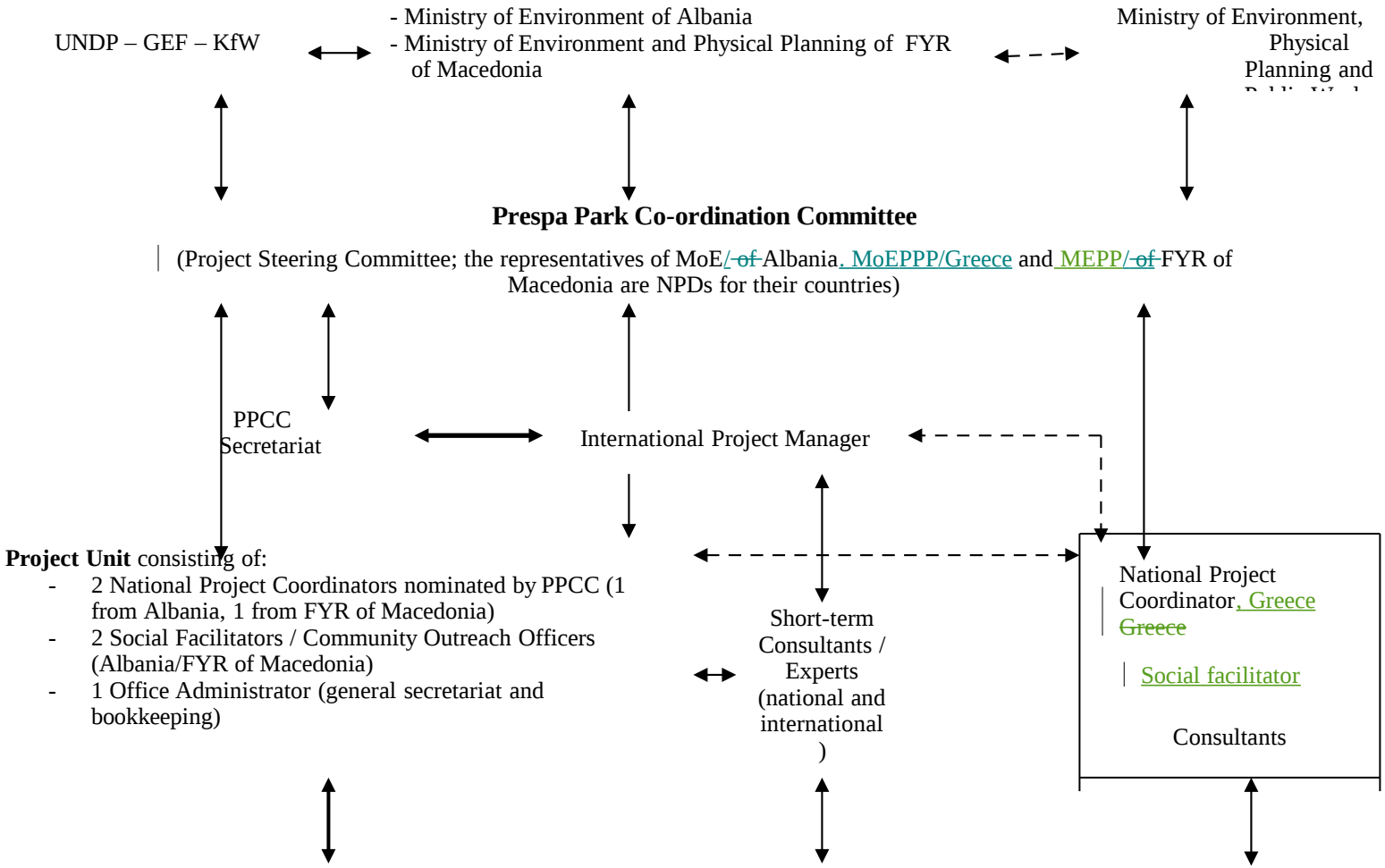
For each country there will be a National Project Coordinator (NPC). There will be a Project Support Unit (PSU) likely in the Municipality in Asamatiof Resen, FYR of Macedonia. The Project Support Unit will consist of one person responsible for day to dayday-to-day office operations and accounting, and one community outreach-communications officer or social facilitator to ensure close and ongoing contact with all local stakeholders in FYR of Macedonia. OtherOne other social facilitators will also be locatedestablished in subsidiary project offices to be located in Korca/Gorica e Madhe in Albania, and another one in Lemos/Agios Germanos, Greece. The main project office will likely be situated in the newly refurbished offices of the Bird Study and Protection Society of Macedonia (BSPSM) that are located in Asamati, just outside of the Ezerani Strict Nature Reserve. Resen, in facilities to be provided by the MEPP with the assistance of the Municipality of Resen. Each NPC will supervise the contracted expertise and will also be responsible for ensuring stakeholder involvement. Overseeing and coordinating the work in the

three countries will be an overall International Project Manager (IPM). ~~.~~ a~~This~~ position to~~will~~ be advertised internationally. The three NPCs will report to the IPM, who~~The IPM~~ will report to the PPCC. ~~The three NPCs will report to the IPM.~~ Because local expertise from the Prespa region will possibly be difficult to find for the duties associated with the NPC positions, these will be advertised nationally and the selected candidates will be able to divide ~~his or her~~their time between the main project office in the region and ~~his or her home~~their home base. ~~This position will be advertised internationally. The IPM will report to the PPCC.~~

~~The location of the project offices in the three countries was discussed with stakeholders with a view to having the offices located in the Prespa region itself to build up project presence, contacts with the communities and local stakeholders, as well as local capacity. This desire had to be balanced by consideration of practicality and logistics of locating a project office in a given locale. The main project office will be situated in Asamati, FYR of Macedonia. In Albania, the location of the field office will be in the facilities of the Prespa National Park in Korca and in Prespa National Park's visitor center in the village of Gorica e Madhe. In Greece, the project field office will be situated in the offices of the Society for the Protection of Prespa (SPP) in Agios Germanos, which currently is also the seat of the Prespa Park Coordination Committee's Secretariat.~~

All project activities will be ~~primarily executed~~primarily executed by national experts, assisted at times by international consultants. All contracted expertise will be recruited through established, transparent and competitive selection processes that are in compliance with international standards~~UNDP National Execution (NEX) procedures.~~ Procurement and disbursement will also comply with these standards~~established UNDP NEX procedures~~. The UNDP Country Offices in Albania and FYR of Macedonia will provide ~~the required support~~support for the proper and effective execution of the project in Albania and FYR of Macedonia using established procedures. ~~They will also contribute to the training of project personnel in project execution procedures.~~

PROPOSED PRESPA PARK PDF-B IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURE
(Positions in **Bold Boxes** are Project Funded or Supported)



ANNEXES

ANNEX 1 LETTERS OF SUPPORT FROM GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
Directorate of Nature Resources Management and Biodiversity
Rruga Durresi, Nr. 27, Tirana , Tel. +355 42 70 624 Fax. +355 42 70 627

Tirana, on 7.08.2002

Subject: Integrated Ecosystem Management in the Transboundary Prespa Park Region

Mr. Mohamed T. El-Ashry
CEO & Chairman
Global Environment Facility
1818 H. St., NW
Washington, DC 20433

Dear Mr. El-Ashry,

As the Albanian Minister of Environment, I am pleased to endorse and submit to you the UNDP/GEF "Integrated Ecosystem Management in the Transboundary Prespa Park Region" for PDF B funding consideration by the GEF. The PDF B concept document for this project is attached.

The Project will support the sustainable development of the Prespa Park Area with a high level of biodiversity and vital economic value for the community. The proposal has been elaborated together with the other two countries (FYROM and Greece) in the framework of the trilateral cooperation initiative.

Let me express my strong believe that the project will be fully supported by GEF.

LUFTER XHUVELI
MINISTER

REPUBLIKA E SHQIPERISE MINISTRIA E MJEDISIT TIRANE

REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND PHISYCAL PLANNING

Skopje, July 10, 2002
Our No. 09-2405/3

TO
Mr. Mohamed T. El-Ashry
CEO&Chairmen
Global Environmental Facility
1818 H.St., NW
Washington, DC 20433

Subject: Endorsement of Project Proposal ""Integrated Ecosystem Management in the Trans-boundary Prespa Park Region"

Dear Mr. El-Ashry,

In my capacity as GEF Operational Focal Point for the Republic of Macedonia, I am pleased to endorse and submit to you the "Integrated Ecosystem Management in the Trans-boundary Prespa Park Region" Project for funding consideration by the GEF.

The proposal has been elaborated under the trilateral initiative for establishment of "Prespa Park", among the Republic of Albania, Republic of Greece and the Republic of Macedona. It is considered as priority on the environmental agenda of the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of our country.

I strongly believe that the Project "Integrated Ecosystem Management in the Trans-boundary Prespa Park Region" will be fully supported by GEF.

Sincerely yours,

Metodija Dimovski, M.Sc
Head of Department

cc. Nick Remple
NADA LISCAKOVA

C.c. Ms. Vesna Dzuteska Bisheva
Program Officer, UNDP CO Macedonia

~~(To be provided)~~

ANNEX 2 PDF-B WORKPLAN

Activity	Month											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1. Establish Basis for PDF B Implementation												
1.1 Establish supervisory coordinating structure	X											
1.2 Establish financing structure	X	X										
1.3 Establish project offices	X	X										
1.4 Select Project Manager and Project Coordinators		X										
1.5 Review and ~~update~~ finalize ~~workplan~~work plan and TOR		X										
1.6 Select support staff		X										
1.7 Provide training to project staff		X										
1.8 PPCC meeting		X										
1.8 Hold inception and ~~logframe~~log frame workshop		X										
1.9 Develop communications plan/consultation mechanism/ stakeholder participation		X	X	X		X	X		X	X		X
2. Project Area Boundary Definition												
2.1 Catchment vs. ecosystem boundaries study			X	X	X							
2.2 Recommendations on project site boundary and endorsement by PPCC					X							
3. Upgrading of Essential Baseline Information												
3.1 Biodiversity analysis/threats and root causes/TDA			X	X	X							
3.2 Socio-economic analysis				X	X	X						
3.3 Alternative livelihoods analysis				X	X	X						
3.4 Environmental/biodiversity awareness analysis				X	X	X						
3.5 Legal, regulatory, and policy analysis					X	X						
3.~~6~~7 Hydrogeological study/water management plan				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
3.~~7~~8 Assessment of institutional arrangements for a transboundary management authority					X	X	X					
3.~~8~~9 Social infrastructure investment analysis			X	X	X	X						
4. Strengthening Protected Areas and Management Plans												
4.1 Assessment of situation/definition of needs				X	X							
4.2 Completion of 2 management plans					X	X	X					
4.3 Frameworks for 2 management plans					X	X	X					
5. Identification and Mobilization of Co-financing Sources												
5.1 Definition and appraisal of all existing and planned programmes and activities in region			X	X	X	X	X					
5.2 Two workshops with potential donors						X				X		
5.3 Trust fund options study				X	X	X						
6. GEF Project Brief and Draft Project Document Preparation and Appraisal												
6.1 Preparation of~~e~~ draft ~~of~~ Project Brief							X	X	X	X		
6.2 Consultation on draft Project Brief										X		
6.3 Finalization of ~~e~~ Project Brief											X	

6.4 GEF Project Brief Submission to GEF and appraisal											X	
6.5 Preparation of e draft Project Document												X

~~ANNEX 3 MAP OF PROJECT AREA~~

~~(To be provided)~~

ANNEX ~~5~~34 CONCEPT PAPER AS APPROVED BY GEF IN NOVEMBER, 2001

~~(To be included)~~

Integrated Ecosystem Management in the Transboundary Prespa Park Region

CONCEPT PAPER IN PREPARATION OF A FULL GEF PROJECT

Submitted to the GEF Secretariat
by UNDP
on behalf of the tri-national
Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee

Abbreviations

BSPSM	Bird Study and Protection Society of Macedonia
PPCC	Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee
EEC	European Economic Community
EU	European Union
FoE	Pro Natura Switzerland
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Association
KfW	Kreditanstalt fuer Wiederaufbau
MAP	Macedonian Alliance for Prespa
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NP	National Park
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PA	Protected Area
PDF	Project Development Facility (of GEF)
PPNEA	Preservation and Protection of Natural Environment Albania
SAP	Strategic Action Plan / Strategic Action Programme
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SPA	Special Protection Area (under EC law)
SPP	Society for the Protection of Prespa (Greece)
TDA	Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis
UK	United Kingdom
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Education and Science Organisation
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

1. Project Title:
Integrated Ecosystem Management in the Transboundary Prespa Park Region

2. GEF Implementing Agency:
United Nations Development Programme

3. Countries in which the project is being implemented:
Albania, the FYR of Macedonia and Greece[12]

4. GEF Focal Area(s):
Multiple Focal Area: International Waters & Biodiversity (also expected to produce Climate Change benefits)

5. Operational Program/Enabling Activities/ Short-Term Measures:
The proposed project fits within OP#12 Integrated Ecosystem & Natural Resources Management.

