

# Annual Review

Highlights of the year 2020



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Highlights of the year **2020**

*In the midst of the pandemic, a particularly difficult and challenging time for everyone, nature flourished due to the continuous lockdown, when the human activities that chiefly harm it were 'frozen'. Following the example of nature, I believe that human society will also be able to gradually overcome the current difficulties and come back stronger, with a renewed natural environment too.*

**Sophia Petrakou, 18**

*Lockdown really helped the environment whichever way you look at it, for example, because there was no travel there wasn't so much pollution of the environment. We have to show respect to the environment and watch what we do as it could cost us our lives later, because otherwise we won't survive*

**Antigone Ioannidou, 14**

*In the difficult situation that we are experiencing with Covid-19 the environment is always our ally and helps us to overcome hardships with a beautiful walk in nature!*

**Maria Michailidou, 16**



# PRESPLORER



*Humanity versus the environment and the coronavirus. We were able to realise how difficult it is for the environment to survive with the way that we humans treat it. It's like the unwanted measures that came and changed our daily lives. We all must help the environment so that it will also help us. The greener we keep the environment the less measures will enter our daily lives and make things difficult for us. 2020 was a trial that made us stronger and showed us how much we can achieve if we are united.*

**Lazaros Delkos, 18**

*In a difficult time like that of Covid-19 the unity and strength of a group was, and is, really needed, Presplorers made great strides as a team even though they couldn't really meet. We have the potential to become ONE with nature and HELP it, both as a group and individually. All we need to do is open the eyes of our soul and take up our responsibilities as children of this amazing EARTH!*

**Zografia Michailidou, 18**

*Health above all. Patience and a good heart in difficult moments. Action and the will to overcome obstacles. So that from a 'better tomorrow' you arrive at a 'better today'.*

**Michalis Rizopoulos, 18**



Presplorers are a group of Prespa youngsters that are carrying out environmental education activities as part of the LIFE Prespa Waterbirds project, getting to know the area's biodiversity through games and trips outdoors. They have become young scientists, studying and recording the changes around the lakeshore, monitoring waterbirds and getting first-hand experience of why wetland management is needed.



The events of 2020 are well known to readers, through our shared and lived experience. The Society for the Protection of Prespa (SPP) has been fortunate in that, although some of our work has been affected by the pandemic and the accompanying restrictions it has brought, we have largely been able to continue working throughout the year and have managed to achieve many of our conservation objectives for the year despite the difficulties.

*None of us will forget 2020 in a hurry, it was not the best of years. While we all hope that things will get better, in the end hope is not enough on its own – we also need to work hard to make sure that our endurance and freedom will not be so sorely tested in the years to come.*

**Myrsini Malakou, Managing Director**

*The health crisis didn't really affect our work, we managed to do it, with good results in wetland management in fact. Likewise, we achieved really good co-operation with the farmers and stockbreeders involved. What affected us most was the distance in human relationships, not work. The influence that we see daily and that constantly changes the facts of our work and redefines our goals is that of the climate crisis.*

**Lazaros Nikolaou, Field Assistant**

*In these unprecedented conditions we developed new abilities. With technology as an ally we did more work, without needing to travel and using a lot less paper!*

**Spyros Toutountzis, Accountant**

*2020 taught us to value the things that bring us together more than ever - in the separated world of the pandemic it was good to feel the strength of our transboundary friendships, no matter how far apart we were, and we found hope in our shared desire to do the best that we can for the nature and people of Prespa.*

**Julia Henderson, Assistant to the Managing Director and PrespaNet Officer**

*The return of nature's unique embrace was the strongest and the most fortifying injection of security and optimism.*

**Georgia Reppa, Financial assistant**

*In this year of uncertainty, potential was also created. We should not forget that, despite serious challenges, our team was able to re-organise and implement wetland management, communicate achievements through new means and maintain local and transboundary co-operation.*

**Irene Koutseri, LIFE Prespa Waterbirds Project Co-ordinator**

*In a year when so much changed around us, nature was a place of stability, a refuge. Digital media have been our ally in keeping in touch with the public and sharing information.*

**Machi Solaki, Communications Co-ordinator**

*2020... we left it behind us with extra joy, because of the unprecedented limitations it brought. Fortunately, the SPP's fieldwork continued almost as before, with the serene beauty of the Prespa landscape having an other-worldly touch of peacefulness.*

**Olga Alexandrou, Conservation Officer**

*Many of the opportunities for networking and outreach projects offered by the PoliPrespa project were put on hold in 2020. On the other hand, 2020 also proved that people have the ability to adjust faster than expected, that the internet eliminates distances and that we can find a way – under even the most unfavourable circumstances – to be creative and evolve.*

