

SOCIETY FOR
THE PROTECTION
OF PRESPA



Annual Review

Highlights of the year 2018



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The SPP in 2018: Strategic partnerships, sustainable development and wetland management

- The last year began with a significant change for the Society for the Protection of Prespa (SPP), with the society giving a warm welcome to Dr Claire Papazoglou as its new President, following in the footsteps of Thymios Papayannis, who has stepped down from the role after 14 years of loyal and devoted service. Dr Papazoglou brings a wealth of experience to the presidency, and the society looks forward to meeting its future challenges under her highly capable and dynamic leadership.

In the period covered by this review the SPP has been supported by three vital strategic partnerships, taking its work to a new level in terms of alliances and the multidisciplinary approach the society follows. The SPP's key donor relationship is with the Prespa Ohrid Nature Trust (PONT), which approved five-year funding for the conservation programme at the beginning of 2018, and the society extends its deep gratitude for this crucial support. In addition, two major new collaborations were launched this year, one with long-standing funding partner the Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation (AVJCF) and the other with the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF), which previously funded the SPP's restoration of the Agios Germanos watermill.

In 2018 the SPP embarked upon the first year of its new strategic framework (2018-2022), which sets the course of the SPP's work over the five-year period, laying out the goals and objectives it aims to achieve. The society's conservation programme is based on this framework, which is also closely aligned with the strategic objectives that PONT has for Prespa. The new framework saw a radical overhaul of the structure of the SPP's work, organising efforts across all the departments of the society into groups of activities with a common theme, reflecting the organisation's increasingly holistic approach. The conservation of Prespa's natural environment remains at the core of the SPP's work, within the broader context of promoting sustainable development for the area, and the society works across many different fields in order to achieve these aims.

In addition to its wider portfolio of work, the SPP manages three large projects. The first, which began in 2018, is a four-year multi-partner, multi-sectoral project entitled "Protected Areas: A Vehicle for the Sustainable Development of Rural Greece – The Case of Prespa" – more commonly known as the PoliPrespa project – which was developed together with all the



other main authorities and organisations in Greek Prespa, as well as in close collaboration with the SNF, which funds the project together with PONT. Through its ambitiously broad range of social, environmental and agricultural activities the PoliPrespa project has made great strides in building social capital in Prespa's young people and strengthening capacity in local authorities and organisations.

The second new project of the year is being implemented by PrespaNet, and is entitled "Strengthening NGO-led Conservation in the Transboundary Prespa Basin". PrespaNet is the SPP's network of environmental NGOs for Prespa, established together with MES, based in Skopje and one of the country's oldest NGOs, and PPNEA, Albania's first environmental NGO, based in Tirana and working in Prespa since the mid-1990s. The PrespaNet project is funded by PONT and the AVJCF, and led by the network partners, with support from Euro-Natur and the Swiss NGO KORA. The project focusses on a range of conservation activities as a means of bringing MES and PPNEA – which are both national organisations – closer to Prespa and helping to strengthen partnerships with protected areas in the lakes basin. The project has enabled the opening of local offices on the other two sides of the lakes, providing a much-needed local NGO presence and a solid foundation for future conservation efforts.

Lastly, in 2018 the ongoing LIFE Prespa Waterbirds project began management activities in the wetlands of Greek Prespa, having previously completed the necessary preparatory studies. The LIFE project is funded by the EU and PONT, with the National Observatory of Athens and the French research institute, and SPP member, Tour du Valat as partners. Notable achievements for the year include the completion of the "Operational plan for wetland vegetation management for 2018", which guided the project's wetland management work, and the use of specialised machinery, newly acquired under the project, to begin selectively mowing wetland vegetation under the guidelines noted above.

In conclusion, 2018 saw the society's long-term wetland management move up to a new level, and was also a year that brought novel social and cultural fields of action in the PoliPrespa project, as well as one in which PrespaNet took great strides forward in strengthening transboundary collaboration.

Myrsini Malakou, Managing Director





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Since its inception, the Society for the Protection of Prespa (SPP) has had the great fortune and privilege to have been led by some extraordinary individuals as its president. The first of these was Dr Luc Hoffmann, the renowned conservationist, ornithologist, philanthropist and founder of the MAVA Foundation, who helped establish WWF International, of which he was Vice President until 1988, as well as the Ramsar Convention for the protection of wetlands, and whose generous support has underpinned all of the SPP's work. After 14 years, Dr Hoffmann became Honorary President and was succeeded in the presidency by the prominent architect, planner and conservationist Thymios Papayannis, co-founder of WWF Greece, whose contribution to wetlands includes establishing and co-ordinating MedWet (the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative of the Ramsar Convention), co-ordinating the Ramsar Culture Working Group and the IUCN Delos Initiative, and directing Med-INA (the Mediterranean Institute on Nature and Anthropos).

Thymios Papayannis served for 14 years as the SPP President before stepping down and also becoming Honorary President in 2018. An eminently worthy successor to Luc Hoffmann, he has brought a phenomenal energy and profound depth of wetland conservation knowledge to both these roles, as well as a deep and abiding love for Prespa. The SPP remains exceptionally grateful for his continuing support in his new role, as well as the devotion that he showed during his years as president, a reflection of the strength and magnitude of his character. This annual review is dedicated to Thymios Papayannis as a small token of the appreciation and esteem in which he is held by the society's managing director, members and staff, both past and present.