The project is also relevant to the criteria of OP#8 Waterbody based Operational Programme, OP#4 Mountain Ecosystems and OP#2 Coastal, Marine & Freshwater Ecosystems.

6. Country Drivenness:
In recognition of the ecological and historical/cultural significance of the transboundary Prespa Lakes region, the Prime Ministers of the three neighbouring countries (Albania, the FYR of Macedonia, and Greece) issued a Declaration on 2nd February 2000 announcing the creation of the "Prespa Park" as the first transboundary protected area in South Eastern Europe[13]. The Prime Ministerial Declaration proposes enhanced collaboration among the competent authorities of the three countries and outlines the following joint actions to be undertaken:[14]

e) maintain and protect the unique ecological values of the "Prespa Park";
f) prevent and/or reverse the causes of its habitat degradation ;
g) explore appropriate management methods for the sustainable use of the Prespa Lakes waters;
h) spare no efforts so that the "Prespa Park" becomes and remains a model of its kind as well as an additional reference to the peaceful collaboration among our countries.

As a follow-up to the Declaration of Prespa Park, the three states have established an interim "Co-ordination Committee for the Prespa Park" (PPCC) which includes representatives from the environmental authorities, local government, and NGO community in each country as well as the Ramsar Convention Bureau/MedWet as observer[15]. The main responsibility of the Co-ordination Committee is to ensure co-ordination among the three countries and concerned stakeholders to facilitate the establishment of the trilateral Prespa Park, the protection of its ecosystems and the sustainable development of the region. The Committee is expected to become the formal body

[12] The participation of Greece and activities to be undertaken in the Greek part of the Prespa region will be fully supported by funding from the Greek government and other sources of co-funding.
[13] See Map in Annex 1
[14] See Annex 2 for a full text of the Declaration of Prespa Park
[15] See Annex 3 for the full description of the composition and responsibilities of the Co-ordination Committee

responsible for the implementation of the proposed transboundary, tri-lateral environmental and sustainable development program, benefiting the lake region.

The proposed project is therefore completely in line with the priorities of the three countries and is driven by the representatives of the three countries through the Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee.

In addition, the following supporting measures have been taken by the three countries:

In Albania:

- Prespa National Park was established in 1999 for the rehabilitation and sustainable protection of critical terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems of the Macro- and Micro Prespa Lake area.
- The Council of Ministers ratified the Ramsar Convention in March 1996.
- The Ministry of Environment has been recently established to replace the former National Environmental Agency (NEA).

In Greece:

- Prespa National Forest was designated in 1974 for the protection of the lakes Micro and Macro Prespa and their catchment area, and, in 1975, the same area was declared a "landscape of exceptional beauty".
- The Greek side of the wetland system is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the EEC Birds Directive.
- The entire Prespa catchment area and the lakes have been included in the Greek National List of the NATURA 2000 protected sites network, according to the EEC Directive on Protection of Fauna, Flora and their Habitats, and the EEC Birds Directive.
- The Ramsar Convention was ratified in 1974 by Greece as one of the founding countries. The amendment was ratified through Law 1950 in 1991. Micro Prespa was declared a Ramsar site in 1974. Moreover, Greece has recently applied for the recognition of the Macro Prespa Lake also as a designated Ramsar site.

In the FYR of Macedonia:

- Pelister National Park was established in 1948 for the protection of a globally unique mountainous ecosystem to the east of Macro Prespa Lake.
- Galicica National Park was established in 1958 for the rehabilitation and protection of unique terrestrial ecosystems straddling the Galicica Mountain located between the Macro Prespa and Ohrid Lakes.
- Bird Sanctuary Ezerani was established in 1996 (declared Ramsar site), bordering the northern section of Macro Prespa Lake for the protection of migratory waterfowl and other waterbird species.
    - Macro Prespa Lake was declared a "Natural Monument" in 1977 (Official Gazettement 45/77).

Furthermore, a "Partnership Agreement" between the Albanian Prespa National Park and the Macedonian Galicica National Park was signed on February 4, 2001, within the framework of the Europark Expertise Exchange Program.

7. Context:

7.1 Description and Physical features:

The Prespa region (~41° N latitude, ~23°E longitude) is located in the Balkan Peninsula, in south-eastern Europe (see Map in Annex 1). It is a high-altitude basin which includes two inter-linked lakes, Macro Prespa and Micro Prespa and the surrounding mountains. The Macro Prespa lake has a surface area of 253.6 km^2, Micro Prespa is 47.4 km^2 and the total area of the combined drainage basins and lakes is 2,519 km^2.[16]

The two Prespa Lakes are situated at an altitude of 850 m above sea level. The highest peaks of the surrounding mountains reach about 2,600 m above sea level. The Baba Mountain Range borders the lake basin to the east, with Pelister Mountain as its highest peak (2,600 m asl). To the north, the Plakenska (1,998m asl) and Bigla (1,656 m asl) are the highest peaks. Micro Prespa Lake on the Greek side is bordered to the south by the Triklarion Mountains rising to 1,750 m asl. The two Prespa Lakes are separated to the west from Ohrid Lake by an elongated calciferous mountain block comprised of Galicica and Mali i Thate mountains (rising to 2,287 m asl). The mountains to the east and south of the watershed are comprised of silicate rock, producing soils and growing conditions that differ significantly from the soils resulting from the calciferous mountains to the north and west of the watershed. The calciferous rock facilitates underground water flow from the Prespa Lakes to the lower Ohrid Lake, where water surfaces in mighty springs at Drilon (in Albania) and Sveti Naum (in the FYR of Macedonia). The exact extent of sub-surface linkages between the Prespa Lakes and Lake Ohrid has not been investigated, however a study using radio isotopes is underway to more accurately determine the sub-surface flows. Because of the linkages in the catchment area, the proposed project will establish effective co-ordination and exchange of information with the management committees set up within the ongoing GEF/World Bank project in Lake Ohrid (as described in section 15).

Until the end of the 1960s the Maliqi Lake in Albania formed an integral part of the region's lake system. The Maliqi Lake was bordered by extensive marshlands of several 100 has, fed by the Devolli River that originates in south-eastern Albania. The Devolli river was channelled at the end of the 60s resulting in subsequent draining of the Maliqi Lake and the desiccation of the swamp. Subsequently, the Prespa watershed was artificially and considerably enlarged by the Devolli River in the south, which was channelled and partly diverted into Micro Prespa Lake.

The climate of the Prespa region is subject to Mediterranean and continental influences and may be characterised as continental-central European. It is characterised by winters with long periods of high rainfall, snow and low temperatures and warm but moderate summers. Mean monthly temperatures in the Prespa region average 9-10° C. The average annual rainfall is approximately 647 mm.

7.2 Global Biodiversity Significance:

Detailed vegetation studies providing fairly comprehensive reviews have been undertaken in all countries sharing the Prespa region.[17] The studies indicate that the entire Prespa region hosts

[16] **Hollis, G.E. and A.C. Stevenson, 1997. The physical basis of the Lake Mikri Prespa systems: geology, climate, hydrology and water quality. Hydrobiologia 351: 1-19.**

[17] See, e.g., Pavlidis, G., 1997. The flora of Prespa National Park with emphasis on species of conservation interest. Hydrobiologia 351:35-40; Pavlidis, G., 1997. Aquatic and terrestrial vegetation of the Prespa area. Hydrobiologia 351: 41-60; Rizovski, R., Grupce, Lj., Rizovska-Atanasovska, J., 1997. Vegetation and its importance in the protection of Prespa region. Ont. symp. Towards Integrated Conservation and Sustainable Development of Transboundary Macro and Micro Prespa Lakes, 24-26

unique biotopes that are important from a European conservation perspective. Extensive deciduous evergreen forests of *Ostryo-Caprinion orientalis*, evergreen Box-Juniper shrublands, and beech and beech-fir forests are found on the eastern and southern slopes of the catchment basin. The evergreen conifer forests along the Albanian and Greek part of Prespa are significant for conservation and consist of tall 12m high and straight trees of *Juniperus foetidissima* and *J. excelsa*. The extensive beech and beech–fir forests of the FYR of Macedonia are also considered important for conservation. As far as the wetland ecosystems are concerned, the littoral zone of Micro Prespa is covered with extensive reedbeds (Ass. *Phragmitetum* predominates) with several open water areas covered by aquatic vegetation. The morphology and structure of wetland ecosystems favour breeding and feeding of rare water bird species.

The flora is composed of more than 1500 plant species with 19 endemic plant species recorded for the three countries. Two plant species are listed in IUCN's Red Data Book as "vulnerable" and 12 as rare (IUCN, 1982).

The aquatic ecosystems of the region are rich in endemic species such as the Prespa barbel (*Barbus prespensis*), the Prespa nose (*Chondrostoma nasus prespensis*) and others. Of the 12 indigenous fish taxa identified, 4 species (*Barbus prespensis*, *Chondrostoma prespensis*, *Chalcaburnus belvica*, *Gobitis meridionalis*) and 8 sub-species are endemic to the Prespa Lakes or to the Balkans. (Further information on species of the project area is provided in Annex 4).

With about 270 bird species, the avifauna of the Prespa lakes region is highly diverse. Among them are globally endangered species, such as the Dalmatian pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) (700 pairs, i.e. the biggest breeding colony in the world) and the Pygmy cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*), both of which breed and winter in the Greek section of Prespa. The Greek Prespa is also the only breeding area of the White pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*) in the European Union, while the globally endangered Ferruginous duck (*Aythya nyroca*) breeds in the Ezerani Lagoon in the FYR of Macedonia and Micro Prespa in Greece. All these and many other bird species use the whole surface of the two lakes in all countries as feeding grounds.

The water surfaces of the lakes are important wintering sites for waterfowl of the Palaearctic realm. The importance of the Prespa lakes and the corresponding wetlands for birds has been widely documented during the last thirty years and has recently been aptly summarised by Hearth and Evans.[18] Based on the richness of waterfowl the Macedonian and Greek sides of the lake system are recognised as wetlands of international importance by the *Convention on Protection of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar, 1971). The Ramsar designation in Greece is based primarily on breeding and wintering populations, whereas in the FYR of Macedonia the designation is based on feeding species. Furthermore, the Greek side of the wetland system is considered a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the *Birds Directive* of the European Union (79/409/EEC) and is part of the Greek contribution to the NATURA 2000 network of protected sites according to the *Directive for the Conservation of Natural Habitats of Wild Flora and Fauna* (92/43 EEC).

It should also be noted that the lake area hosts endangered mammal species, such as bears (*Ursus arctos*), wolves (*Canis lupus*), and lynx (*Lynx lynx*). There are also 25 recorded species of bats in

October, Korcha, Albania; Buzo, K., Data on the flora and vegetation of the sub-alpine and alpine pastures of Prespa region, 2000. Proceedings of International Symposium: Sustainable development of Prespa region, 23-25/6/2000, Oteshevo, Republic of Macedonia.

[18] Hearth M.F. & G.Evans IE (Editors) 2000. Important Bird Areas in Europe- Priority Sites for Conservation. 2 Vols., Cambridge, UK Birdlife International (Bird Conservation Series No 8).

the region. Among these are nine species that are either threatened with extinction or are classified as vulnerable (*Myotis natteri*, *Nyctalus leisleri*, *N. noctula*, *Rrhinolophus ferrum-equinum*, *R. euryale*, *R. hipposideros*, *R. blasii*, *Tadarida tenoites* and *Vespertilio murinus*).

7.3. Socio-Economic context:

In addition to its natural values, the lake region is considered to be of great cultural/historic importance with high potential for tourism. The region has been inhabited for several centuries. Numerous archaeological sites prove that in ancient times an important trade route of the western Roman empire – the Via Egnatia – passed close to the region. The Byzantine and meta-byzantine monuments of the Prespa basin are numerous and an evidence of the rich cultural and historic heritage of the whole area.

The distribution of villages and people located around the two Prespa lakes shows that approximately 5,202 persons live in 12 villages on the Albanian side, 1,569 from 13 villages on the Greek side and 17,681 persons in one town and 40 villages in the FYR of Macedonia. In the past decades, there has been limited interaction among the people living in this region, due to the fact that it was dissected by military border zones, which formed part of the so-called "Iron Curtain".

The inhabitants of Prespa are mainly occupied in the primary sector of production, with agriculture as the main source of income; stock raising and fishing also contribute to the agricultural produce of the area in varying degrees, depending on the country. The secondary sector is fairly developed only in the Resen area (the FYR of Macedonia), while the tertiary sector is largely confined to tourism, which represents an important economic activity at least in the FYR of Macedonia and Greece.

Large parts of the ecosystems of the Prespa Lakes region have been converted or transformed into agricultural systems of various kinds, or have been replaced by towns, villages and other man-made infrastructures. More specifically, water abstraction from the lakes for irrigation purposes, use of fertiliser and pesticides, disposal of urban wastewater, and of solid household wastes increase eutrophication, enhance vegetation growth at the littoral zone, and increase growth of organic substances in shallow waters, leading to a reduction of the spawning grounds of endemic fish species and feeding grounds of rare water birds.