**Zenia Anastasiadou, PoliPrespa Project Co-ordinator**

*The past year taught all of us the importance and necessity of human contact. Despite the difficulties, though, a dedication to goals and common ideals proved capable of bridging any distance*

**Foteini Papanousi, GIS & Data Management Officer**



*Adaptability is a characteristic of children and young people. They really proved it this year, with their active participation in every opportunity they had for learning and interaction. We managed to maintain communication and contact with them, so this wasn't a lost year for either environmental education or outdoor activities and fieldwork.*

**Eleni Solaki, Communications Officer**

*It changed our lives and we don't know if it's here to stay, or if tomorrow something else will make this virus look like a picnic. Nevertheless, we all have to carry on. At any rate, the gods didn't help us, neither rich nor poor were exempt, and there's no hiding from it as it'll come and find you no matter how far away you are! Here's to our health!*

**Haris Nikolaou, Field Assistant**

*This year our familiar daily life was suddenly brought to a standstill, but at the same time all the political developments on the government's choices for the natural environment shot forward at breakneck speed. So, out of necessity we discovered the great potential of online networking and teleconferencing for joint action and response. In the future we'll keep them as a valuable alternative to the utterly irreplaceable face-to-face communication with colleagues and allies across the country and around the world.*

**Vivi Roumeliotou, Policy Co-ordinator**

*The restrictions on travel due to the pandemic meant I couldn't visit Prespa and so I lost the close contact that I had with our fieldwork and the results of management work. But the hardest thing was the loss of personal contact with my colleagues, sorely affecting all of us and reminding us how irreplaceable this is in achieving our goals. .*

**Giorgos Catsadorakis, Scientific Advisor**

*The year that passed dramatically lessened our personal contact with each other, but it really helped the balance of the natural environment. When people reduce their activity, society and the economy take another form and nature continues to evolve.*

**Ilias Papas, Financial Assistant**

*March, April, May... months for environmental education, hushed months. Words and sentences on a piece of paper replaced little hands and children's voices in the school halls, while visitors fell silent, travelling to their destination through a screen or just the neighbourhood park.*

**Vasso Nitsopoulou, Environmental Education Assistant**

*The conditions that prevailed in 2020 forced us to adjust on every level. From the ways we work and socialise, to the way we treat nature. We worked closely with our donors to adapt our work and, at a time when the relationship between people and nature became a global focus, we took the opportunity to highlight how interdependent they are.*

**Marianna Vlasi, Fundraising Co-ordinator**

*The use of new technologies abruptly replaced human contact and presence in the office, though the new conditions also had advantages that made our everyday work easier to a certain extent.*

**Ritsa Patsea, Secretary**

*2020 was a challenging year! Frustration, disappointment and despair were overcome with perseverance, commitment and resilience!*

**Yvonne Tsorogouni, Finance & Administration Co-ordinator**

# 2020 the year when everything changed

The year started as 'normal' but by March, the SARS-CoV2 (COVID 19) virus had completely upended our lives. Lockdowns started around March and lasted all year, on and off. Apart from the changes at the personal level, there were huge implications for the work of the SPP too.

*Dr Claire Papazoglou*  
SPP President

Meetings, travel, work in the office, 'normal communication', all changed, were cancelled or postponed. We all quickly became experts in online meetings, using platforms, such as Zoom, which we had barely heard of before. The impact was very noticeable, not only in the way we worked, but also in everyone's personal life.

Nevertheless, it is commendable that throughout the difficulties that this strange year brought, SPP staff managed to carry out some very important activities that made 2020 another successful year for the Society.

Nature of course, in some ways, rejoiced, as less people went out and it got more peace and quiet. So, it was really important to note that pelican breeding numbers reached new heights in 2020, and equally notable that SPP staff were out monitoring.

Apart from being able to continue with monitoring and habitat management activities, 2020 was noteworthy for two more reasons.

Firstly, it was the start of an important project of land acquisition at Lesser Prespa, with the support of the Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation. Through this important and pioneering project the SPP aims to buy land that lies in the flooding zone of Lesser Prespa, both to allow flooding and the creation of wet meadows, and to prevent the use of agricultural chemicals so close to the lake. The project will be staggered and will last many years, but it's a testament to Myrsini's excellent relations, steady hand, and vision that it got off the ground in 2020.

Secondly, I was truly impressed and inspired to receive the magnificent "Flora and Vegetation of the Prespa National Park, Greece". This precious book was many years in the making, and includes exceptional information, beautiful photos and is surely a scientific landmark for the National Park.