Foreword: *A message from the SPP President*

- I visited Prespa for the first time forty years ago as part of a family excursion. As a child I was impressed by the vibrant natural environment. It was probably one of the first places I visited when young from which I still remember the nature I encountered. The nature and tranquility of the area are still captivating, from the moment one crests the hill approaching Prespa. As life will have it, four decades later, and after periods working for nature conservation NGOs in different countries abroad, I was privileged to have been chosen to succeed Thymios Papayannis as President of the SPP in July 2018. I was nominated by, and I represent, the Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature, a founding member of the SPP and a society I have been a member of since the early 1990s. I am fundamentally aware of the great honour bestowed upon me, but also the important work to be continued, given the high standards set by the esteemed previous presidents, Dr Luc Hoffmann and Thymios Papayannis, each of which presided over 14 years of progress and achievements by the society. Both had a clear vision for Prespa and for the SPP at a time when there were very few such initiatives in Greece.

Over the years the SPP has grown, becoming a well-established and unique organisation, and, as this annual review shows, in 2018 the SPP implemented many important projects with distinguished national and international donors and partners, all testament to the high quality work being done and the results achieved. In that sense, I am doubly honoured to be writing the foreword for the first annual review, which we hope will help disseminate the good work done by the SPP even further and to wider audiences.

The year 2018 has been a period of opportunities, with some significant regional developments. However, these kinds of opportunities can sometimes inadvertently bring risks as well, especially in the form of carelessly or hastily planned developments, which may endanger the unique and vulnerable natural environment of Prespa. The SPP has already had to act, in 2018, to prevent potential damage from one such development related to a new road planned for joining Greece and North Macedonia. In this context the SPP's sustainable development approach, as evidenced in the PoliPrespa project, and extensive experience in policy work, have made the society an effective and positive force in the region.

As SPP President, I hope to continue the legacy of the two previous presidents, and at the same time I also look forward to the future, aiming to proactively tackle any challenges, together with the dedicated staff and managing director of the SPP, as well as exploit the opportunities that the changing political and economic environments will hopefully bring.

Dr Claire Papazoglou



“ It is possible to protect wetlands for their biodiversity, while at the same time improving the living conditions of the people who live there. ”

Luc Hoffmann




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The Society for the Protection of Prespa

The Society for the Protection of Prespa (SPP) was formed in 1991, with the area having already attracted the interest of ecologists, nature-lovers and environmental scientists over several decades, due to its exceptional natural beauty and rare biodiversity. A pivotal group of individuals played a decisive role in its formation – the environmentalist and architect-planner, Thymios Papayannis, the internationally renowned conservationist and philanthropist, Dr Luc Hoffmann, and the biologist, Dr Giorgos Catsadorakis. Together they laid the foundation for the establishment of the SPP, with the help and support of a series of non-profit organisations. Accordingly, the SPP was created with the participation of ten national and international environmental NGOs as its members.



The SPP's mission is to safeguard the natural and cultural heritage of the Prespa basin as a whole, for the benefit of all its inhabitants both today and in the future, which it achieves through a wide range of projects promoting the harmonious co-existence of man and nature. Its activities seek to secure the appropriate management of natural resources, the sustainable development of the basin, the protection of threatened species and habitats, and to inform the public and raise awareness of conservation issues. From the beginning the SPP has always understood that safeguarding Prespa's exceptional biodiversity and cultural traditions requires the co-operation and involvement of the three states that share the lakes. For this reason, in 2013, the SPP launched PrespaNet, a cross-border network of environmental NGOs for Prespa, together with MES and PPNEA.

Today the SPP is an environmental organisation whose work is internationally recognised. The organisation is locally based, in the villages of Agios Germanos and Laimos in Prespa, and employs 20 people. One of the basic principles of its work is that common approaches and close collaboration between stakeholders and organisations at local, national and transboundary levels promotes mutual understanding, builds capacity and social capital, and fosters sustainable long-term solutions. As a result, the SPP promotes partnership at many levels, from participatory governance schemes to support for conservation volunteers, and from multi-stakeholder joint projects to international scientific alliances.