Along the Albanian side extensive wood and forest cutting, along with the diversion of the Devolli River into Micro Prespa, resulted in the deposition of 40,000m^3 of solid materials into the lake and in the destruction of the wetland. During the last ten years, water level of Macro Prespa has decreased more than 6m. The reasons for this phenomenon have not yet been investigated, however existing hypotheses suggest that this may be due in large part to the severe drought conditions prevailing in the region for some years which have also caused a significant lowering of the water levels of nearby lakes in Greece, or possibly due to an earthquake which may have affected underground water channels connected to Macro Prespa. The reasons for the lowering of the water level are considered to be due to natural causes as there has not been any major change in land-use and water-use patterns in the surrounding areas in recent years. The resulting increased lake water eutrophication has been pinpointed in many scientific studies in the three countries. As a result, habitat diversity has decreased and many types of 'natural ecosystem' are now confined to relatively restricted areas. Recognition of the restricted and threatened nature of the remaining extents of representative natural ecosystems has been an important stimulus for reinforcing

conservation action in the region, as indicated by the creation of numerous protected areas in the Lakes region.

However, in areas such as Prespa, as in many other non-wetland mountain areas in Europe, natural conditions have for hundreds of years been disturbed through human interventions; despite these changes, the natural character of the landscape is retained, but is far from being pristine. On the other hand, it should be noted that extensive land use practices have often created conditions favouring a high level of biodiversity. Examples of biodiversity-enhancing practices in Prespa have been: grazing, mowing and collection/use of reedbeds each year, cultivation of small woodland openings, cultivation practices with inter-cropping, crop rotations, small and intermingling fields with a variety of crops, maintaining natural hedges and trees, the non-use of chemicals, and the combination of arable farming and livestock rearing in a system of high spatial and temporal entropy (Catsadorakis & Malakou 1997).[19]

8. Project Rationale and Objectives:

8.1 Problem statement:

The tri-national Prespa Park region is considered an ecological entity of global significance, and has, in fact, been characterised as one of Europe's 24 major transboundary "ecological bricks".[20] However, the unique values of this ecosystem are being eroded at a rapid rate and threatened by increasing exploitation of natural resources, inappropriate land-use practices, and uncoordinated sectoral policies and development activities leading to soil and water contamination and degradation.

As borders between states are political and not ecological, the ecosystems of the Lake Region extend across national boundaries. The region is thus subject to different and even conflicting management regimes and policies, which further exacerbate the threats to the ecosystem as a whole and make unilateral and piecemeal response measures ineffective.

The ecological integrity of the Prespa Park region is currently threatened by inappropriate land and natural resource use, which can be broken down into a number of factors including:

- inexistant or inappropriate water management;
- large-scale forest destruction and erosion;
- overgrazing;
- over-exploitation of medicinal plants, fisheries and other natural resources;
- ecologically unsound irrigation practices;
- water and soil contamination from uncontrolled use of pesticides, raw sewage disposal and lake siltation;
- uncontrolled urban and other forms of development;
- pressure from increasing and uncontrolled tourism development

The threats to the Prespa ecosystem identified above have been caused as a result of the following underlying or root causes, which are affecting all or parts of region:

- lack of integrated planning and weak inter-sectoral co-ordination;
- limited management and enforcement capacity;

[19] Catsadorakis, G. & M. Malakou, 1997. Conservation and management issues of Prespa National Park, Hydrobiologia 351:175-196, A.J.Crivelli & G.Catsadorakis (eds), Lake Prespa, Northwestern Greece.
[20] Langer, H., 1990. Ecological Bricks for our Common House in Europe. Munich: Verlag für Politische Őecologie. Global Challenges Network and Verlag für Politische Őecologie.

- lack of financial and technical resources for ecosystem management and conservation;
- regulatory frameworks and policies not harmonized or co-ordinated among sectors and between the three countries;
- lack of co-ordination among the three countries to address transboundary issues and management needs of the region as an integrated ecosystem unit;
- limited income generation opportunities leading to unsustainable use of natural resources and pressure on the ecosystem;
- limited incentives or disincentives to prevent or control environmentally unsustainable practices;
- lack of awareness among key stakeholders and general public about the ecological values of the region, their potential, and the corresponding need for their preservation.

8.2 Baseline scenario:

In the baseline scenario, conservation programmes may continue to focus on areas that are too small to meet the habitat requirements of all species, and conservation and resource management goals may be too narrow to make either economic or ecological sense. In view of the international importance of the Prespa region's ecosystems, which straddle international boundaries, an integrated ecosystem management approach is needed that can balance economic development in the region with the need for conservation and protection of its unique natural resources. This requires a landscape level planning approach to promote sustainable development alongside efforts to conserve transboundary waters and biodiversity.

In the absence of GEF funding, the uncontrolled land-use and resource exploitation patterns seen in recent decades could continue to degrade this globally significant ecosystem and lead to uncontrolled and ultimately unsustainable development in the Prespa Lakes region. While important steps have been taken by the countries to establish protected areas, in many cases capacity, funding and resources are limited to ensure their effective management. Thus areas within and surrounding PAs are being rapidly degraded due to lack of effective land-use planning, limited enforcement and management capacity and limited income generation alternatives available to local people. Rapid deforestation is being caused by tree-cutting and over-grazing, due to shortage of alternative fuelwood and poor rangeland management practices. This process in turn is leading to irreversible processes of erosion and land degradation. Within the baseline scenario there is no integrated effort to address such destructive resource use patterns in a comprehensive manner by addressing their root causes. While small-scale projects are being developed in some areas to promote local enterprise, these are neither comprehensive nor sufficiently co-ordinated with environmental protection needs to ensure careful and controlled utilization of natural resources in line with carrying capacity of the areas.

Present water management practices and irrigation practices are also not sufficiently co-ordinated among the riparian countries. Within a baseline scenario there will continue to be limited transboundary co-ordination for the management of the lakes and their fresh water resources, as well as lack of a comprehensive and joint regional assessment and programme to address transboundary threats and identify and implement regional priorities actions and investments. Unilateral actions, such as the diversion of the Devolli river towards Micro Prespa Lake some decades ago, may continue to have severe implications for water quality and quantity as well as aquatic biodiversity of the entire transboundary ecosystem. Similarly potential large-scale irrigation projects, if not designed to be consistent with the conservation objectives of the region, could significantly affect the level and extent of the lakes.

Despite its considerably rich natural and cultural heritage, the population in the Prespa region is characterized by relatively lower living standards in all three countries. This is manifested in low incomes and few income generation alternatives available to local people. Lower living standards are also resulting in gradual erosion of the population base, especially in the Greek side of Prespa. It is noted in the Strategic Action Plan for Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park, a study being undertaken by the collaborating NGOs in the Prespa Park process, that "none of the three countries alone can raise the living standard of the Prespa inhabitants beyond a certain point, unless it comes to an agreement with the other two states on a harmonised utilisation of natural resources under common terms".[21] It is also noted that in view of the character and special features of the region large-scale development initiatives in the secondary sector (manufacture, industry, mining) would be incompatible with the preservation of the ecosystem and the natural and cultural values of the region. Within the baseline scenario a shared vision for the sustainable development of the Prespa region does not exist, therefore uncontrolled and incompatible development activities may continue in various parts of the ecosystem.

While the three states have taken important initial steps, such as the Declaration of the tri-national Prespa Park and the establishment of the Co-ordination Committee, an integrated and comprehensive approach is needed for sustainable management of the Prespa Park transboundary ecosystem. As indicated by the trilateral declaration by the Prime Ministers of the three countries, the political will to co-operate in the conservation and sustainable use through common management of the shared ecosystems is present. However, this will need to be supported by considerable incremental resources to enhance capacity and establish mechanisms for co-operation between states, among stakeholders, and in co-ordination with concerned development partners.

It is feared that--in the absence of sufficient capacity, appropriate policies and lack of effective co-ordination--the increased attention recently placed on Prespa because of positive transboundary co-operation, may inadvertently increase pressure on natural resources by creating an undesired incentive for various actors to take advantage of the region's rising profile for short-term economic benefit without proper long-term planning. Thus, the GEF recipient countries bordering Prespa have to be rapidly enabled to plan and manage their natural assets and anticipate and promote sustainable economic development in the area.

8.3 Alternative scenario:

The threats to the Prespa Park ecosystem and their underlying causes described above may only be solved through close co-operation between the three countries, involving the relevant sectors and range of stakeholders. The proposed project is being designed to support the three countries in jointly addressing transboundary issues and in designing and implementing an integrated ecosystem management/watershed management approach to land management in order to address the complex and multi-faceted problems facing the region. The proposed approach is expected to result in multiple global benefits in International Waters, Biodiversity, as well as Climate Change.

As already noted, the three countries sharing the Prespa basin have expressed their interest towards adopting a comprehensive approach to conservation that would produce local, regional and global benefits through reduced risk of extinction of rare species, maintenance of ecosystem integrity, and establishment of sustainable use paradigms for components of biological diversity. A comprehensive programme and incremental resources are needed to implement this approach.

According to the precautionary principle that guides biodiversity conservation today, the proposed project will attempt to address the underlying root causes of biodiversity loss and the existing or possible future threats through a comprehensive, strategic model of environmental management and

[21] Strategic Action Plan for the Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park, draft Chapter A.

sustainable development of the Prespa area. Addressing the root causes would make the proposed activities both cost-efficient as well as sustainable and effective in the long run.

The alternative scenario proposes to focus on landscape level planning in order to deal with regions that are large enough to include the habitats and ecosystem functions and processes needed to make biotic communities and populations ecologically viable over the long-term. This requires co-operation among a range of stakeholder groups, including local communities, government agencies at different levels (local, regional, national), private enterprises, scientific and educational institutions, etc. The PPCC will apply this holistic approach that addresses biodiversity conservation in an ecosystem context, seeking to conserve integral ecological systems within which species can live and evolve within the boundaries of the Prespa catchment basin. The focus is very much on the conservation of ecosystems rather than on single species.

Associated with the notion of multiple conservation units in landscape level management is that of connectivity – the idea of linking up core areas that feature representative samples of a region's characteristic biodiversity, through systems of corridors, restored areas and conservation compatible land use which would permit the migration and movement of biota and adaptation of the overall ecological system. In the Prespa region both the core sites and the corridors are embedded into a matrix of mixed land uses and ownership patterns. A whole spectrum of scientific, social and economic considerations and different perceptions are thus brought to bear in defining management opportunities and in implementing programs of action and investment which will be most likely to be effective and successful within a transboundary ecosystem management approach as proposed within the alternative scenario.

The proposed project would help address transboundary water management issues for the conservation and integrated management of the Prespa Lakes and their catchment areas, by supporting the riparian countries to undertake a transboundary diagnostic analysis and develop a Strategic Action Programme for the management of the Lakes. These preparatory activities are proposed to be undertaken during a PDF B phase and would lead to the identification and prioritisation of demonstration measures to help improve the management of the lakes and to facilitate a co-ordinated investment programme that could be supported by national, regional and international partners.

The proposed project is also expected to result in significant carbon sequestration benefits. While it is not possible to quantify these benefits at this stage, this aspect is intended to be further studied within the PDF B phase. It is estimated that proposed rehabilitation and afforestation activities, as well as improved overall management of rangelands and meadows and reduction of overgrazing and deforestation are expected to lead to significantly enhanced carbon sequestration potential of the ecosystem.

Within the alternative scenario it is also proposed to address the major challenge of over-exploitation and pressure on natural resources by giving consideration to ways in which local communities could make a living from alternative and less exploitative sources of income. For example, the region has a high potential for promotion of eco-tourism, given its rich natural and cultural heritage. However such an approach requires a harmonised and shared programme for the development of region. Likewise, a sustainable development approach requires that communities living in the region are aware of the value and potential of the region, are closely involved plans and activities for the management and conservation of the ecosystem, and are able to share in the benefits.

The alternative approach will also facilitate the development of an "enabling environment" for integrated ecosystem management by identifying appropriate policies and incentives for

conservation and sustainable development while strengthening the capacity for enforcement. The project proposes to study and develop sustainable financing mechanisms to help meet recurring costs and promote the long-term sustainability of the project interventions. The project will also strengthen inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms as a means to integrated and coherent planning for the future development of the region.

The international interest in the Prespa region has been evidenced in recent years by an increasing involvement of donors in the region through various projects and activities directed towards social infrastructure development, and reduction of lake contamination from uncontrolled sewage discharge and other sources. There is a need for a co-ordinated approach for conservation and sustainable development of the Prespa region to benefit local people, strengthen regional cooperation and secure global long-term benefits by preserving unique ecosystems. It is expected that the proposed alternative scenario would help to leverage large-scale donor involvement for an integrated and harmonised approach in the region. It would also help to avoid the potential negative consequences of ad-hoc and uncoordinated activities by different donors and partners with overlapping or conflicting approaches.