But unfortunately, we cannot ignore the fact that 2020 was also significant for another reason too – the effects of climate change. The level of the lakes was lower than ever, and concern about the effects of the climate crisis became very intense. As the climate and biodiversity crises rage around the planet, the SPP has a very important role to play in showing how science can and should guide our decision making and actions, and what a crucial role healthy ecosystems, and notably wetlands, have to play for our future.

Professional and serious organisations like the SPP, with a vision, strong science basis, committed support and a clear plan of action, are needed more than ever!



# 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 internationally renowned conservationist and philanthropist, Dr Luc Hoffmann, the environmentalist Thymios Papayannis 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 harmonious 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, and began the initiative to establish the Transboundary Prespa Park, with a quadrilateral agreement between the three countries sharing the lakes and the EU in 2010.

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 19 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.

## Members of the SPP

The SPP has organisations as its members, rather than individuals, with the following eight environmental organisations being the current members: Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature, ELLINIKI ETAIRIA – Society for the Environment and Cultural Heritage, Hellenic Ornithological Society, Goulandris National History Museum/Greek Biotope Wetland Centre, Friends of Prespa, WWF Greece, Arcturos and Medlna, while the Danish Ornithological Society and the Tour du Valat research institute participate in its general assemblies as permanent observers. These members play a key role in the governance of the SPP, not only with their presence at the organisation's annual general assembly, but also with their ongoing support across the whole programme that the SPP carries out. The contribution of all the members to the issues that the SPP faces, their assistance at critical junctures and the knowledge and experience they continue to offer are of vital importance for the SPP.







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# Scientific knowledge and understanding

Scientific research and monitoring continue to underpin all aspects of the SPP's conservation work, with several partnerships supporting this effort. Collaboration with Tour du Valat, for example, has deepened our understanding of vegetation dynamics in Lesser Prespa, and their recommendations for how to manage reedbeds were incorporated into the wetland management operational plan. Tour du Valat also monitored the effects of management on reedbed structure in 2020, in order to evaluate the degree of success and feed their findings back into the adaptive management process.

Meanwhile, monitoring of waterbirds has seen the numbers of most of these species fluctuate within the same range as recent years, though this year the numbers of nests of both pelican species were higher than previously. The total number of Dalmatian pelican nests was estimated at 1,585, while for great white pelicans the estimated number of nests was 750, the highest numbers since records began in 1987. Greylag geese censuses were also carried out in the spring and autumn, and the annual trilateral mid-winter waterbirds count took place in January, together with transboundary partners.

In addition, the SPP hosted an international training seminar on Dalmatian pelican monitoring protocols, in order to share a standard approach to this important work. Participants from Bulgaria, Greece and Romania were trained in monitoring methods and techniques, while a monitoring manual and identification guide were also developed.

Lastly, the SPP also produced reports on waterbird populations, the water level of Lesser Prespa Lake and wetland vegetation management, based on its monitoring and conservation work in 2019 and including proposals for wetland management in 2020. These were presented at the annual Wetland Management Committee, and formed the scientific basis for the decisions taken by the committee.



## Sharing what we've learned

The research the SPP carries out together with its partners is also shared with the wider conservation community through the publication of scientific articles. In 2020 these included numerous papers related to pelicans, as well as articles on cormorant population trends, historic ridge-and-furrow agriculture in Prespa and the Green List of Species, in which the Dalmatian pelican formed a demonstration case worldwide, to name just a few. The SPP also works closely with the academic community to support MSc theses based on the data it has gathered, which this year involved the analysis of data relating to pelicans and greylag geese.



# Wetland conservation – *the heart of our work*

Prespa's wetland species and habitats faced another dry year in 2020, making the work to adapt to the impacts of climate change all the more crucial. Once again, the SPP worked alongside more than 20 local cattle farmers to manage 62 ha of wetland vegetation, under the operational plan approved by the Management Body for the Prespa National Park, with the farmers benefitting from an estimated 190 tons of cut reed biomass for cattle fodder. Specific areas were also fenced to regulate grazing pressure and prevent conflict with bean farmers by keeping cattle away from adjacent fields.

The firebreaks cut by the SPP not only helped to reduce the spread of fire but, because the firebreaks were cut perpendicular to the lake, their deeper parts were also able to be used by waterbirds for feeding this year. This was especially valuable in the absence of wet meadow flooding due to low water levels, and led the conservation team to create additional, wider firebreaks in the autumn.

Significant numbers of birds were also observed feeding in the Mikrolimni and Lefkona stream mouths, where vegetation management had taken place, clearly demonstrating that the lower the lake water level, the more important an increase in the area of managed reedbed becomes for waterbirds. Positive results were also reported regarding the movement of fish species upstream, following the work to clear the entrance to these streams.