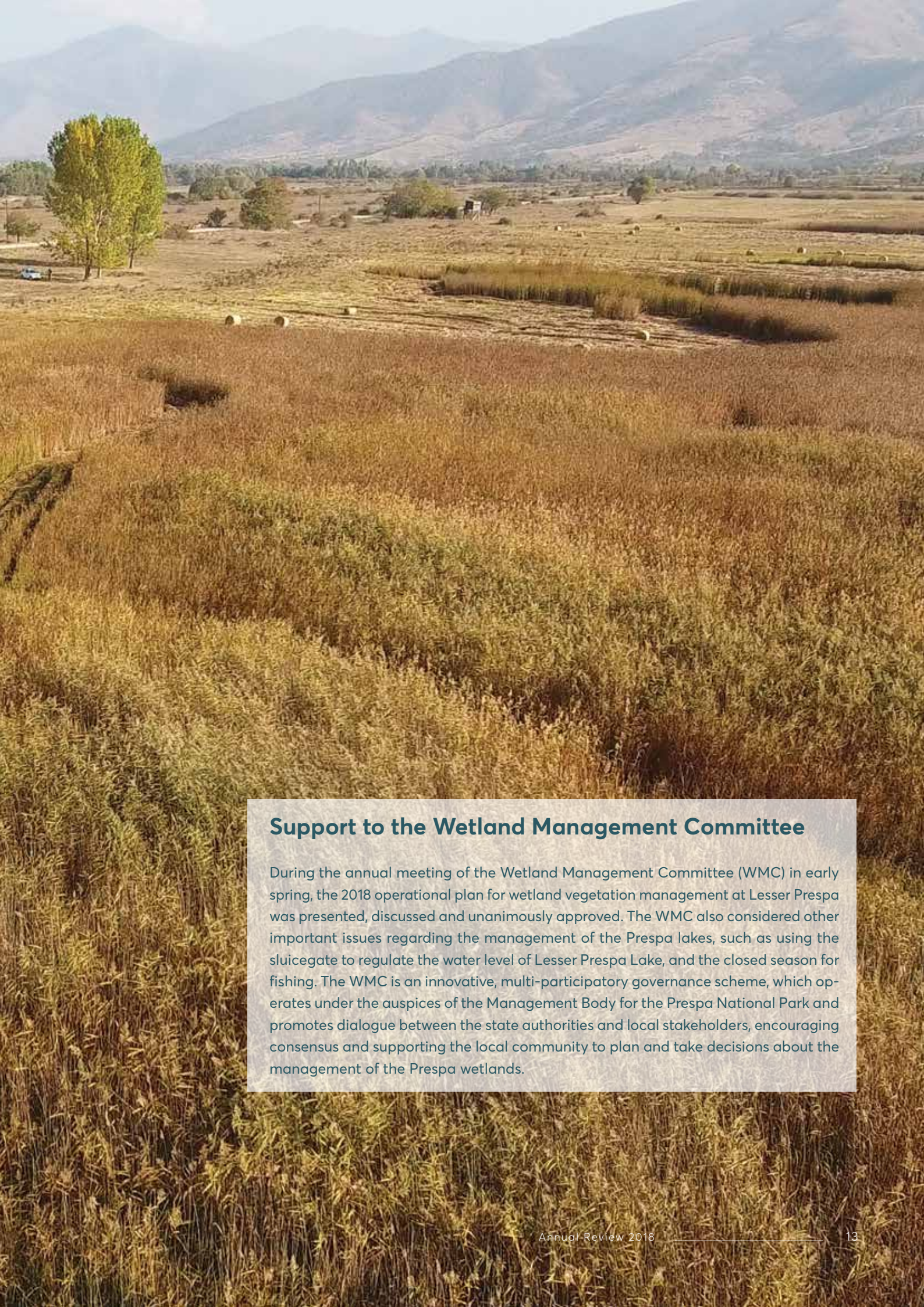
A milestone year in wetland management

Building on past wetland management efforts in Prespa, which began 20 years ago, a new phase was initiated this year as part of the LIFE Prespa Waterbirds project (www.prespawaterbirds.gr). Under this project reed management is being expanded in order to address important concerns that have arisen over the years and which require special treatment, such as the need to prevent vegetation from overgrowing and closing up ecologically important areas of shallow water in a range of different water-level scenarios. Furthermore, the project is also tackling a number of critical issues for the first time, including: vegetation management in selected drainage ditches in order to minimise the risk of wildfires spreading into the reedbeds; and, the restoration of two stream mouths so as to give particular fish species better access to the places where they reproduce upstream, as well as improving feeding grounds for waterbirds.

A hands-on approach to the governance, planning and implementation of the project has been a very important factor in its successful implementation, involving local and regional authorities, as well as local stakeholders, in discussions and decisions on the annual operational plan at the Wetland Management Committee – a multi-participatory governance scheme that has been managing the Prespa wetlands for over a decade. The operational plan was approved by the Management Body for the Prespa National Park (MBPNP), and subsequently more than 25 ha of wetland vegetation was cut at selected sites in 2018, using specialised machinery newly purchased under the project.


Through selectively cutting this vegetation the project creates open shallow areas around the lake. When the water level rises in spring these areas will flood, creating the ideal conditions for waterbirds to feed and fish to spawn. In combination with this work local stockbreeders have also grazed cattle in lakeside areas and mowed wetland vegetation under the jointly agreed plan. The majority of the biomass produced was given to local stockbreeders for use as fodder – a process organised by the MBPNP and the SPP. In addition, the use of cut reeds as a soil conditioner was also pilot tested in selected bean fields, in collaboration with the University of Western Macedonia and local farmers.





Support to the Wetland Management Committee

During the annual meeting of the Wetland Management Committee (WMC) in early spring, the 2018 operational plan for wetland vegetation management at Lesser Prespa was presented, discussed and unanimously approved. The WMC also considered other important issues regarding the management of the Prespa lakes, such as using the sluiceway to regulate the water level of Lesser Prespa Lake, and the closed season for fishing. The WMC is an innovative, multi-participatory governance scheme, which operates under the auspices of the Management Body for the Prespa National Park and promotes dialogue between the state authorities and local stakeholders, encouraging consensus and supporting the local community to plan and take decisions about the management of the Prespa wetlands.



The lower amounts of precipitation that are expected due to climate change will lead to lower water levels, amplifying the problem of there being limited areas of shallow open water along the shore of Lesser Prespa Lake. Moreover, the extended dry periods that are also projected could increase the risk of wildfires in the reedbed. Therefore, the management of wetland vegetation and creation of open areas that are free of emergent vegetation are management activities that help the Prespa ecosystem to **adapt to climate change**, following the guidelines of a study carried out by the National Observatory of Athens under the LIFE Prespa Waterbirds project.

75 tons of cut vegetation were used by stockbreeders for fodder.



Common reed *vs* lesser bulrush

As part of the LIFE Prespa Waterbirds project, the project partner and SPP member Tour du Valat (TdV) has been studying the ecological dynamics between the two dominant plant species in the reedbeds of Prespa – common reed (*Phragmites australis*) and lesser bulrush (*Typha angustifolia*). Over the last few decades lesser bulrush has been encroaching on reedbeds in the northern part of Lesser Prespa, a change which could be a threat, as lesser bulrush does not provide suitable nesting habitat for waterbirds, unlike reedbeds. TdV examined a number of factors that might have triggered this expansion and their main conclusion is that major disturbance events in the past, such as extreme droughts, floods or wildfires, have allowed *Typha angustifolia* to spread at the expense of *Phragmites australis*.