Finally, as an important by-product of the alternative approach, it is hoped that such co-operation would ease political tensions in the region by building solid links and common interests among stakeholders, and helping to solve existing conflicts as well as prevent potential resource conflicts.

8.4 Justification for GEF involvement:

Significant national and international efforts are needed over and above presently available resources to strengthen regional co-operation, planning and management in order to identify and implement a shared vision for the sustainable development of the region that would secure the protection of its valuable natural characteristics as well as result in the uplift of local living standards. The requested GEF funding is expected to significantly enhance current donor activities, by facilitating co-ordination among stakeholders, enhancing awareness, promoting an enabling policy environment, and building regional capacity for transboundary co-ordination and management in this unique ecosystem.

The proposed GEF project is expected to result in multiple global benefits by protecting globally significant biodiversity and transboundary ecosystems. The expected GEF intervention would assist in the development of a transboundary diagnostic analysis leading to a regionally agreed strategic action programme for the management of the Prespa lakes, their catchment areas and associated ecosystems. GEF support will be instrumental for (a) adjustment and enforcement of relevant laws and regulations affecting conservation and land use in the region; (b) institutionalising procedures for involving the local population in conservation management; (c) establishment of mechanisms to ensure financial sustainability of conservation activities (e.g., trust fund); (d) capacity building at the level of the target groups as well as responsible bodies; (e) promoting land use practices that are compatible with the overall conservation objectives for the area of interest; (e) the rehabilitation of critical watersheds and (f) the rehabilitation of degraded forest ecosystems and severely overgrazed (sub-) alpine grasslands.

8.5 Project Objectives:

The overall objective of the project is to promote integrated ecosystem management of the transboundary Prespa Park region with the participation of all stakeholders and by strengthening co-operation among the three riparian countries.

The specific objectives of the project, which will lead towards the realisation of the overall objective are the following:

Objective 1: to protect ecosystem values through effective land-use planning, protected area management and integrated water resources management.

Objective 2: to enhance awareness and understanding of the ecological values of the region among public at the local and national levels and to promote sustainable local development.

Objective 3: to create an enabling environment for sustainable development in the Prespa Park region through appropriate policies, incentives and opportunities, and inter-sectoral co-ordination.

Objective 4: to build up mechanisms for transboundary co-operation through the strengthening of the PPCC and its Secretariat and exploring options for the establishment of a more permanent regional commission.

9. Expected Outputs and Activities of Full Project:

The main outputs, components and activities proposed within the project alternative, to be financed by GEF financing as well as co-financing, may be summarized as follows. The listed activities are indicative at this stage and will be amended and/or further defined based on the results of the consultations and studies to be undertaken during the PDF B phase:

Outcome 1: Ecosystem values protected through effective land-use planning, PA management and integrated water resources management.

Output 1.1: Improved management of the designated conservation units of the lake region.
Activities:

- Elaboration and implementation of management plans for Galicica NP in the FYR Macedonia and Prespa National Park in Albania.
- Implementation of Management Plan Pelister NP in the FYR of Macedonia that currently is being elaborated through Swiss bilateral aid.
- Elaboration and implementation of the management plan for Ezerani Bird Sanctuary in the FYR of Macedonia.
  Formal establishment of Prespa National Park in Greece and implementation of the relevant management plan

Output 1.2: Sustainable range management & rehabilitation of degraded forest lands and other sensitive or important habitats.
Activities:

- Pilot projects (livestock quality improvement and elaboration of range management plans for selected priority villages in the support zone of the Albanian Prespa Park).
- Phasing-out of livestock grazing on dedicated forest land in all three countries (policy development and capacity building).
- Sustainable firewood production with focus on Albania.
- Sustainable utilization of designated forest lands for wood fiber and minor forest products.
- Implementation of management plan for Prespa wetlands (wet meadows etc.).
- Pilot projects introducing alternative energy (solar etc.).

- Elaborate and implement range management plans for Prespa NP (Albania) and its support zone.

Output 1.3: Demonstration projects for regulation of the Micro and Macro Prespa water regime

Activities:

- Elaboration of water management plan for sustainable water extraction and irrigation systems in Greece, Albania and the FYR of Macedonia.
- Restoration of past interventions concerning the Devolli river, including possible rehabilitation of the Maliqi Wetlands.
- Establish monitoring system for Macro and Micro Prespa lakes (water quality, etc.)

Output 1.4: Demonstration projects and awareness raising for prevention of lake contamination

Activities:

- Elaborate system for organic horticulture and agriculture (capacity building)
- Public awareness and extension campaign involving rural and city populations.
- Co-operation with planned sewage treatment projects financed through bilateral aid agencies and KfW in the Prespa region.

Outcome 2: Enhanced awareness and understanding of the ecological values of the region among public at the local and national levels and to promote sustainable local development.

Output 2.1: Promoting better resource use practices and local development activities

Activities:

- Promote organic horticulture techniques (capacity building)
- Cooperate with planned social infrastructure development projects (to be financed by KfW and Swiss bilateral aid).
- Assist in improvement of animal husbandry (capacity building).
- Promote sustainable fish management (capacity building).

Output 2.2: Promoting alternative livelihood sources for local communities

Activities:

- Develop sustainable fishery management plan for Prespa Lakes.
- Elaborate regional tourism development plan.
- Capacity building for tourism sector –all levels.
- Agricultural and forest product certification.
- Develop marketing strategy for products produced from renewable resources in an environmentally compatible fashion.

Output 2.3: Increasing environmental awareness

Activities:

- Design and implement environmental awareness campaigns in the three countries.
- Produce information materials for environmental awareness.
- Develop and implement public involvement strategies to increase understanding seek public support towards the goals and objectives of the project

Outcome 3: An enabling environment developed for sustainable development in the Prespa Park region through appropriate policies, incentives, financing mechanisms and strengthened inter-sectoral co-ordination.

Output 3.1: Establishing Legal and Policy framework for sustainable development and management of the Prespa Park.

- Identify and develop appropriate incentive measures, such as user fees, subsidies etc.;

Output 3.2: Strengthening law enforcement through increased awareness and capacity of the appropriate agencies to ensure ecological integrity of the protected areas and the lakes and compatible land use in the support zones of PAs.

Output 3.3: Established and functioning inter-sectoral co-ordination mechanisms

- Establish inter-sectoral advisory task forces in each country and develop mechanisms for consultation and co-ordination to guide implementation of project activities

Output 3.4: Establishment of mechanisms for sustainable financing for the protected areas for the Prespa Park Region

Activities:

- Establish legal framework for the establishment of a conservation trust fund (or conservation trust funds in Albania and FYR Macedonia).
- Secure capitalization of fund(s) from GEF other co-financing.
- Establish management and operating structure for fund(s)

Outcome 4: Mechanisms for transboundary co-operation strengthened through the capacity building of the PPCC and its Secretariat and exploring options for establishment of a more permanent regional commission.

Output 4.1: Well-established and functioning administrative structure for Prespa Park

Activities:

- Strengthening of the Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee and its Secretariat (capacity development) with a view to the establishment of a more permanent regional commission.
- Formalize co-operation between local, regional and national authorities.
- Explore options for a formal co-operation framework between the three countries, such as a trilateral treaty for approval by the three parliaments.

The above listed outputs are preliminary and indicative at this stage and will be further refined through the project development process to be undertaken during the PDF B phase.

In a co-ordinated effort, the German Government through KfW is expected to support the recipient countries in several interventions that will contribute to the achievement of the above-mentioned outcomes and outputs of the proposed GEF project. The following measures are proposed by KfW and intended to complement the proposed GEF project objectives within a consistent and co-ordinated strategy:

- Improving water quality of Lake Macro Prespa through the rehabilitation of existing sewage disposal and treatment systems in the FYR of Macedonia.
- Management and land use planning (with focus on the core PAs).
- Strengthening the effectiveness of conservation areas and authorities through the provision of infrastructure and equipment.

- Support measures to the population in the surrounding areas (social infrastructure, income generation in rural areas).
- Hydrological assessment in terms of long-term conservation (and rehabilitation where appropriate) of the relevant ecosystems with subsequent civil works interventions as applicable.

The GEF project is proposed for an estimated duration of 5 years. A decision to increase the project duration and/or phase project implementation (phase 1 preparation; phase 2 implementation; phase 3 evaluation and sustainable financing) may be taken by the PPCC during the implementation of the PDF B phase.

10. Sustainability and Replicability of the Full Project:

It is hoped that the proposed sustainable development of the lake region, to be achieved in co-operation with the international donor community, will provide a sound basis for the long-range conservation goals for the project area, which are needed to safeguard the sustainability of the proposed interventions. Involvement of local communities and authorities in conservation management in and around protected areas will be crucial for the sustainability of interventions. Promotion of alternative income generation opportunities and local sustainable development activities will be an important element in arresting the present unsustainable natural resource use and reducing pressure on the ecosystem. The project preparation phase will undertake an assessment of the viability and profitability of alternative income generation opportunities.

It is expected that several project components will be replicable (e.g., organic fruit and vegetable farming; ecological model villages; policies and legislation regulating resource use in trans-border areas; participatory management planning for the national parks; sustainable fuelwood production; rehabilitation of degraded watersheds, etc.).

It is assumed that the three Governments will provide sufficient financing for the PPCC as part of the countries' counterpart contribution to GEF co-financing. In addition, sustainable financing mechanisms such as conservation trust funds will be developed in order to help meet recurring costs of PA management.

11. Country Eligibility:

Albania:

- **The Convention on Biological Diversity was ratified Jan.5, 1994, and came into force April 5, 1994.**
- **The UNFCCC has been ratified on 3 October 1994.**
- Elaboration of National Environmental Action Plan in 1993, and a NEAP update completed in 2001.
- Approval of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan in 2000.
- Albania is a party to the Ramsar Convention.
- Albania is a party to the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD).

The FYR of Macedonia:

- **The Convention on Biological Diversity was ratified by the parliament through Law 54/97 in 1997 and entered into force March 2, 1998.**
- **The UNFCCC has been ratified on 28 January 1998.**
- The Ramsar Convention was legalized by the Act for Succession, Sept. 8, 1991.

- The National Environmental Action Plan was elaborated in 1995 and approved in 1996.
- The Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) was ratified in 2000.
- A National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan is under development since 2000.

Greece:

- **The Convention on Biological Diversity was ratified by the parliament through Law 2204 in 1994.**
- **The UNFCCC has been ratified on 4 August 1994.**

12. Stakeholders Involved in Project:

The key stakeholders involved in the project are:

- The Ministries of Environment of the three countries
- Relevant sector ministries/agencies, including: Agriculture, Forestry, Water management, Regional development, Tourism, etc.
- Local authorities in the region, including the Communes of Liqenas and Progri in Albania, the Municipality of Resen in the FYR of Macedonia, and the Municipality of Prespa in Greece.
- Local communities
- NGOs, including the PPNEA in Albania, the MAP and the BSPSM in the FYR of Macedonia, and the SPP in Greece, as well as foreign NGOs working on specific projects in the Prespa region.
- Private sector
- Academic and scientific institutions
- International organisations and donors active in the region

The project will follow GEF public involvement guidelines by ensuring the participation of a broad range of stakeholders in each country through local level consultations, and through the establishment of inter-sectoral advisory task forces, which would meet periodically.

The Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee (PPCC) will play a critical role in the co-ordination of proposed project activities at the national and regional level. The PPCC includes the following 10 members:

Country	**Constituency**	**Representative**
Albania	Government NGO Local government	Ministry of Environment PPNEA Commune of Liqenas
Greece	Government NGO Local Government	Ministry of Environment, Physical Planning & Public Works Society for Protection of Prespa (SPP) Municipality of Prespa
The FYR of Macedonia	Government NGO	Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning Macedonian Alliance for Prespa (MAP)

	Local Government	Municipality of Resen
Observer		Ramsar Bureau/ MedWet

13. Information on Project Proponent:

The Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee is the proponent of the project. Details about the Committee are provided in Annex 3.

The Executing Agencies will be the Ministry of Environment in Albania and the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning in the FYR of Macedonia. Both agencies will closely liaise with the Greek Ministry of Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works as integral partner of the PPCC.

The Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar 1971) and its MedWet Initiative, which were instrumental in the establishment of the Prespa Park, will assist in the development of the programme and will supply technical methods and tools as requested.

The German Bank for Reconstruction and Development (Kreditanstalt fuer Wiederaufbau, in short: 'KfW') will provide major co-financing. Past, current and programmed projects in the project area financed by the KfW are summarized in Annex 6. Furthermore, KfW has over 5 million DM available for wetland conservation in Greece of which a portion may be spent on the Greek side of the Prespa Lake system in the framework of this project.

The Swiss Government through its Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation (SDC) is currently financing activities related to the sustainable protection of Pelister National Park. For this project CHF 650,000 have been made available. The project covers the elaboration of a management plan for the NP and support zone, a public awareness campaign and eco-tourism development. It is implemented by Pro Natura (FoE Switzerland), a Swiss based environmental NGO.