Lastly, in partnership with the University of Western Macedonia (UWM), the SPP has been investigating the use of cut reed biomass as a soil conditioner in organic bean fields, with the second year of the experiment being completed in 2020 and the final results expected in the last year of the project. The UWM also studied the value of using cut reed and wetland vegetation biomass as fodder as part of their co-operation with the SPP.



### **Of land and water** – a solution to farmland flooding around Lesser Prespa Lake

The SPP reached a pivotal moment in 2020, with the approval of a pilot project for the acquisition of land around the lake. The higher water level required for wet meadow conservation renders privately owned farmland around the lake vulnerable to flooding, and the SPP aims to resolve this issue with the gradual purchase of all affected land and its eventual management for conservation purposes. The result of many years of persistent effort, this landmark activity demonstrates the vital importance of the long-term strategic planning that the SPP has been able to carry out, thanks to the vision and support of its funders.

### **Beyond borders** – regional collaboration & networking

Collaboration across borders in 2020 saw the 3rd meeting of the Transboundary Wetland Management Technical Group, with representatives from the three countries' protected area authorities and NGOs discussing shared wetland, waterbird and climate change issues, while the SPP also supported MES and Galičica National Park in monitoring waterbird colonies on Golem Grad Island in Great Prespa. In networking activities, the Pelican Specialist Group increased its membership, while the SPP is an active participant in the European Green Belt and has also joined the new "Balkan and Central and Eastern Europe Community on Environmental Democracy", bringing NGOs together in pursuit of robust environmental governance.

### **Partnership around the lakes** – PrespaNet

Amongst PrespaNet's work on transboundary conservation this year was the conclusion of a study on damage by wild boar in Greek Prespa. With advice from specialist Swiss NGOs KORA and AGRIDEA, the SPP used pilot fencing of wet meadow grazing land, in collaboration with the LIFE Prespa Waterbirds project, in an experimental effort to reduce the impacts of boar activity. The project also installed a water trough above a new road to the proposed border crossing between Greece and North Macedonia, aiming to mitigate the risks to wildlife using this area. In addition, the partners worked together to develop a follow-up joint project proposal, in order to continue their fruitful collaboration. Lastly, the SPP also shared experience and knowledge at a transboundary level, through a series of 'lessons learned' documents, this year focussing on monitoring waterbirds by drone, managing joint transboundary activities, and cross-border water governance.

# Fighting the good fight – *environmental policy work*

In the context of the heated debate about climate crisis and biodiversity loss, the SPP collaborated with the national environmental NGOs to publish a joint position asking for the “freezing” of the environmental permitting procedure for large projects, including wind farms, in protected areas until the regulatory and management instruments are in place for all NATURA 2000 sites in the country. This work was unfortunately timely as some months later three pelicans were found dead following suspected collision at the Varnous wind park. After that incident, the SPP mobilised the authorities to investigate environmental compliance of the wind park with the set terms, which resulted in a fine imposed on the company.

In addition, 2020 was marked by the concerted effort of the Greek environmental NGO community to rebut the sweeping negative changes brought by a draft law, touching upon many areas of environmental regulation, including environmental impact assessment procedures and the system of protected area governance. Extensive comments on the draft were submitted, resulting in several corrections and/or the moderation of several bad policy choices. However, the fact remains that the law was adopted and the consequences of its implementation are already felt in the area of environmental permitting, while the administrative reform that will eventually abolish the MBPNP is slowly unfolding.

As part of other work responding to threats within Prespa, the SPP initiated a camera-trap study in early 2020 to investigate the movements of large mammals across and around the area where a new road is proposed, connecting to the proposed border crossing linking Greece with North Macedonia.

Lastly, the unwavering work of the SPP and its allies, reinforced by a renewed awareness of the fact that transboundary co-operation is indispensable in areas like Prespa, brought about by the grave situation the water level drop of Great Prespa Lake has caused in the neighbouring countries, has produced small but important steps in bringing the operation of joint institutions closer. Thus 2020 was marked by the appointment of national representatives to the joint bodies of the Prespa Park Agreement. SPP appointees were designated national NGO representatives in the Prespa Park Management Committee and to its Secretariat.