Research and monitoring activities

Research and monitoring activities have been a priority for the SPP since its inauguration in 1991, in order to plan its conservation work on the basis of scientific evidence. Therefore, the SPP implements a long-term monitoring programme, gathering data on a series of abiotic and biotic parameters, such as the populations of waterbirds and fish in the Prespa basin. Waterbirds are a basic indicator of the health of the lake ecosystem, and the SPP continued its research and monitoring work on these species in 2018, adding to its valuable archive of data and also providing useful knowledge on the ecology of rare bird species to decision makers and the scientific community. In addition, this year the SPP carried out extra monitoring, focusing on the breeding populations and habitat use of 9 specific waterbird species in particular, in order to assess the impact of the management actions implemented under the LIFE Prespa Waterbirds project on the ecology of these species.

The SPP's field monitoring activities employ various methodologies, from population censuses to the use of satellite telemetry, while our overall understanding has been greatly enhanced through the society's participation in various national, European and global expert networks, such as the Pelican network and the Mediterranean Wetlands Alliance. This scientific knowledge is utilised for the benefit of conservation and is also shared through the publication of scientific articles, several of which were published in the last year, with the highlight being an article on the energy expenditure, flight characteristics and spatial utilisation of Dalmatian pelicans in Greece that was published in *Ibis*, one of the foremost ornithological journals in the world. This was a product of collaboration between the SPP and the Movement Ecology Lab at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel.



The SPP co-ordinated the annual mid-winter waterbird counts in trans-boundary Prespa, during which more than **30,000 individuals** from 26 waterbird species were counted by teams and volunteers from the PrespaNet partners and the national parks of the area.

A global plan for the Dalmatian pelican

An important initiative for the conservation of the Dalmatian pelican at the global scale was completed in 2018; an international action plan for the species was compiled by the SPP and the Hellenic Ornithological Society, the BirdLife partner for Greece. The plan was developed as part of a LIFE project – LIFE Euro SAP – which is being co-ordinated by the European division of BirdLife International and includes the development of action plans for 16 species. Taking advantage of the society's long-term experience in the conservation of pelicans, as well as the wide network of experts participating in the Pelican Network, the Hellenic Ornithological Society joined forces with the SPP to identify the conservation needs of the Dalmatian pelican across its whole global range, from the Western Balkans to Mongolia. The action plan summarises the state of the populations and the threats to the species in each country of its range, while a number of conservation measures have also been proposed in order to ensure the conservation of this iconic species.



A total of 5,814 Dalmatian pelicans were counted during the **3rd European Pelican Census** – co-ordinated by the SPP, this meticulously organised activity took place in 110 wetlands in 7 countries, with the participation of 17 management authorities, 6 public institutions and 12 environmental NGOs, as well as dozens of individual volunteers.

The SPP actively promotes international co-operation through the **Pelican Network**, a global initiative of scientists for the worldwide protection of pelicans, established in 2012 following an initiative of the SPP, in collaboration with the IUCN Species Survival Commission and the Wetlands International Pelican Specialist Group.

The genetically distinct greylag geese of Prespa

The unique nature of the small, isolated breeding population of greylag geese (*Anser anser rubrirostris*) in Prespa was revealed through a genetic study carried out by the SPP in collaboration with the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research. The results, which will be published in the scientific journal *Avian Research*, showed that the Prespa greylag geese have special genetic characteristics and should therefore be regarded as a discrete "management unit". Therefore, future conservation strategies for the geese should focus on population and genetic monitoring, as well as on preventing any further decline in their numbers.

Co-ordinating efforts for responding to avian diseases in Prespa

Under the LIFE Prespa Waterbirds project, a "Plan for Co-ordinated Action" was prepared in order to harmonise the efforts of local bodies – the Management Body for the Prespa National Park, the Municipality of Prespa and the SPP – and to assist the local veterinary authorities in responding to incidences of avian diseases, such as avian influenza, which may affect pelicans and other waterbird populations in Prespa. The plan was also presented to other relevant authorities at national and transboundary levels, as an example of good practice in local co-ordination that could be adopted in similar efforts in other wetlands.



Environmental legislation and policy

Advocacy and collaboration

Prespa remains under secure legislation as court case is won

2018 saw a major achievement for the SPP, which had worked together with the Management Body for the Prespa National Park (MBPNP) to defend the legislation of the Prespa National Park, as the end of the year brought the good news that it still stands, after a four-year attack on its validity by the hunting lobby. In the last decade joint ministerial decisions – issued in the 2000s to designate and regulate national parks and other important natural sites in Greece – for major protected areas have been annulled by the highest administrative court of the country, the Council of State, eight times. The judgment on Prespa's legislation was announced in late November and although the reasoning has not yet been published the importance of the decision is evident. The legal protection of the area has not collapsed and hunting is still not permitted in the contentious areas of the shore of Great Prespa Lake and on Mount Sfika.


Greece adopts a new law on management bodies for protected areas

Another outstanding development for nature management in Greece was the adoption of a new law on protected area management bodies in February 2018. In Prespa the SPP has supported the operation of the MBPNP for many years, and also participates in its board as a member, and so the society lobbied hard for appropriate legislation throughout 2017, both on its own and in collaboration with the national environmental NGOs. Under the new law the model of management bodies was extended to cover all protected areas – more accurately, all Natura 2000 sites – in the country, with a number of improvements to the previous scheme. The most important changes relate to the state budget covering the minimum operational costs of the management bodies and the endorsement of advisory committees, on the model of the Prespa National Park Wetland Management Committee, which can now be formally established with a decision of the Minister of Environment and Energy upon a proposal from the board of each management body. A further policy success was the maintenance of the MBPNP's current geographical scope, despite pressure to expand it to cover the best part of Western Macedonia.