14. Financing Plan of Full Project:

GEF funding will be requested for an estimated USD 6-8 million, which will cover the costs of project activities in Albania and the FYR of Macedonia. The estimated financing for activities in Greece is USD 3 million consisting of: German co-financing USD 2 million; Greek government contribution USD 0.5 million; other sources USD 0.5 million (EU and NGOs). The governments of Albania and FYR of Macedonia are also expected to contribute towards the project.

It is expected that co-financing of up to USD 12.8 million will be available for complementary activities through the German KfW[22], as well as co-financing of USD 0.5 million through the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC).

[22] See Annex 6. KfW co-financing table

In addition, it should be noted that the establishment and strengthening of the transboundary Prespa Park has been proposed as a top priority by the governments of the three countries within the framework of the Regional Environment and Reconstruction Programme (REReP) of the Stability Pact for South-East Europe. It is expected that additional financing for the Full project will become available from resources committed within the Stability Pact process.

15. IA Coordination and Linkages to GEF and IA Programs and Activities:

The UNDP Country Offices in Skopje and Tirana will support the implementation of this transboundary project and its preparatory phase. UNDP's programme activities in the two countries are focused on promoting sustainable development, protecting environment and sustainable natural resource use to alleviate poverty and provide alternative livelihood options to local people. UNDP has implemented several regional International Waters projects in the Eastern Europe region (such as the Danube River Basin Programme, the Black Sea Environmental Programme and the MedWet/Coast project) and will facilitate exchange of experience and lessons learnt from other established water basin secretariats and commissions as relevant and needed.

Linkages will be promoted for exchange of experience with other GEF-supported projects focusing on lake ecosystems, including the World Bank/GEF Lake Ohrid project involving Albania and the FYR of Macedonia, as well as the UNDP/GEF Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe project involving Estonia and the Russian Federation. Internet resources provided by LakeNet and IW-Learn will also be utilised. Future coordination will be explored with a World Bank/GEF Medium-sized project intending to identify and disseminate good practices on international lakes management.

The project will establish linkages with and build on the lessons learned from the GEF/World Bank Ohrid Lake Conservation Project. The Joint Macedonian-Albanian Ohrid Management Board that was created for this project is central to the management of the Ohrid Lake region. The principal role of the Board is to review and decide on management strategies proposed for the region and to monitor and supervise the implementation of programs aimed at the protection of Lake Ohrid and its watersheds. The Board has established the following multi-stakeholder task forces and committees that assist the Board in the decision-making process: (a) Task Force for Institutional Strengthening; (b) Watershed Management Committee; and (c) the Monitoring Task Force. The task forces and committees are composed of community representatives, the private and public sector, NGOs, subject matter experts and scientific institutions. Representatives of the Prespa Lake region in Albania and in the FYR of Macedonia are also members of the Ohrid lake task forces and the committee. They could provide an important future link to the Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee.

Experience shows that the structure and composition of the Ohrid lake Board proves sufficient for the multi-disciplinary management of the complex Ohrid Lake region. The Board enjoys political support on all levels. With a four-year duration, the Ohrid lake GEF project will be finalized in the current calendar year. The experience generated and lessons learnt by the Lake Ohrid project in capacity building, joint monitoring and research, and public participation activities will be extremely relevant for the proposed project. Information exchange and periodic consultation will be ensured between the Lake Ohrid teams and the proposed project teams. It is envisaged that the Ohrid Board would closely co-operate with the PPCC, and specific mechanisms for this purpose will be established during the PDF B phase.

Additionally, there are several donor-supported initiatives being launched in the Prespa region, not only related to environmental protection but also to social and infrastructure development, good governance, gender, livelihoods, tourism etc. Among the organizations, which are becoming active

in the region are the Council of Europe, OSCE, Soros Foundation and USAID. The UNDP Country Offices in Albania and the FYR of Macedonia are active in country-level donor co-ordination activities and maintain contacts with many of these partners. The Secretariat of the Prespa Park CC is also engaged in compiling information and establishment of a database on various initiatives in the region aimed at promoting sustainable development. The objective of the PPCC is to ensure that the aims and objectives of these different projects are consistent with each other, that there is maximum co-operation among the different partners and minimum overlap and duplication of efforts. Co-ordination with the various development activities and projects underway in the Prespa region will be ensured during the implementation of the GEF Project.

16. Proposed Project Development Strategy:

A GEF PDF B phase is being requested for approximately $500,000 in GEF financing and is expected to be implemented within a duration of 1 year, in order to undertake preparatory activities for the preparation of the GEF Full Project. The main outputs of the PDF B are expected to be:

- establishment of the institutional structure for the project and strengthening of the PPCC and its Secretariat;
- a fully participatory and consultative process involving local level stakeholders, inter-sectoral consultations, and initial co-ordination with national, regional and international donors and partners;
- a baseline biodiversity assessment and threat analysis;
- a study of the threats to the Prespa lakes ecosystem resulting from climate change and identification of measures to mitigate threats and contribute to reduction of global carbon emissions;
- identification of the transboundary problems affecting the Prespa Park region through a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)[23];
- identification and examination of priorities for action through broad consultations among stakeholders to be embodied in a Strategic Action Programme focusing on legal, policy, and institutional reforms and investments targeting transboundary issues;
- development of a full-fledged GEF Full Project Brief and UNDP Project Document for submission to the GEF Council in January 2003.

The PDF B will build upon ongoing and completed studies to the fullest extent, including the KfW commissioned feasibility study for the newly established Albanian National Park Prespa[24] which was undertaken in 2000, as well as the ongoing Strategic Action Plan for the Sustainable Development of Prespa Park funded by the Ministry of Environment of Greece with a grant of USD 150,000 for a first synthesis of the environmental and socio-economic status of the Prespa Park area, identification of gaps in knowledge, formulation of strategic policy and management axes, and assessment of priorities for specific projects and activities in the region.[25]

KfW is expected to co-finance certain preparatory activities during the PDF B phase for approximately $300,000. This will include support for consultations among the three countries, local and regional stakeholder workshops; collection and analysis of baseline information and

[23] During the PDF B contacts will be established with the IAEA which has a strong radio isotopes programme, in order to explore financial and technical support for parallel studies to determine the boundaries of the hyrogeological basin and the nature and extent of sub-surface flows.
[24] Schuerholz and Fremuth, 2000. Prespa Basin Conservation Program, Prespa National Park.
[25] See Annex 5 for more details on the Strategic Action Plan for the Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park.

research; relevant site of field surveys; as well as co-ordination with project partners to secure co-financing.

ANNEX 1: Map showing the Transboundary region and location of the Prespa Lakes

ANNEX 2:

TEXT OF THE PRIME MINISTERIAL DECLARATION OF THE PRESPA PARK

Declaration
on the Creation of the Prespa Park and the Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Lakes and their Surroundings

We, Prime Ministers Costas Simitis, Ljubco Georgievski, and Ilir Meta, met today, February second of the year 2000, on the occasion of World Wetlands Day at Aghios Germanos in Greece, and agreed that the Prespa Lakes and their surrounding catchment are unique for their geomorphology, their ecological wealth, and their biodiversity, which gives the area significant international importance. The Prespa Lakes and their surroundings provide habitat for the conservation of various and rare species of flora and fauna and offer refuge for the migratory bird populations. They constitute as well a much-needed nesting place for many species of birds threatened with extinction.

We recognize that the conservation and protection of an ecosystem of such importance not only renders a service to Nature, but it also creates opportunities for the economic development of the adjacent areas that belong to the three countries. Furthermore, the long history of the human presence in the area proves the compatibility of traditional activities and knowledge, with the conservation of nature.

We are aware that conservation of Nature and sustainable development largely depend on the respect by governments and people of international legal instruments, which aim at the protection of the natural environment. Participation in such agreements and conventions is helpful for the protection of the Prespa Lakes and their surroundings. Individual national activities should be complemented by international collaboration in this field.

Furthermore, we recognize and value the importance of the work done by the Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations, especially when combining their different though complementary experiences and skills. To that effect we are pleased to recall that such a non-governmental organization, namely the Greek Society for the Protection of Prespa, was honoured in 1999 with the Ramsar Convention Award as an outstanding example of a pioneer approach to wetland management. Finally, we would like to underline the benefits of public awareness in order to achieve the goals of the protection of nature and sustainable development.

Having in mind the above, We decide to declare the "Prespa Park" as the first transboundary protected area in South Eastern Europe and present this initiative as a "gift to the earth" in the context of the WWF Living Planet Campaign. This campaign is aimed at securing the conservation of the world's most important biological resources and ecosystems into the next millennium. The "Prespa Park" consists of the respective areas around the Prespa Lakes, and each of the three countries has declared them a Ramsar Protected Site.

This Declaration will be followed by enhanced co-operation among competent authorities in our countries with regard to environmental matters. In this context, joint actions would be considered in order to a) maintain and protect the unique ecological values of the "Prespa Park", b) prevent and/or reverse the causes of its habitat degradation, c) explore appropriate management methods for the sustainable use of the Prespa Lakes water, and d) to spare no efforts so that the "Prespa Park" become and remain a model of its kind as well as an additional reference to the peaceful collaboration among our countries.

ANNEX 3

PRESPA PARK CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

Committee's responsibilities

1. The Committee, besides its crucial political, administrative and institutional role, would also have a significant role to play in relation to technical issues, and thus the three states shall ensure that the Committee has access to the competent services in each country.

2. The Committee's main responsibility shall be to guide the course of future measures and activities so as to realise the objectives of the Prespa Park that are to:
"… a) maintain and protect the unique ecological values of the "Prespa Park", b) prevent and/or reverse the causes of its habitat degradation, c) explore appropriate management methods for the sustainable use of Prespa Lakes waters and d) spare no efforts so that the "Prespa Park" become and remain a model of its kind, as well as an additional reference to the peaceful collaboration among our countries."
(From the Declaration of the three Prime Ministers of 2 February 2000.)

3. In this framework, it is proposed that the Committee will have the following main responsibilities:

3.1. Prepare an inventory of all activities and projects being carried out in the Prespa region that may have a direct or indirect effect on the natural or socio-economic status of the Prespa Park.

3.2. Monitor and co-ordinate the development and implementation of the Strategic Action Plan for the Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park (see Appendix II).

3.3. Monitor and co-ordinate the implementation of specific actions/ projects based on the framework programme for the Strategic Action Plan.

3.4. Identify and propose to the relevant governments and other interested parties next steps and necessary actions according to the Strategic Action Plan. This may include institutional and legislative measures to reinforce the collaboration of the three neighbouring states in the Prespa region.

3.5. Evaluate the results of ongoing actions according to the objectives of the Strategic Action Plan, and disseminate the results widely.

3.6. Inform the governmental authorities concerned on the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan so that proposed actions are reinforced by the appropriate political decisions. In this way the Committee, shall

a) obtain the political consensus and support at the national level for the implementation of the necessary actions, and

b) identify and propose possible funding sources at a national, European and international level for all of the above areas.

4. In addition, the Committee shall ensure that information concerning development plans and other planned actions, policies and programmes with a possible effect on the Prespa Park will be made available promptly to all three sides.

5. In case of unexpected events, such as floods, forest fires and other natural or anthropogenic catastrophes, the Co-ordination Committee shall contribute to the mobilisation of resources of the three states, and the international community, as appropriate, to mitigate the negative impacts.

Operating Arrangements

The three governments involved decided to establish an interim Co-ordination Committee for the transboundary Prespa Park, during the Tirana Working Meeting of 16-17 October 2000 (Tirana Meeting Documents, point 5 of the Conclusions), chaired by the Secretary General of the Convention on Wetlands. The structure, mandate, responsibilities and operational guidelines of this Committee were included in Appendix I of the afore-mentioned Conclusions. In this Appendix provision is also made for a Secretariat to serve the Committee (par. 16 and 17).

The present document, approved by the First Meeting of the Co-ordination Committee, is meant to clarify certain operating arrangements for the Co-ordination Committee and the Secretariat, in order to render their work more effective. Naturally, the Committee may modify these arrangements if and when necessary.

A. *The Co-ordination Committee (PPCC)*

Structure of the Committee

1. Chairperson: The PPCC is chaired, until the beginning of the next meeting, by the representative of the state that is hosting its current meeting (starting with Albania, which has hosted the Working Meeting of 16-17 October 2000). In case of absence of the state representative, the meeting will be chaired by his alternate or by one of the other members of the country's delegation.

2. Members: Although appointed officially by the responsible government authority, all members of the Committee are considered equal and have the right to express their views and to vote (whenever required) independently. The representative of the Convention on Wetlands – MedWet can participate fully in the work of the Committee, as an *ex officio* observer, but does not have the right to vote.

3. Alternative members: Each member of the PPCC will designate an alternative person, authorised to replace him/her in case of inability to attend with full membership rights.