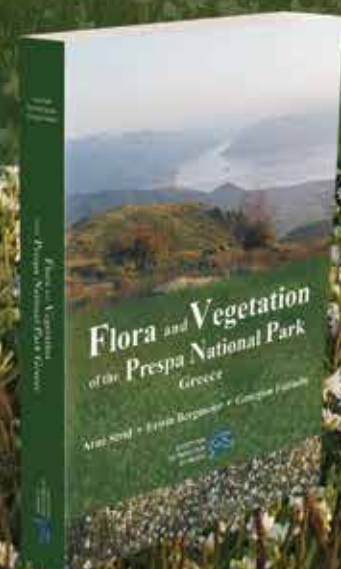
## **Towards the better management of shared water resources**

*The SPP continued its support to water scientists from the three countries, facilitating their annual meeting in October and helping to prepare a project concept on joint harmonised water monitoring in Prespa. In addition, the SPP joined the Protect Water campaign to actively lobby the EU institutions not to revise the Water Framework Directive but rather focus on properly implementing and enforcing it, which had a successful outcome.*



# The flora of Prespa take centre stage in glorious colour

In late summer the SPP was proud to finally hold in its hand the result of many years of generous and dedicated research, with the publication of the magnificent "Flora and Vegetation of the Prespa National Park, Greece". This long-awaited book is the fruit of a collaboration between Professors Arne Strid, Erwin Bergmeier and Georgios Fotiadis, whose combined meticulous and comprehensive study of the flora and vegetation of Prespa has been carried out over countless visits to the area. The book includes detailed descriptions of the characteristics of all 1,816 species and sub-species that have been recorded to date on the Greek side of Prespa, together with over a thousand colour plates and in-depth chapter essays on the types of vegetation to be found in the national park. It is a tribute to the dedication of Professor Strid in particular, who has been recognised for his generous contribution to work on the flora of Greece, and the Society is honoured to have produced this testament to all the authors' efforts, in a legacy that will preserve and promote their body of knowledge for the benefit of plant conservation in the region for decades to come.



## Support for more environmentally friendly local farming



Through PoliPrespa the SPP also supports local farmers, who mostly grow the country's famous Prespa beans, with a study on safeguarding the beans from unwanted hybridisation being completed in 2020, and the start of the procedure to list the Prespa bean as a Greek PDO and PGI product, adding value for farmers and acknowledging the unique contribution of the natural characteristics of the area.

Co-operation with the American Farm School, Thessaloniki, commenced in May, aiming to assist six organic bean farmers to apply precision farming techniques. The approach used LoRa technology to detect various parameters in the soil and communicate them, via a Wide Area Network (WAN), to the farmers, helping them reduce waste and improve crop yields. These precision farming practices not only help farmers increase and improve their yield, but also assist them to use more environmentally friendly methods, particularly in terms of water use for irrigation and fertiliser application.

In addition, the SPP also worked with the National & Kapodistrian University of Athens to research the special attributes of Prespa apian products and medicinal plants, aiming not only to help growers and local beekeepers potentially increase the value of their product but also to promote the area's unique natural values.

# Education and culture in the service of nature



## Virtual transboundary summer school – a first for Prespa!

*Taking a step up in its skills base in response to the pandemic, the SPP converted a planned summer school into the Society's first ever transboundary online course for students, on wetland management and monitoring. Over two weeks in July, the participants had access to lectures and discussions with an international cohort of instructors, as well as an interactive group assignment, and were provided with a wide range of supplementary material in a specially designed web environment, presenting the SPP's work on waterbirds, fish, transboundary water collaboration, governance and wetland management. The activity was a strong example of the synergy the SPP is able to create between its projects, and also underlined the importance of an interdisciplinary approach to wetland management issues, encouraging a new generation in tackling the appropriate conservation practices for wetlands.*



## Nature and culture side by side

*The inclusion of both natural and cultural values in the conservation of Prespa is key to the SPP's approach, from the restored Agios Germanos Watermill, that continued to successfully operate in 2020, to the PoliPrespa activities, which included a collaboration with the Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, for smartphone friendly signs linking to the restoration plans architecture students had created for the old houses of Agios Germanos. PoliPrespa also supports the local community as a main pillar of its work, renovating school infrastructure, restocking music and sports equipment, and supporting the public library in its vital cultural activities for the area's young people.*

## A torrent of learning and fun!



The environmental education team was in the early phases of preparing for the year's environmental education programme on rivers and their connection to downstream wetlands as lockdown began, so they quickly reconfigured the programme and converted it to three home-schooling workbooks, to be completed by primary-school children at home. The children and parents were supported online by the environmental education team, and well-received participation gifts and prizes for the best efforts were distributed in early July. Although the SPP and the children missed the in-person classroom experience, the remote version was nonetheless successful and opened the prospect of potential supplementary activities for future programmes.