Water Governance in the transboundary Prespa Basin

Considering water to be the most important natural resource shared across the Prespa basin, the SPP has been taking action to promote cross-border water co-operation in Prespa for many years. The first PrespaNet joint position paper on water governance in the transboundary basin, launched on the occasion of World Water Day 2018, was a milestone of the year. What's more, in the second half of the year the SPP also organised a first transboundary workshop for experts involved in the national or regional water quality monitoring networks running in line with the EU Water Framework Directive.

Collaboration across Prespa

A person with dark curly hair, wearing a bright red quilted jacket and blue jeans, is crouching in a forest. They are focused on adjusting a grey, rectangular electronic device mounted on the trunk of a tree. The device has a small screen and a lens. The background is filled with trees and autumn-colored leaves in shades of yellow and orange. The ground is covered with fallen leaves.

The PrespaNet organisations – MES, PPNEA and the SPP – have been busy over the last year as they began working on their new three-year project for conservation in Prespa. The project, entitled “Strengthening NGO-led Conservation in the Transboundary Prespa Basin”, is funded by the Prespa Ohrid Nature Trust and the Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation, and aims to boost transboundary conservation and collaboration in the Prespa basin. Its three pillars include work on Natura 2000 habitat-type mapping, environmental education programmes, conservation volunteering, summer schools, research on large mammals and efforts to address human-large mammal conflicts in the basin.

In addition, the project allowed the network to make a huge step forward in 2018, when MES opened a regional office in Resen. On the Albanian side of Prespa, PPNEA has been working with a locally based officer and will open a corresponding regional office in the autumn of 2019. The new offices demonstrate the partners’ strong commitment to the area, with both MES and PPNEA increasing their presence and investing in their conservation efforts here.



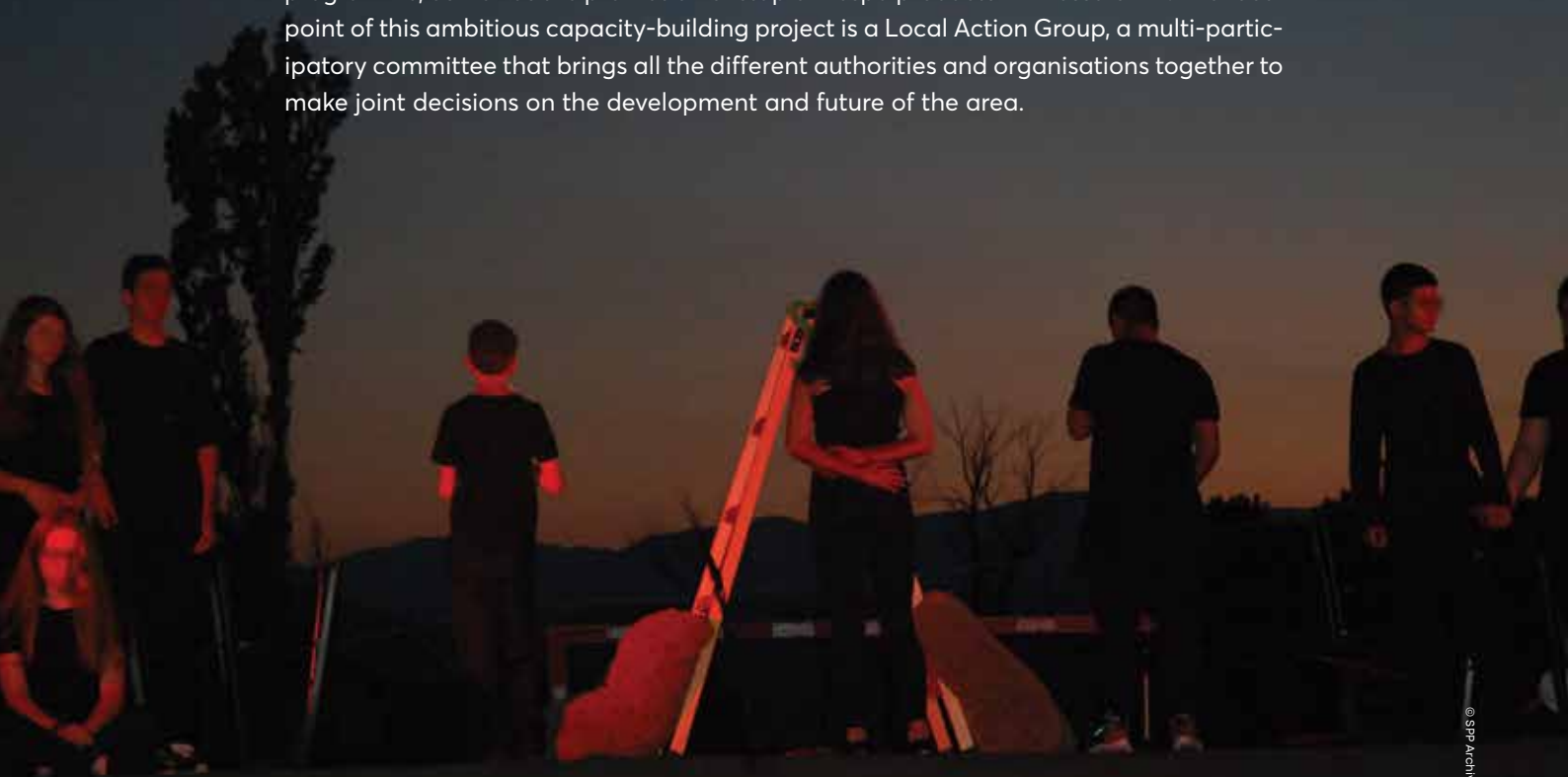
A joint team of botanists and mapping experts from MES and the SPP explored shoreline wetlands, researching their plant communities. The resulting **map of habitat types** has proved a vital tool for working with the local authorities to protect these vulnerable areas.