4. Communication: Communication among members of the Co-ordination Committee and with the Secretariat may be carried out through electronic means (preferably e-mail or, if not available, by telefax).[1]

Meetings

5. Dates of regular meetings: Unless otherwise agreed, the first regular meeting of the year will be held in the Spring and the second in the Autumn of each year. Their exact dates will be agreed at the end of the previous meeting. These dates cannot be changed, except in the case of very grave reasons, and with the agreement of all members of the PPCC.

6. Extraordinary meetings: Such meetings can be held either at the request of the Chairperson or of at least 4 members of the PPCC to deal with urgent and unexpected developments. Members should be consulted by the Secretariat as to their availability at least 2 weeks before the proposed date of such meeting. For issues of urgency, approval can also be achieved through circulation of the

[1] The Secretariat should study the possibility of connecting all members through an Intranet system, and submit a proposal on this to the Committee.

documents. The same procedure can be followed in relation to minor issues that, however, need the consent of all members.

7. Place of meetings: The rotation provided for in par. 13 of Appendix I of the Conclusions of the Tirana Working Meeting can be modified by a common agreement of all members. In such a case, the meeting after will be held in the country that had normal priority for the meeting.

8. Organisation of the meetings: For each meeting, the host country will designate an official responsible for its organisation and logistics. This official will be assisted by the Secretariat, and especially by its member from the host country.

9. Agenda: The agenda of each meeting, as well as any working documents required, will be prepared by the Secretariat and agreed upon by the Chairperson. The Secretariat will take care that such documents are circulated to the members of the PPCC at least one month before the meeting, so that they have the possibility to make comments.

10. Quorum: The PPCC has a quorum when at least 7 of the 9 regular members are present. However, when two members from the same country are absent there can be no quorum.

11. Decisions: Efforts will be made to have all decisions of the PPCC taken unanimously. In case this does not prove possible, a majority of 2/3 of the votes is necessary.

12. Minutes: Summary minutes of the PPCC meetings will be kept by the Secretariat in English, with decisions taken identified clearly and reviewed before the closure of the meeting. All such decisions – if relevant - will include an indication of who will be responsible, the time frame and any financial implications. After review by the Chairperson of the particular meeting, the minutes will be circulated no later than 2 weeks after the end of each meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting will be reviewed only if one or more members request amendments to them.

13. Costs: The Committee will strive to secure funding for its meetings through various sources. This will include travel and subsistence of the delegations of the other two countries, rental of the meeting place (if no public facility is available), stationary and photocopying and reasonable hospitality expenses. The host agency will prepare at least three months in advance a budget for the meeting and submit it to the Secretariat.

14. Observers: The Chairperson of the PPCC or the representative of the host country (with the approval of the Chairperson) can invite observers to the meetings, whose functions are related or can contribute to the development of the Prespa Park. Observers will cover their own travel costs.

15. Language: English will be the working language of the PPCC meetings. Members who are not familiar with this language must make their own arrangements for translation, so that they can participate actively in the discussions.

16. Visas: The agency hosting each meeting will make the necessary arrangements with the immigration authorities of its country to ensure that visas (whenever required) are issued to all participants of each meeting, without undue delays. In case this is not feasible, the meeting will rotate to one of the other two countries, until the normal issuance of visas is ensured.

B. The Secretariat

17. Structure: The number and composition of the Secretariat staff (at least one from each country) is decided by the PPCC. At this stage, the Secretariat will consist of three persons, belonging to the non-governmental organisations members of the PPCC. These persons must:
- have an educational and professional background that is appropriate to their tasks,
- be fluent in English and with reasonable computer skills,
- be able to devote at least 50% of their time to the work of the Secretariat.
The seat of the Secretariat will be located at the SPP headquarters in Aghios Germanos, Greece.

18. Work plan: The Secretariat will prepare a yearly PPCC work plan, to be approved at the last regular PPCC meeting of the previous year. The Secretariat is also responsible for preparing issue-related work plans (e.g. a communication plan) that will be presented and approved by the PPCC. The provisions of these plans will then be incorporated accordingly into the annual plans.

19. Tasks. Besides preparation of the above-mentioned work plans, the Secretariat will work on all day-to-day issues that concern the Prespa Park as they arise. Its specific tasks are defined in its Terms of Reference that are adopted by the PPCC.

20. Guidance and supervision: The work of the Secretariat will be guided by the decisions of the PPCC and will be supervised by the Chairperson of this Committee. The Secretariat will submit to the PPCC at each meeting a brief report on its activities since the previous meeting, including a detailed financial statement where necessary.

21. Costs: The Secretariat will strive to secure funding for its operation through various sources. The relevant costs will include a modest remuneration of its members, as well as travel and operation expenses. A detailed budget for such costs shall be prepared by the Secretariat and approved by the PPCC as part of the work plan.

22. Visas: Greece will ensure that the non-Greek members of the Secretariat will receive multi-entry visas for the entire period 2001-2002.

Annex 4

Species List of the Prespa Park Region

Rare or endagered invertebrates in the Prespa area

Species	**Distribution**	**Habitat**	**Importance/ Threat**
Potamothrix prespensis	µ M	Y	END/B
Psammoryctides ochridanus typica	µ M	Y	END/B
P. o. variabilis	µ M	Y	END/B
Spirosperma tenuis	µ M	Y	END/B
Arctodiaptomus steindachneri	µ M	Y	END/WB
Coenagrion pulchellum	µ	υ	VT, KO
Platychnemis pennipes	µ	υ	VT

Anisoptera			
Gomphus vulgatissimus	μ	υ	VT, KO, CORINE
Calosoma sycophanta		X	RED (V) CORINE ECE (V)
Lucanus cervus		X	92/43(II) BERN (III)

Note

92/43: Directive 92/43/ EEC on the conservation of natural habitats of wild flora and fauna (NATURA 2000 Directive)

BERN: Berne Convention on the conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

CORINE: CORINE BIOTOPES PROJECT (1998) Technical hanbook1.

RED: IUCN Conservation Monitoring Centre (1988) IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

ECE: Economic Commission for Europe (1991) European Red List of Globally threatened Animal and Plant Species, UN.

END/B: Balkan endemic species

END/WB : Endemic species of the western Balkans

VT: Van Tol, J & Vendrok, M.J. (1998): The protection of drangonflies (Odonata) and their biotopes. Council of Europe, Nature and Environment No. 38, 181 pp

KO: Koomen, P. & van Helsgingen, P.J. 1993: Listing of biotopes in Europe according to their significance for invertebrates. Council of Europe, T-PVS (93) 43, 74 pp

II,III,V: Annexes of Directives, Laws etc.

Rare endemic, threatened and protected fish species

Species	**Importance**
Salmonidae	
Salmo trutta peristericus	KOK END R/V/E ECON END
Cyprinidae	
Alburnoides bipunctatus prespensis	KOK END

	NAT II BERN III CORINE CRIV END
Barbus prespensis	KOK END E NAT II 92/43 V ECON END CRIV END
Chalcalburnus belvica	KOK END ECON END CRIV END
Chondrostoma prespensis	KOK END ECON END CRIV END
Paraphoxinus epiroticus prespensis	KOK END NAT II ECON END CRIV END
Rutilus ohridanus prespensis	KOK END NAT II ECON END CRIV END
Cobitidae	
Cobitis meridionalis	KOK END NAT II ECON END CRIV END

Note

KOK Species mentioned in the Red Book of the Threatened Vertebrates of Greece (Greek Zoological Society, Athens 1992).
- E Threatened
- V Vulnerable
- R Rare
- END Prespa endemic

NAT II Species included in Appendix II of the Directive 92/43/EEC but it is referred to with another name in the specific Appendix, as explained in detail in the Standardized Fact Form Natura 2000 for the Micro Prespa lake (Area GR1340002, Babalonas *et al.* 1995).

92/43 V Species included in Appendix V of the Directive 92/43/EEC for the conservation of the natural habitats of wild fauna and flora.

BERN III Species included in Appendix III of the Bern Convention for the conservation of the European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Decision 82/72/EEC of the European Committee).

ECON END Endemic species according to the Checklist of Freshwater Fishes of Greece (Economidis P.S., 1991).

CRIV END Endemic species according to Crivelli *et al.* (1997).

Important amphibian species

	Species	**Importance**
1	*Salamandra salamandra*	BERN III
2	*Triturus cristatus*	92/43 II/IV BERN II
3	*Triturus vulgaris*	BERN III
4	*Bombina variegata*	92/43 II/IV BERN II
5	*Bufo bufo*	BERN III
6	*Bufo viridis*	92/43 IV BERN II
7	*Hyla arborea*	92/43 IV BERN II
8	*Pelobates syriacus*	92/43 IV BERN II
9	*Rana dalmatina*	92/43 IV BERN II
10	*Rana balcanica*	92/43 V BERN III
11	*Rana graeca*	92/43 IV BERN III

Note

92/43 Directive 92/43/EEC for the conservation of natural habitats of wild fauna and flora.

BERN Bern Convention for the conservation of the European Wildlife and Natural Habitats.

I, II, IV, V Appendices.

Important reptile species

	Species	**Importance**

1	*Testudo hermanni*	92/43 II/IV BERN II
2	*Emys orbicularis*	92/43 II/IV _____ BERN II
3	*Algyroides nigropunctatus*	92/43 IV _____ BERN II END B
4	*Podarcis erchardii*	92/43 IV _____ BERN II END B
5	*Podarcis taurica*	92/43 IV _____ BERN II
6	*Podarcis muralis*	92/43 IV _____ BERN II
7	*Lacerta viridis*	92/43 IV _____ BERN II
8	*Lacerta trilineata*	92/43 IV _____ BERN II
9	*Lacerta agilis*	92/43 IV BERN II
10	*Anguis fragilis*	_____ BERN III
11	*Ablepharus kitaibelii*	92/43 IV BERN III
12	*Malpolon monspessulanus*	_____ BERN III
13	*Coluber caspius*	92/43 IV BERN III
14	*Coluber gemonensis*	_____ BERN II
15	*Elaphe situla*	92/43 II/IV _____ BERN II
16	*Elaphe quatuorlineata*	92/43 II/IV _____ BERN II

17	*Elaphe longissima*	92/43 IV BERN II
18	*Natrix natrix*	BERN II
19	*Natrix tessellata*	92/43 IV BERN II
20	*Coronella austriaca*	92/43 IV BERN II
21	*Vipera ammodytes*	92/43 IV BERN II
22	*Vipera berus*	BERN III

Note

92/43 Directive 92/43/EEC for the conservation of the natural habitats of wild fauna and flora.
BERN Bern Convention. Decision of the European Committee, 82/72/EEC, for the conservation of the European wild flora and fauna and the natural habitats.
END B Endemic species of the Balkans.
I, II, IV, V Appendices.

Endemic, rare threatened and protected bird species

	Species	**Importance**
1	*Podiceps nigricollis*	KOK I ECE K
2	*Phalacrocorax carbo*	79/409
3	*Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*	KOK E2 BON II 79/409 SPEC 2 ECE K
4	*Pelecanus onocrotalus*	KOK E1 BON I/II 79/409 SPEC 3

5	*Pelecanus crispus*	KOK E1 BON I/II CIT I 79/409 SPEC 1 ECE E
6	*Botaurus stellaris*	_____ KOK I BON II 79/409 SPEC 3
7	*Ixobrychus minutus*	BON II 79/409 SPEC 3
8	*Nycticorax nycticorax*	_____ KOK K 79/409 SPEC 3
9	*Ardeola ralloides*	_____ 79/409 SPEC 3
10	*Egretta garzetta*	_____
11	*Egretta alba*	_____ KOK E2 79/409
12	*Ardea purpurea*	_____ KOK V BON II 79/409 SPEC 3
13	*Ciconia ciconia*	_____ BON II 79/409 SPEC 2
14	*Plegadis falcinellus*	_____ KOK E1 BON II 79/409 SPEC 3
15	*Anser anser*	KOK E2 BON II
16	*Tadorna tadorna*	KOK V BON II
17	*Anas penelope*	BON II

18	*Anas strepera*	KOK K BON II SPEC 3
19	*Anas crecca*	BON II
20	*Anas platyrhynchos*	BON II
21	*Anas acuta*	BON II SPEC 3
22	*Anas querquedula*	KOK K BON II SPEC 3
23	*Anas clypeata*	BON II
24	*Netta rufina*	KOK R BON II SPEC 3
25	*Aythya ferina*	KOK K BON II SPEC 4
26	*Aythya nyroca*	_____ BON II 79/409 SPEC 1
27	*Aythya fuligula*	BON II
28	*Bucephala clangula*	BON II
29	*Mergus merganser*	KOK E2 BON II
30	*Pernis apivorus*	_____ BON II CIT II 79/409 SPEC 4
31	*Circaetus gallicus*	_____ KOK I BON II CIT I 79/409 SPEC 3
32	*Circus aeruginosus*	_____ BON II CIT II 79/409