An attractive environmental education package on the natural and cultural values of the watermill was also produced, and is available for young visitors to enjoy and learn more about how the mill works. Meanwhile, the ever popular "Presplorers" club for Prespa youngsters had a full circle of activities in 2020, exploring the seasonal changes in the wetlands and learning about how the reedbeds are managed for the benefit of biodiversity and people alike. They also made an appealing short film, "People and Naiads, Myths and Facts", in which they compared local myths and legends with the latest scientific knowledge about the Prespa wetlands.



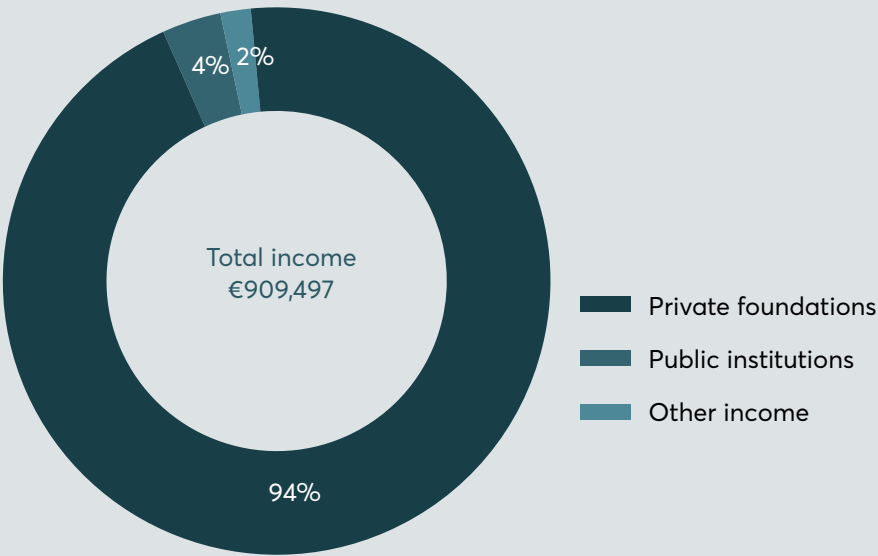


# Financial management

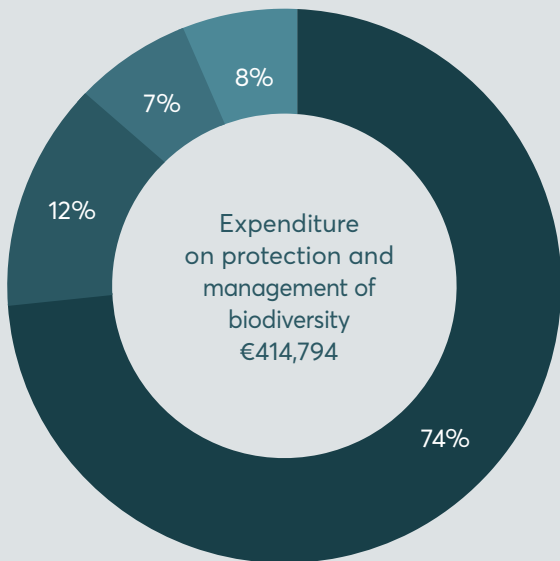
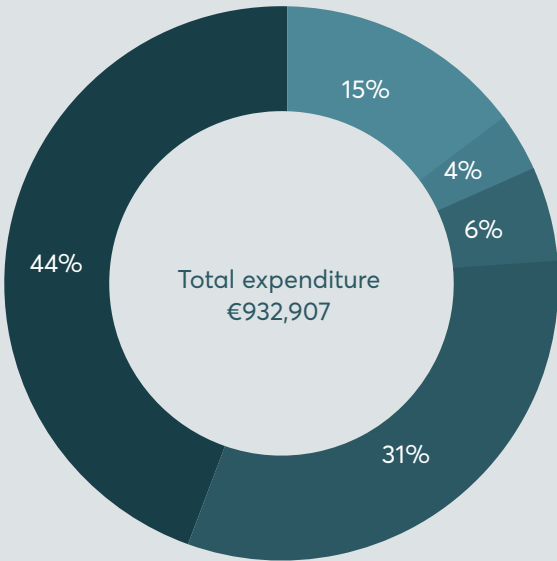
For the period  
January - December 2020

Over the last 30 years, the SPP has been managing the financial resources entrusted to it by its donors with absolute transparency and accountability. We apply strict financial procedures and accounting standards in order to ensure the full protection of the assets of the society, and our accounts are independently audited on a yearly basis.