In September 2018, young people from all three countries took part in a **summer school**, hosted by PPNEA. They studied with environmental education and nature interpretation specialists and spent time in Prespa putting their newly gained knowledge into practice.

PrespaNet is working together with the national parks and local volunteers to carry out **research on large mammals** across the basin, using camera traps, dietary analysis and a genetic study.

PoliPrespa: strengthening capacity in Prespa

————— The multi-partner PoliPrespa project kicked off in January 2018, combining activities in the fields of the environment, the economy and society in a common sustainable framework, which was jointly put together by a coalition of stakeholders in Prespa, aiming to build capacity amongst local institutions and organisations, as well as to utilise the area's natural values wisely for the benefit of the economy and society, hopefully acting as a unique role model for the development of other protected areas in Greece. A hugely varied programme will be implemented during the four years of the project, and this year has seen the implementation of activities ranging from support for wetland vegetation management to purchasing equipment for the high school physics and chemistry lab, from an innovative basketball training workshop to an arts and theatre programme in the municipal library, from plans for a conservation laboratory for the Byzantine Museum in Agios Germanos to those for a new performance space in the village of Kallithea, and from the three-day Festival of Koula to career mentoring through the Tipping Point programme, as well as the promotion of staple Prespa products in Thessaloniki. The focal point of this ambitious capacity-building project is a Local Action Group, a multi-participatory committee that brings all the different authorities and organisations together to make joint decisions on the development and future of the area.





The Tipping Point programme was one of the actions implemented in the Prespa Municipal Library with the support of the project, connecting Prespa High School students with inspiring and experienced mentors from all over the world, who supported them in making decisions about their future careers. The SPP encourages the implementation of educational activities at the library and its use as a space for **culture, education and knowledge**.

PoliPrespa aims to **complement formal school education** with targeted activities and infrastructure upgrades. This year the project supplied equipment for the operation of the physics/chemistry and computer science laboratories in the local high school, improved the catering services in the elementary school, and allowed children to network with peers from other parts of Greece through their participation in educational trips.



Premier NBA trainer Gannon Baker visited Prespa for a special event, working with young basketball players from Prespa, as part of efforts to make Prespa a place with **high-quality sports activities**. In addition, the project has upgraded the only sports centre in the area and is supporting local sports teams by providing equipment and covering travel expenses for their participation in tournaments and events.




Conserving cultural heritage

The restored watermill in Agios Germanos continued to be a major tourist attraction for visitors and a favourite spot for locals too, with around 4,000 visitors in 2018. The watermill holds a broad educational, cultural and environmental interest for many visitors to Prespa, underlining the need to ensure that this landmark is maintained in the future.

The initial work to conserve the watermill by the SPP began in 1997, with a project for its full restoration reaching completion in 2015. Originally built in 1930, the mill has three fully working mechanisms: a flour mill, for grinding wheat into flour; a fulling tub, for cleaning woollen rugs and fabrics; and, a fulling mill, for felting woollen material. The restoration project not only aimed to make the traditional mill operational again, but also to establish an opportunity for visitors to learn about the cultural and natural heritage of the area and appreciate the connection that exists between the mill and the ecosystem of the Agios Germanos river.

Play – Learn – Act



————— Last year's environmental education programme at the junior school in Greek Prespa examined the subject of the disposal and recycling of solid waste. As well as classroom activities, junior school students also made a visit to the Waste Management Unit of Western Macedonia, to watch waste processing from collection to recycling. In addition, the pupils designed and produced a reusable canvas shopping bag, which was given out to all the children of Prespa, highlighting the environmental damage caused by single-use plastic bags.

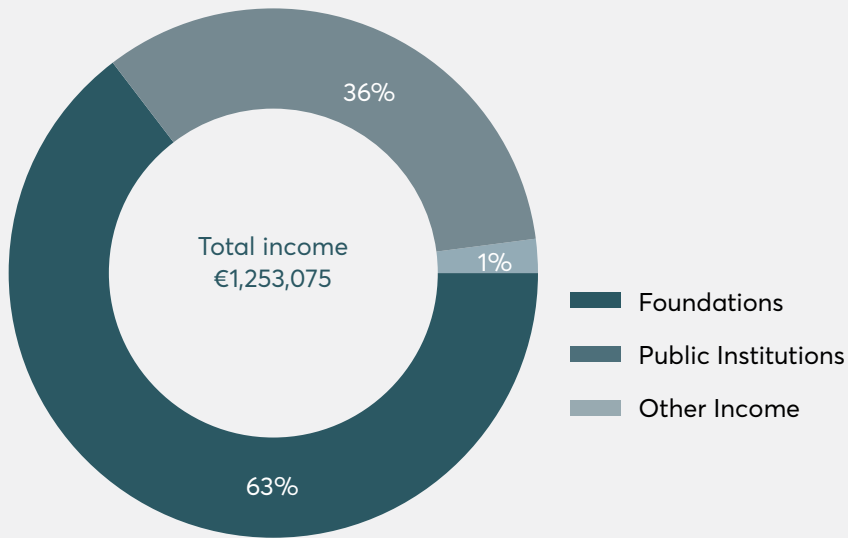
Presplorers, the youth club for 13- to 18-year-olds established under the LIFE Prespa Waterbirds project, continued to make regular fieldtrips in 2018, adding seminars and a photo competition to the club's programme. These activities aim to connect waterbirds and their habitats with the wetland management and conservation issues addressed by the LIFE project, giving these "young scientists" an opportunity to explore their area through the lens of the project. A photography seminar prompted the children to start taking images of the area and its biodiversity, which were subsequently exhibited with the support of the Thessaloniki Museum of Photography. The members of Presplorers also have their own blog (presplorers.wordpress.com), where they upload news about the activities they have carried out.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY - DECEMBER 2018