33	*Circus cyaneus*	_____ KOK V BON II CIT II 79/409 SPEC 3
34	*Circus pygargus*	_____ KOK E1 BON II CIT II 79/409 SPEC 4
35	*Accipiter gentilis*	BON II CIT II
36	*Accipiter nisus*	BON II CIT II
37	*Buteo buteo*	BON II CIT II
38	*Aquila chrysaetos*	_____ BON II 79/409 SPEC 3
39	*Falco tinnunculus*	BON II CIT II SPEC 3
40	*Falco vespertinus*	BON II CIT II SPEC 3
41	*Falco columbarius*	BON II CIT II 79/409
42	*Falco subbuteo*	KOK II BON II 79/409
43	*Tetrastes bonasia*	79/409
44	*Alectoris graeca*	SPEC 2
45	*Perdix perdix*	79/409 SPEC 3
46	*Coturnix coturnix*	KOK K BON II SPEC 3

47	*Porzana parva*	KOK R BON II 79/409 SPEC 4
48	*Charadrius dubius*	BON II
49	*Vanellus vanellus*	BON II
50	*Tringa glareola*	BON II 79/409 SPEC 3
51	*Actitis hypoleucos*	BON II
52	*Sterna hirundo*	_____ 79/409
53	*Chlidonias hybridus*	KOK V 79/409 SPEC 3
54	*Streptopelia turtur*	SPEC 3
55	*Bubo bubo*	_____ CIT II 79/409 SPEC 3
56	*Asio otus*	CIT II
57	*Strix aluco*	CIT II SPEC 4
58	*Athene noctua*	CIT II SPEC 3
59	*Caprimulgus europaeus*	79/409 SPEC 2
60	*Merops apiaster*	BON II SPEC 3
61	*Alcedo atthis*	79/409 SPEC 3
62	*Picus viridis*	SPEC 2
63	*Dryocopus martius*	_____ 79/409
64	*Dendrocopos syriacus*	79/409 SPEC 4
65	*Dendrocopos medius*	79/409 SPEC 4

66	*Dendrocopos leucotosi*	_____ KOK R 79/409
67	*Calandrella brachydactyla*	79/409 SPEC 3
68	*Galerida cristata*	SPEC 3
69	*Lullula arborea*	79/409 SPEC 2
70	*Alauda arvensis*	SPEC 3
71	*Riparia riparia*	SPEC 3
72	*Hirundo rustica*	SPEC 3
73	*Anthus campestris*	79/409 SPEC 3
74	*Erithacus rubecula*	BON II SPEC 4
75	*Luscinia megarhynchos*	BON II SPEC 4
76	*Phoenicurus ochruros*	BON II
77	*Saxicola torquata*	BON II SPEC 3
78	*Saxicola rubetra*	BON II SPEC 4
79	*Oenanthe oenanthe*	BON II
80	*Oenanthe pleschanka*	BON II
81	*Oenanthe hispanica*	BON II SPEC 2
82	*Monticola saxatilis*	BON II SPEC 3
83	*Turdus torquatus*	KOK R BON II SPEC 4
84	*Turdus merula*	BON II SPEC 4
85	*Turdus pilaris*	BON II SPEC 4
86	*Turdus philomilos*	BON II SPEC 4
87	*Turdus viscivorus*	BON II SPEC 4

88	*Cettia cetti*	BON II
89	*Locustella luscinioides*	KOK K BON II SPEC 4
90	*Acrocephalus melanopogon*	BON II 79/409
91	*Acrocephalus shoenobaenus*	BON II SPEC 4
92	*Acrocephalus palustris*	BON II SPEC 4
93	*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*	BON II SPEC 4
94	*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*	BON II
95	*Hippolais pallida*	BON II SPEC 3
96	*Sylvia cantillans*	BON II SPEC 4
97	*Sylvia hortensis*	BON II SPEC 3
98	*Sylvia nisoria nisoria*	_____ BON II 79/409 SPEC 4
99	*Sylvia curruca*	BON II
100	*Sylvia communis*	BON II SPEC 4
101	*Sylvia atricapilla*	BON II SPEC 4
102	*Phylloscopus bonelli*	BON II SPEC 4
103	*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*	BON II SPEC 4
104	*Phylloscopus collybita*	BON II
105	*Phylloscopus trochilus*	BON II
106	*Regulus regulus*	BON II SPEC 4
	Regulus ignicapillus	BON II SPEC 4
107	*Lanius collurio*	79/409 SPEC 3

108	*Lanius minor*	KOK A 79/409 SPEC 2
109	*Lanius excubitor*	SPEC 3
110	*Lanius senator*	SPEC 2
111	*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*	KOK A 79/409 SPEC 3
112	*Emberiza cia*	SPEC 3
113	*Emberiza hortulana*	79/409 SPEC 2
114	*Emberiza melanocephala*	SPEC 2

Note

KOK Red Book of the Threatened Vertebrates of Greece (Greek Zoologial Society, Athens 1992).

- E1 Directly threatened
- E2 Threatened but not directly
- V Vulnerable
- R Rare
- K Not enough known
- I Undefined

BON Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals. 1979

CIT Regulation 3626/82/EEC for the implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).

79/409 Directive 79/409/EEC for the conservation of wild birds.

SPEC Species of Conservation Concern:
1. Species found in Europe and needing world-wide protection
2. Species whose world-wide population is found only in Europe and is not sufficiently protected
3. Species whose world-wide population is also found in areas other than Europe and is not sufficiently protected
4. Species whose world-wide population is found only in Europe and is sufficiently protected

ECE Economic Commission for Europe (1991) European Red List of Globally Threatened Animals and Plants, UN.

I, II Appendices of Directives, Conventions etc.

Important mammal species

	Species	**Importance**
4	*Crocidura leucodon*	BERN III
5	*Crocidura russula*	BERN III
6	*Neomys anomalus*	92/43 II/IV BERN III KOK K
7	*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*	92/43 II/IV BERN II KOK V

8	*Rhinolophus hipposideros*	92/43 IV BERN II
9	*Myotis daubentoni*	92/43 IV BERN II KOK E
10	*Myotis nattereri*	92/43 IV BERN II KOK E ECE I
11	*Nyctalus leisleri*	92/43 IV BERN II KOK E
12	*Pipistrellus kuhli*	92/43 IV BERN II KOK V
13	*Pipistrellus nathusii*	92/43 IV BERN II KOK E
14	*Tadarida teniotis*	BERN II KOK E ECE R
15	*Lepus europaeus*	92/43 IV BERN III
16	*Dryomys nitedula*	92/43 IV BERN III KOK R
17	*Muscardinus avellanarius*	BERN III END ECE V
18	*Glis glis*	BERN III
19	*Spalax leucodon*	KOK V END ECE I
20	*Micromys minutus*	
21	*Microtus epiroticus*	END

22	*Canis lupus*	BERN II KOK V CIT II RED ECE V
23	*Ursus arctos*	92/43 ✓II/IV BERN II KOK E CIT II ECE Rev
24	*Mustela nivalis*	 BERN III
25	*Martes foina*	BERN III
26	*Meles meles*	BERN III
27	*Lutra lutra*	92/43 II/IV BERN II KOK V CIT I I RED V ECE V
28	*Felis silvestris*	92/43 IV BERN II KOK V CIT II II
29	*Sus scrofa*	BERN III
30	*Capreolus capreolus*	BERN III KOK V
31	*Rupicapra rupicapra*	92/43 II/IV/V BERN III KOK R

Note

92/43 Directive 92/43/EEC for the conservation of the natural habitats of wild fauna and flora.

✓ Priority species according to Directive 92/43/EEC

BERN Bern Convention for the conservation of the European Wildlife and Natural Habitats.

KOK Red Book of the Threatened Vertebrates of Greece (Greek Zoologial Society, Athens 1992).

E Endangered
V Vulnerable
R Rare

CIT	Regulation 3626/82/EEC for the implementation of the Convention International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).
RED	IUCN Conservation Monitoring Centre (1988) IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals.
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe (1991) European Red List of Globally Threatened Animals and Plants, UN.
END	Possible endemic species of the Balkans.
I, II, IV,	Appendices of Directives, Conventions etc.

ANNEX 5

Strategic Action Plan for the Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park

The Strategic Action Plan (SAP) that is currently being developed jointly by SPP-Greece / MAP-the FYR of Macedonia / PPNEA-Albania, under the auspices of the Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee, funded by the Ministry of Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works of Greece, aims at laying the foundations for the sustainable development of the region and the full establishment and functioning of the Prespa Park.

For this purpose, the following issues have been identified as the ones forming the core areas of interest of the SAP:

1. Social characteristics of the populations living within the Prespa Park area. Distribution of population, specific social and economic characteristics and needs of each sub-group. Special attention must be paid to the needs and expectations of each by the establishment of the Prespa Park.

2. Economic activities and compatibility with the Park (agriculture, livestock, fisheries etc). Evaluation of the importance of economic activities that have a significant –positive or negative- direct or indirect effect on the management if the Park area and resources. Special attention should be paid to activities that are important to local populations and could constitute significant management tools as well as sources of income and employment through their improvement in the context of the Park (e.g. controlled origin products, organic goods etc)

3. Tourism development plan for the Park. Evaluation of the potential for the development of tourism activities compatible with the conservation and sustainable development of the area. Development of guidelines and specifications for the development of an integrated approach to tourism (including eco-tourism, agro-tourism etc) working in complementarity with the management and conservation of the area. Evaluation of the potential for the creation of income and employment for local people.

4. Administrative arrangement for the establishment and operation of the Prespa Park. Identification and description of the necessary arrangements including the legal establishment of the Park combining the national and international levels, and preparation of the necessary legal acts.

5. Management and operation, staffing. Identification and description of the appropriate management body for the Prespa Park, proposed composition, staff and responsibilities. Identification of needs in terms of infrastructure and resources.

6. Prespa Park resources, funding of works, maintenance and operation. Identification of the appropriate funding sources for the different actions at a national and international level, including national schemes, European funds, international donor organizations and initiatives (REReP, KfW, GEF etc), donations and private participation.

7. Description of necessary works and interventions and identification of costs. This includes all the works and activities that will be identified by the previous chapters, additional studies and all the programmes for the management and operation of the Prespa Park (e.g. wardening, monitoring etc)

8. Other programmes in support of the Park and funding sources. Description of complementary activities in support the Park operation and development (e.g. agricultural development, human resources training) and proposals for funding under EU or other funding programmes.

Finally the collection and presentation of data will be done only to the extent that is necessary to support the above issues, since the study is not an inventory but a strategic approach to the sustainable development of the Prespa Park.