# Sources of income



# How we spent our resources



### Conservation Programme

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

### Operational Programme

- Communication
- Fundraising
- Administration

- 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>	650,000
<i>The Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF), for the "PoliPrespa" project</i>	95,279
<i>The Lund Trust &amp; Sigrid Rausing Charitable Foundation</i>	55,928
<i>EuroNatur / Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation, for the "PrespaNet" project</i>	33,352
<i>Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation, for the project, "Enhancing the Eco-tourism Identity of Prespa"</i>	16,622
	<b>Sub-total €851,180</b>

### PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

<i>Ministry of Finance and Development: Interreg - IPA CBC Greece-Albania, for the "Net Metering" project</i>	10,675
<i>Ministry of Finance and Development: Interreg - IPA CBC Greece-North Macedonia, for the "Holy Water" project</i>	24,663
	<b>Sub-total €35,338</b>

### OTHER INCOME

<i>Private donors</i>	5,779
<i>Trading sales</i>	3,987
<i>For services provided</i>	8,065
<i>Other</i>	5,147
	<b>Sub-total €22,978</b>

## ANALYSIS OF EXPENSES

### CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

<i>Protection and management of biodiversity</i>	414,794
<i>Sustainable development and local community engagement</i>	292,740
<i>Administration</i>	137,672
<i>Communication</i>	54,505
<i>Fundraising</i>	33,255
	<b>Total € 932,966</b>

### ALLOCATION OF EXPENDITURE ON PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF BIODIVERSITY

<i>Conservation of species and habitats</i>	307,569
<i>Research and monitoring of species and habitats</i>	47,971
<i>Networking and institutional development</i>	31,363
<i>Water protection and management</i>	27,891
	<b>Total € 414,794</b>



# FUNDING

## FOUNDATIONS



### **MAVA Foundation**

The MAVA Foundation is a charitable foundation which supports activities for the protection of the environment. 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, from its earliest years until the present day. From 2018 onwards, MAVA funding has been channeled through the Prespa Ohrid Nature Trust (PONT).



### **Prespa Ohrid Nature Trust (PONT)**

The Prespa Ohrid Nature Trust (PONT) is a transboundary conservation trust fund. PONT funding is long term, and designed to ensure the sustainable management of the Prespa Ohrid ecoregion. Since 2018 it has supported the overall SPP programme and been the main funder of the work that the organisation carries out. Thanks to its generous support the SPP is able to continue to plan for the long term and implement its programme to protect and promote Prespa and the wider region. PONT support also provides co-funding for all the SPP's activities across the whole programme.



### **Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation (AVJCF)**

The Danish Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation operates all over the world via ownership as well as support of research and nature projects. Many SPP activities, both in the past and today, have been implemented with the generous and longstanding support of the AVJCF. Most recently these have included the project, "Enhancing the Eco-tourism Identity of Prespa", which aims to strengthen ecotourism and has recently published the book "Flora and Vegetation of the Prespa National Park, Greece", as well as the work of PrespaNet in "Strengthening NGO-led Conservation in the Transboundary Prespa Basin" (2018-2021), aiming to protect and preserve the rare natural environment of the transboundary region. The SPP and the AVJCF are also proud of their partnership for the new pilot project on the acquisition of land around the shore of Lesser Prespa Lake.



### **Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF)**

The Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) is one of the largest private charitable foundations in the world and provides grants to a wide range of non-profit organisations. In 2018, the SNF launched a prototype collaboration with the SPP, the Municipality of Prespa and several local associations, known as the [PoliPrespa](#) project. PoliPrespa 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, with activities ranging from support for environmentally friendly agriculture to wetland management, from support from the public library to sports activities for the young, and from cultural activities to educational equipment in Prespa's schools. In the past the SNF has also generously supported the restoration of the Agios Germanos watermill.



### **A.G. Leventis Foundation**

Established in 1979, from the outset the A. G. Leventis Foundation has focussed its charitable programme on society, education and culture. The valuable funding of this donor joins that of the SNF to support the restoration and operation of the watermill of Agios Germanos and the SPP's work to ensure its maintenance as a unique cultural landmark for the area in the future.



### Lund Trust

Founded by Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin, since 2002 the Lund Trust has supported charities and causes they especially care about, particularly environmental matters in the UK and elsewhere, as well as support for disadvantaged people, education, research, culture and heritage. A new donor for the SPP, the Lund Trust funding has supported work to upgrade the SPP's building in Agios Germanos, as well as smart farming activities under the PoliPrespa project, helping efforts to boost organic and non-conventional primary sector activities in the Prespa National Park, and ultimately contributing to the aims of PoliPrespa in strengthening social capital, capacity building and advancing environmentally friendly agriculture 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. The European Commission's **LIFE programme** funding instrument for nature and biodiversity is one such source of funding. This is a financing tool for important species and habitats which currently co-funds the [LIFE Prespa Waterbirds project](#), which has as its main aim the management of wetland vegetation in Lesser Prespa. LIFE funding has also supported LIFE JunEx, as well as the LIFE project for the "Conservation of Priority Bird Species in Lake Mikri Prespa, Greece", in the past.