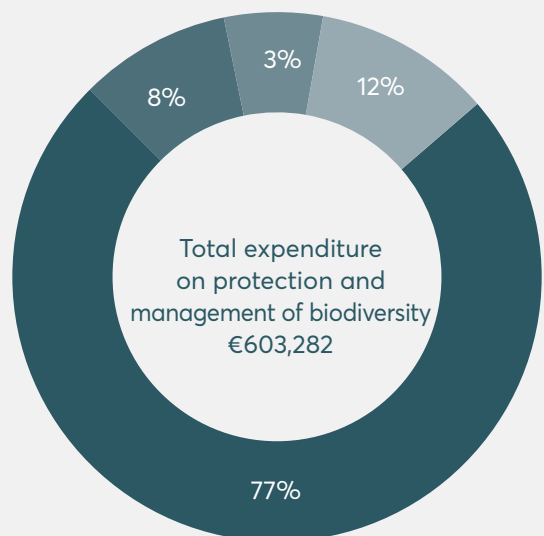
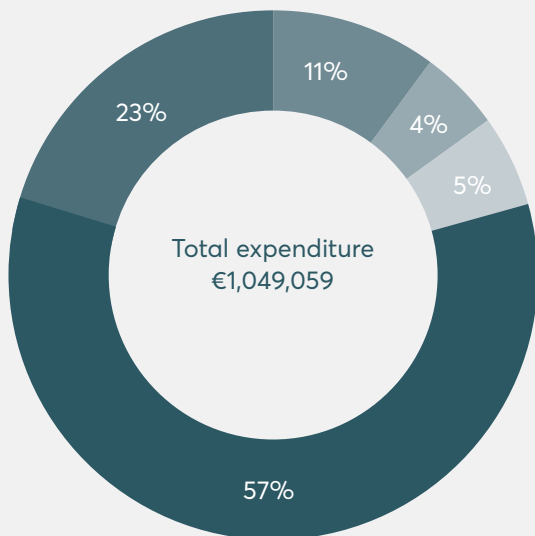
The Society for the Protection of Prespa manages the financial resources entrusted to it by its donors and sponsors with transparency and accountability. The society applies robust financial procedures and accounting standards in order to ensure the direct control and verification of the organisation's finances. The annual financial statements are audited by independent auditors and the audit report is published on the SPP's website.



Sources of income



How we spent our resources



Conservation Programme

- Protection & management of biodiversity
- Sustainable development & local community engagement

Operational Programme

- Administration
- Communication
- Fundraising

- Conservation of species & habitats
- Research & monitoring of species & habitats
- Water protection & management
- Networking & institutional development

INCOME ANALYSIS

FOUNDATIONS

<i>Prespa Ohrid Nature Trust (PONT) / MAVA Foundation - support for the whole SPP programme</i>	700,000
<i>The Stauros Niarchos Foundation (SNF), for the PoliPrespa project</i>	12,916
<i>The Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation, for the Enhancing the Eco-tourism Identity of Prespa project</i>	25,391
<i>EuroNatur / Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation, for the PrespaNet project</i>	52,576
	Sub-total €790,883

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

<i>European Commission, Department B - LIFE and H2020 Energy, Environment, Resources</i>	
<i>Co-financing for the LIFE JunEx project</i>	106,479
<i>Co-financing for the LIFE Prespa Waterbirds project</i>	330,920
<i>Ministry of Development and Investments: Interreg - IPA CBC Greece-Albania, for the Net Metering project</i>	14,000
	Sub-total €451,399

OTHER INCOME

<i>Private donors</i>	1,266
<i>Trading sales</i>	4,112
<i>For services provided</i>	5,415
	Sub-total €10,793

ANALYSIS OF EXPENSES

CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

<i>Protection and management of biodiversity</i>	603,282
<i>Sustainable development and local community engagement</i>	242,723
<i>Administration</i>	115,683
<i>Communications</i>	48,439
<i>Fundraising</i>	38,932
	total €1,049,059

ALLOCATION OF EXPENDITURE ON PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF BIODIVERSITY

<i>Conservation of species and habitats</i>	463,282
<i>Research and monitoring of species and habitats</i>	70,804
<i>Water protection and management</i>	51,145
<i>Networking and institutional development</i>	18,051
	total €603,282

FOUNDATIONS

The largest part of our income comes from private foundations, from Greece and abroad. For 2018, this figure amounts to 63% of our revenue.



The existence of the SPP would not have been possible had it not been for the valuable and generous financial support of the **MAVA Foundation**, since the establishment of the society in 1991 until the present day. From 2018 onwards, MAVA funding has been channelled through the **Prespa Ohrid Nature Trust (PONT)**, enabling the SPP to continue to plan for the long term and implement its programme to protect and promote Prespa and the wider region.



In order to ensure financial security and sustainability, efforts have also been made to bring together the necessary financial resources from other national and international foundations and public institutions, as well as from private supporters. Thus, in 2018, the **Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF)** launched a prototype collaboration with the SPP, the Municipality of Prespa and several local associations, which seeks to contribute to the sustainable development of Prespa using the natural capital of the region as a vehicle, creating a model for sustainable development in protected areas. The SNF has approved a donation of €1,000,000 to co-fund the PoliPrespa project for a total of four years.