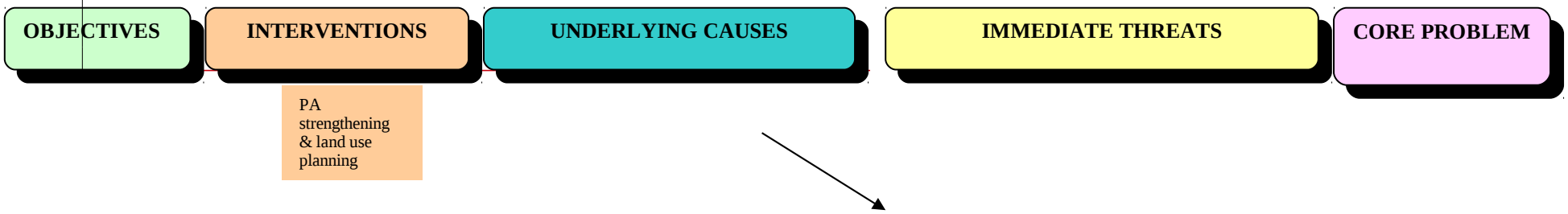
ANNEX 6

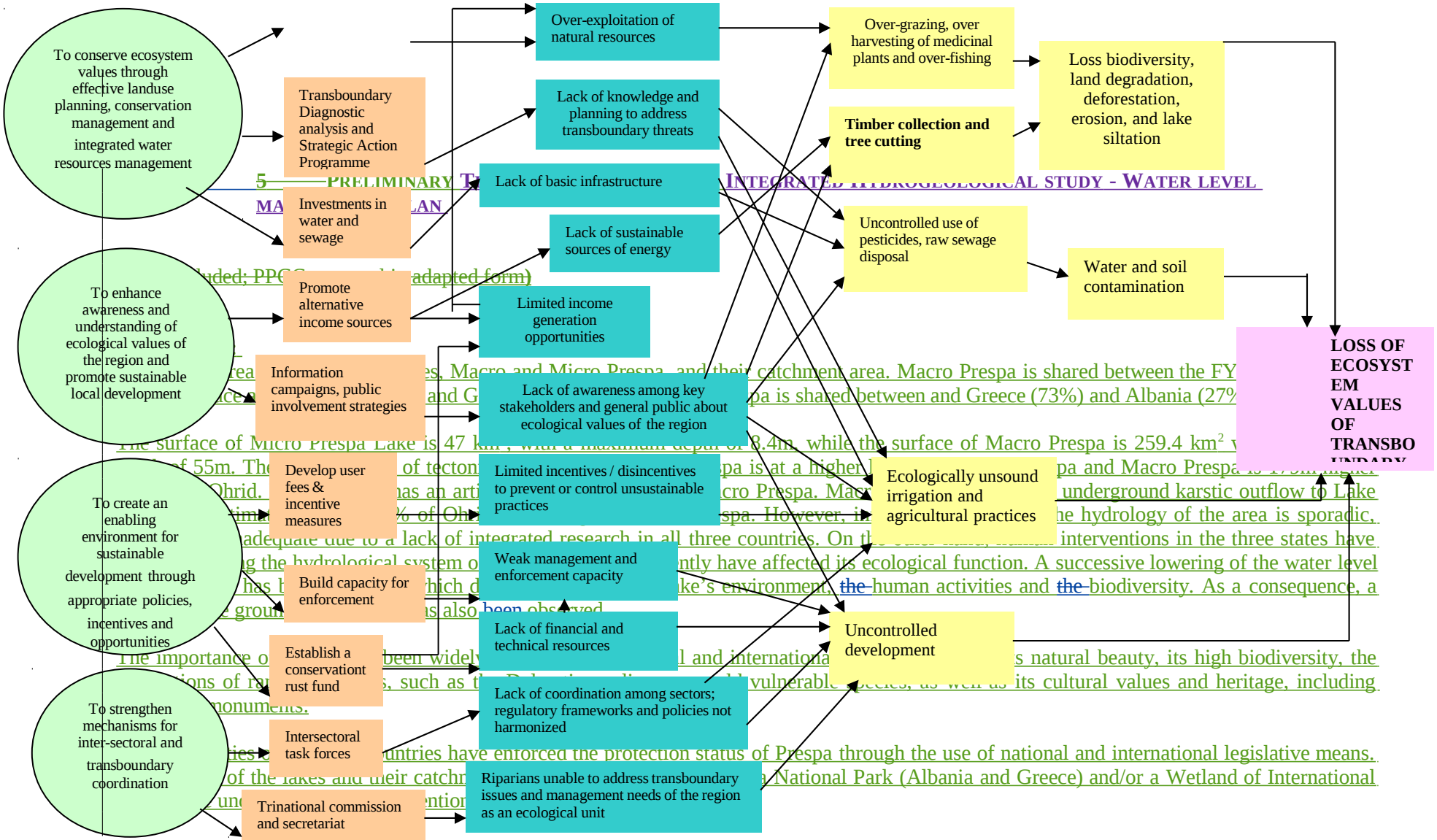
Related Project Interventions supported through KfW in the Prespa Region

Location	Title	Short Description	Budget in US$	Duration
1. Prespa Lake, the FYR of Macedonia	Environmental Protection L. Prespa – Sewerage Project	Reduction of (mainly) organic effluents into L.Prespa by rehabilitation & extension of existing wastewater facilities	7 Mio Grant	In preparation
2. Prespa Region (Albania & FYR Macedonia)	Prespa Trans-Boundary Reserve	Same approach as project outlined in concept paper – baseline (focusing on mgt. plans & subsequent civil works measures / equipment supply)	4 Mio Grant	" "
3. Prespa Region, the FYR of Macedonia (in part)	Social Infrastructure I & II	Rehabilitation / construction of small-scale social/ economic infrastructure (water, sewerage, solid waste, rural roads etc.) on participatory basis for 13 communities in the FYR of Macedonia	~ 1.5 Mio Grant (regional share)	2001- 2003
4. Prespa Region, Albania	Social Investment Fund II – "Prespa Component"	Rehabilitation / construction of small-scale social/ economic infrastructure on participatory basis, specifically for communities adjacent to Albanian Prespa NP, in co-ordination with conservation authorities & NGOs; with Albanian development Fund (ADF) as impl. agency	0.3 Mio Grant	2001 - 2002
Budget Total			**~ 12.8 Mio**	

INTEGRATED ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT IN THE TRANSBOUNDARY PRESPA PARK REGION

Annex 7: CONCEPTUAL MODEL





ided; PPC adapted form)

rea es, Macro and Micro Prespa, and their catchment area. Macro Prespa is shared between the FY
ce and G pa is shared between and Greece (73%) and Albania (27%

The surface of Micro Prespa Lake is 47 km², with a maximum depth of 8.4m, while the surface of Macro Prespa is 259.4 km² w
of 55m. The of tecton pa is at a higher l pa and Macro Prespa is 1.5m higher
Ohrid. has an arti cro Prespa. Mas underground karstic outflow to Lake
im % of Ohr spa. However, it he hydrology of the area is sporadic,
adequate due to a lack of integrated research in all three countries. On th interventions in the three states have
g the hydrological system o ntly have affected its ecological function. A successive lowering of the water level
has b hich d ke's environment, the human activities and the biodiversity. As a consequence, a
e groun s also been observed.

The importance o been widel l and internationa s natural beauty, its high biodiversity, the
ions of ra s, such as t vulnerable species, as well as its cultural values and heritage, including
monuments.

ies countries have enforced the protection status of Prespa through the use of national and international legislative means.
of the lakes and their catchm a National Park (Albania and Greece) and/or a Wetland of International
un ntion

The will of the three governments to co-operate in promoting the protection of the Prespa area was made evident on the 2nd February 2000, when the Prime Ministers of Albania, Greece and the FYR of Macedonia issued a trilateral Declaration recognising the international importance of the Prespa Lakes, established the Transboundary Prespa Park, and addressed the need for co-operation.

Justification:
Over the last few decades, the hydrological regime of the Micro and Macro Prespa has seriously been affected by human interventions.

- 1936: the Agios Germanos stream in Greece was diverted from Micro Prespa to its present artificial channel leading into Macro Prespa.
- 1953: Albania linked Micro Prespa to the River Devoll and,
- 1969: Albania added a dam and sluice in order to allow water to enter the lake in the winter and to drain from it in the summer.
- 1976: the network was expanded to irrigate the Devoll and Korca valleys. In the late sixties, irrigation systems were built within the Prespa basin in Greece and the FYR of Macedonia.
- 1969: the connection between Greek Micro and Macro Prespa was modified to a narrow concrete flume and a road bridge.
- 1986: a sluice gate has been placed at the Micro Prespa end of this channel in order to facilitate irrigation.

The diversion of the Devoll River was probably one of the most threatening interventions. According to researchers, Devoll is one of the most turbid rivers in the Balkans. Since the early 70s, Devoll's flow into Micro Prespa deposited approximately 1.2 million m^3 of sediment or 30-70 thousand m^3/year. In order to collect the solid material, a decanter was constructed but with poor results. Solid materials have been deposited along the coast at the Albanian part of Micro Prespa covering a zone of 1-1.5km. and over 1m thick. In addition, through Devoll, a considerable amount of chemical residues from intensive cultivation and wastewaters of the Billist town and valley are going into Micro Prespa Lake. At present, at the Albanian part of Micro Prespa, water abstraction is impossible, underground water springs have been blocked, changes in flora and fauna are noted and serious socio- economic problems prevail. As a result, the deviation of the Devoll River, once believed to be a positive intervention for increased irrigation, has become a socio-economic and environmental problem.

It should also be pointed out that at present, the breeding sites of the rare water birds are located in the Greek part of Micro Prespa Lake, and both Micro and Macro Prespa Lakes are important wintering and feeding areas for birds. Breeding colonies and feeding sites of rare water birds species, as well as fish spawning grounds, are directly influenced by the seasonal fluctuation of the water level of Micro Prespa Lake. As a result, any uncontrolled intervention in the lake's water level fluctuation in Albania or in Greece may destroy more than 600 nests of the Dalmatian Pelican, a world vulnerable species, the breeding grounds of the Pygmy Cormorants, the Great White herons, the Purple herons and other rare bird species.

On the other hand, since the late 80s, the water level of Macro Prespa Lake has decreased by several meters. The reasons have not been clarified yet. Researchers argue that a series of dry years in combination with increased water abstraction for human uses and possibly changes in the underground link between Macro Prespa and Ohrid Lakes has played an important role in this phenomenon. The Koula sluice in Greece controls the surface outflow of Micro Prespa to Macro Prespa. The decrease of the water level of Macro Prespa has negatively influenced the hydrology and consequently the ecological functioning of the Ezerani Ramsar Wetland, as well as the feeding and wintering grounds of rare water birds in the FYR

of Macedonia's part of Prespa.

Finally, it should be stressed that most human interventions in the hydrology of Prespa were intended to promote agriculture through the improvement of irrigation networks and facilities. The economy of the area in the three countries is mainly based on the primary sector and specifically on agriculture. As a result, any changes or works that will influence the existing networks will have an impact not only on the environment, but also on the area's socio-economic conditions. In order to avoid conflicts with local stakeholders, the study on the hydrology of the Prespa lakes should incorporate, apart from the environmental, also socio-economic and technical components.

The prevailing opinion shared by the stakeholders is that improvement of the quality of life and development should be made with respect to the natural and cultural values of the area. However, there isn't sufficient reliable information for the decision-making process. Therefore a start should be made to put together a comprehensive, hydrological picture of the catchment.

General objectives:
On the basis of adequate water management, provide for:

- long-term conservation of this internationally important wetland;
- better and sustained livelihoods for the communities in the catchment.

Specific objectives:

- analyse available information on hydrology, hydrogeology and ecological functions of the Micro and Macro Prespa Lakes and develop an optimum water balance model;
- develop a unified monitoring system in the three states;
- provide viable alternatives to implement effective, ~~ccordinated~~coordinated transnational water management of the lakes in the three countries.

Activities:
The activities to be realized by the integrated study on the hydrology, hydrogeology, ecology and management of the Micro and Macro Prespa Lakes in the three states should consist of the following main components:

- Origin and functions of the Micro and Macro Prespa Lakes and their relation to Ohrid Lake;
- Hydrology, hydrogeology and hydrometeorology of the two lakes including their catchment basin;
- Linkages between land-use and water levels in the lakes;
- Cost-benefit analysis of the interventions to the hydrology of the area in the three countries;
- Analysis of the ecosystem's water balance requirements in order to ensure long-term protection of rare flora and fauna species, at the same time as enhancing the people's livelihoods;

- Proposal for complementary, short-term, basic research and monitoring supported by extension of the existing hydro-meteorological network;
- Definition of socio-economic problems relating to the optimum water balance of the two lakes and specific proposals for their solutions (e.g. incentives for local farmers, construction of specific technical works, etc.).
- Establishment of a single water and environmental management system in the Prespa area;
- Public awareness to ensure local participation and approval of the proposed solutions and works.

In order to accomplish the study, the existing information on the hydrology, hydrogeology and hydrometeorology, natural resources, socio-economic situation and environmental impacts in the three countries should be collected and elaborated.

In addition, it is felt that immediate actions should be taken in order to avert threats to important habitats such as forests, especially on the Albanian side of Micro and Macro Prespa. These forests are heavily degraded due to overexploitation for firewood and overgrazing. Erosion prevails, resulting in negative impacts on forest and water resources. Nevertheless, these ~~dfinition~~definitions of measures to be undertaken to promote sustainable forest management are to be proposed separately from the present study and are subject to their own TOR, at the beginning of the PDF B.

Outputs:

- Hydrogeological study of Micro and Macro Prespa Lakes, including the water balance model, database of all collected data; the GIS developed during the project and the relevant spatial data;
- Water level management plan, including the definition and agreement among all involved stakeholders and the local population on the water management objectives; the description of the legal and institutional arrangements/limitations in each country with regard to water management of the Prespa Lakes; the monitoring infrastructure; the water balance model and report with all its requirements and simulated parameters; the proposal for institutional arrangements and financing of the implementation of the plan.
- Public awareness materials on the importance and integrity of the Lakes in the three countries.

Duration:

Approximately eight months. ~~As the PDF B phase is programmed for 1 year, t~~These TOR will ~~have to~~ be ada~~o~~pted, as appropriate, to any circumstances arising which would require this period to be prolonged~~at~~. If necessary, specific elements of the ~~the~~ hydrogeological study ~~full project~~ could be implemented during the full-scale project~~extend this study and monitor over a longer period~~.

Implementation:

~~Much of the initial information gathering will be done by national consultants~~National consultants will do much of the initial information gathering. The compiled information will have to be revised and summarized in English, to be accessible for the international consultant(s). Once this has been done, there should be a visit by the complete team of the key sites around the Prespa lakes, and interviews and participatory consultations with the

local populations, authorities and NGOs should be held. Also, the institutions involved in water management and legislation in the three countries should be consulted on the subject.

Qualifications:
The team should contain a range of experts with the skills and experiences required to undertake the study. Each of the members should prepare a detailed report on the themes covered. A final document, in English, is to be prepared under the responsibility of the team leader.

Expertise in lake / river hydrology, hydrogeology and meteorology are principal assets. Also, for the international expert it is recommendable to be knowledgeable on the theme of water management. As reporting will be in English, it is recommendable the national consultants have certain abilities in that language.

This study is of primary importance and because of its implications, it is recommended to be programmed at the start of the PDF B phase, once the Project Unit with its National Coordinators and Project Manager are appointed.

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