In addition, the society is a partner in the [Net Metering project](#), entitled "Integration of photo-voltaic 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, as well as in the [Holy Water project](#), entitled "Enhancing the cultural touristic product of the cross-border area of Prespes through the promotion of the natural and cultural heritage", as part of the **Interreg - IPA CBC Greece-Republic of North Macedonia** programme.

# COLLABORATION

Seeking out collaborative partnerships has been a longstanding and fundamental priority for the SPP since its establishment, and for this reason the organisation has invested in maintaining strong collaborations, as well as in finding new partners in relation to its needs and new activities. For the implementation of its programme the SPP collaborates with a wide network of environmental organisations from Greece and abroad, international organisations, management authorities for protected areas, universities and foundations, as well as local authorities at national and transboundary level.

## GREEK ENVIRONMENTAL NGOS:

ANIMA  
ARCHELON  
Callisto  
Ecological Recycling Society  
Greenpeace  
Green Tank  
MEDASSET  
MEDITERRANEAN SOS Network  
MEDASSET  
MOM

## LOCAL ACTORS & STAKEHOLDERS:

Management Body for the Prespa National Park  
Municipality of Prespes  
Pelekanos Bean Farmers' Co-operative  
Local Land Reclamation Service  
Cultural and sports associations  
Schools' and parents' associations  
Farmers' and stockbreeders' associations  
Fishermen's associations  
Directorate of Environment and Planning of Western Macedonia (of the Decentralised Administration of Epirus and Western Macedonia)  
Directorate of Waters of Western Macedonia (of the Decentralised Administration of Epirus and Western Macedonia)  
Regional Veterinary Unit of Florina  
Florina Ephorate of Antiquities

## TRANSBOUNDARY & INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS:

African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement  
BirdLife International  
Wetlands International  
IUCN SSC Pelican Specialist Group  
KORA  
EuroNatur  
Macedonian Ecological Society (MES)  
Protection and Preservation of the Natural Environment in Albania (PPNEA)  
Galičica National Park  
Pelister National Park  
Municipality of Resen  
Prespa National Park (RAPA | AL)  
Regional Administration of Protected Areas (AL)  
Municipalities of Pustec and Kolonja

## MANAGEMENT BODIES FOR PROTECTED AREAS:

Amvrakikos Gulf - Lefkada Management Agency  
Lake Kerkini Management Authority  
Management Body of Karla - Mavrovouni – Kefalovryso - Velestino - Delta Pineiou  
Management Body of Koroneia - Volvi – Halkidiki  
Management Body of Lake Pamvotis  
Management Body of Messolonghi Lagoon - Akarnanika Mountains  
Management Body of the Evros Delta and Samothraki Protected Areas  
Management Body of the Protected Areas of Kalamas - Acheron – Corfu  
Management Body of the Wetlands of Kotychi - Strophyllia and Kyparissiakos Bay  
Nestos Delta, Lakes Vistonida - Ismarida and Thassos Island Management Body  
Thermaikos Gulf Protected Areas Management Authority

## UNIVERSITIES & RESEARCH INSTITUTES:

National Observatory of Athens  
Department of Fine and Applied Arts, University of Western Macedonia  
Department of Forestry and Natural Environment Management, Agricultural University of Athens, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research  
Department of Agronomy, University of Western Macedonia  
Department of Forestry and Environmental Management, Agricultural University of Athens  
Institute of Urban Environment and Human Resources, Panteion University  
Department of Pharmacy, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens  
American Farm School (Thessaloniki)

## NETWORKS:

European Green Belt  
Pelecanus Group  
Mediterranean Wetlands Alliance



## SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

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- Giokas, S., Maximiadi, M., Kassara, C., Alexandrou, O. & Catsadorakis, G. 2020. Mixed-species flock fishing in Dalmatian Pelicans: patterns and benefits. *Ardea* 108: 65–72.
- Handrinos, G. & Catsadorakis, G. 2020. The historical and current distribution of Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus* and Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus* in Greece and adjacent areas: 1830-2019. *Avocetta* 44: 11-20.
- Strid, A. Bergmeier, E & G. Fotiadis. 2020. Flora and Vegetation of the Prespa National Park, Greece. *Society for the Protection of Prespa*. 552 p.
- van der Schriek, T., Giannakopoulos, C. & Varotsos, K.V. The impact of future climate change on bean cultivation in the Prespa Lake catchment, northern Greece. *Euro-Mediterr J Environ Integr* 5, 14 (2020).

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