Another valuable donation to SPP comes from the **A.G. Leventis Foundation**, which supports the watermill of Agios Germanos and the work of SPP to ensure its maintainance as a unique cultural landmark in the area in the future.



In addition, the PrespaNet project, entitled, "Strengthening NGO-led Conservation in the Transboundary Prespa Basin", which aims to protect and preserve the rare natural environment of the transboundary region, is being implemented thanks to the generous and long-term support of the Danish **Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation (AVJCF)**. The AVJCF has also been funding the SPP project "Enhancing the Eco-tourism Identity of Prespa", which will be fully completed in 2019. The SPP and the AVJCF are currently exploring ways in which the foundation might further support the long-term work of the society on wetland management in Prespa.



PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

The SPP also participates in national and European projects funded by public institutions, either as the main beneficiary or as a partner. In 2018 this kind of funding made up the second largest source of our revenue, reaching a level of 36%, of which 97% was from the European Commission's **LIFE Programme** funding instrument for nature and biodiversity. This is a financing tool for important species and habitats and it currently co-funds the LIFE Prespa Waterbirds project, and has supported the LIFE JunEx and LIFE - Stymfalia projects in the recent past.



In addition, the society is a partner in the Net Metering project, entitled "Integration of photovoltaic plants for self-consumption in public buildings and the replacement of low-efficiency municipal / street lighting with LED lights", which is funded by the Ministry of Development and Investments, as part of the **Interreg - IPA CBC Greece-Albania** programme, with the Municipality of Prespa as the lead beneficiary.



COLLABORATION

MEMBERS OF THE SPP:

Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature
ELLINIKI ETAIRIA - Society for the Environment and Cultural Heritage
Hellenic Ornithological Society
Goulandris National History Museum
Friends of Prespa
Tour du Valat
WWF Greece
Danish Ornithological Society
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Arcturos

GREEK ENVIRONMENTAL NGOS:

Callisto
Anima
Mediterranean SOS
MOM – Hellenic Society for the Study and Protection of the Monk Seal
Medasset
Archelon
Greenpeace
Ecological Recycling Society

LOCAL ACTORS & STAKEHOLDERS:

Municipality of Prespes
Management Body for the Prespa National Park
Pelekanos Bean Farmers' Co-operative
Local Land Reclamation Service
Cultural and sports associations
Schools' and parents' associations
Farmers' and stockbreeders' associations
Fishermen's associations
Regional Veterinary Unit of Florina
Florina Ephorate of Antiquities

REGIONAL & TRANSBOUNDARY ORGANISATIONS:

Macedonian Ecological Society
Protection and Preservation of the Natural Environment in Albania
Galičica National Park
Pelister National Park
Municipality of Resen
Prespa National Park (AL)
Regional Administration of Protected Areas (AL)
Municipalities of Pustec and Kolonja

MANAGEMENT BODIES FOR PROTECTED AREAS:

Koronia / Volvi / Chalkidiki
Thermaikos Gulf
Evros Delta / Samothraki
Kotychi / Strofilia and Kyparissia Bay
Messolonghi Lagoon / Akarnanika Mountains
Nestos Delta, Lakes Vistonida – Ismarida Lakes and Thasos
Lake Kerkini
Kalama – Acheron – Corfu
Amvrakikos Gulf and Lefkada
Pamvotis Lake
Karla – Mavrovouni – Kefalovriso Velestino – Pineios Delta

UNIVERSITIES & RESEARCH INSTITUTES:

National Observatory of Athens
Wageningen University
Radboud University
B-Ware Research Centre
Sovon Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology
Movement Ecology Lab, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Department of Fine Arts, University of Western Macedonia
Department of Forestry and Natural Environment Management, Agricultural University of Athens
Hellenic Centre for Marine Research
School of Agricultural Technology, Technological Education Institute of Western Macedonia
Technological Education Institute of Eastern Macedonia-Thrace

OTHER:

African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement
BirdLife International
Wetlands International
IUCN SSC Pelican Specialist Group
Piraeus Bank
KORA
EuroNatur

NETWORKS:

European Green Belt
Pelecanus Group
Mediterranean Wetlands Alliance
Medforval

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

- Catsadorakis, G., Papadopoulou, E., Petrakos, M., Koutseri, I. "Status of Fisheries at Megali Prespa Lake and Mikri Prespa Lake, Greece, Based on a Census of Fishermen's Opinions", *Environment and Ecology Research* 2018, 6(6): 583-592.
- Efrat, R., Harel, R., Alexandrou, O., Catsadorakis, G., Nathan, R. "Seasonal differences in energy expenditure, flight characteristics and spatial utilization of Dalmatian pelicans *Pelecanus crispus* in Greece", *Ibis* 2018, 161(2): 415-427.
- Maliaka, V., Faassen, E.J., Smolders, A.J., Lüring, M. "The Impact of Warming and Nutrients on Algae Production and Microcystins in Seston from the Iconic Lake Lesser Prespa, Greece". *Toxins* 2018, 10, 144.
- Mantzouki, E. et al. "Temperature Effects Explain Continental Scale Distribution of Cyanobacterial Toxins". *Toxins* 2018, 10, 156.

COMMUNICATIONS MATERIAL



LIFE Prespa Waterbirds, 1st local newsletter



LIFE Prespa Waterbirds, 2nd local newsletter



LIFE Prespa Waterbirds, project leaflet



Greylag geese leaflet



PrespaNet, introductory leaflet



Desktop calendar



Prespa plants leaflet



Wall calendar

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