

**REPORT of the FIRST REGULAR MEETING**  
**of the PRESPA PARK**  
**CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE**

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## First Regular Meeting of the Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee

Skopje, 30-31 January 2001

Hosted by the Government of the FYR of Macedonia - Ministry of the Environment and Physical Planning

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At the invitation of the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of the FYR of Macedonia, the Co-ordination Committee (CC) of the Prespa Park held its first regular meeting in Aleksandar Palace Hotel, Skopje, on January 30-31, 2001.

The meeting was attended by all the members of the CC from the three countries involved and from Ramsar/MedWet, as well as by observers from international and other organisations (see the complete list of participants in Annex VI).

The meeting was opened by Mr. Marjan Dodovski, Minister of Environment and Physical Planning of the FYR of Macedonia, and chaired by Mr. Metodija Dimovski, Assistant Minister of Environment and Physical Planning of the FYR of Macedonia.

### Agenda

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#### 1. Opening session:

1.1. Welcome address by Mr. Marjan Dodovski, Minister on Environment and Physical Planning

Welcoming by Mr. Metodija Dimovski, Chairman

Presentation and approval of the working Agenda by Mr. Thymio Papayannis, Ramsar Bureau representative

1.2. Activities since the Tirana Working Meeting

1.2.1. Report by the *interim* Secretariat (SPP) (Working document 1)

1.2.2. Additional contributions from the members of the Co-ordination Committee

#### 2. Operational Plan for the work of the Co-ordination Committee and programme of specific activities for the year 2001:

2.1. Presentation of the draft proposal by the *interim* Secretariat (Working document 2 - Appendix I and II)

2.2. Discussion and approval

#### 3. Operating Arrangements of the Co-ordination Committee and its Secretariat:

3.1. Presentation of the draft proposal by the Ramsar Bureau observer (Working Document 3)

3.2. Discussion and approval

#### 4. Financial matters:

4.1. Budget and funding of the Co-ordination Committee and the Secretariat (Working document 4)

4.2. Prospects on the development of a GEF project (Appendix III)

#### 5. Any other business:

5.1. World Wetlands Day 2001

## 5.2. Other matters

## 6. Closure of the meeting

6.1. Adoption of decisions, recommendations and conclusions of the meeting

6.2. Date and place of the next meeting

6.3. Closing remarks

## Summary Minutes

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Opening the meeting, the Chairman, Assistant Minister Dimovski, welcomed all participants and introduced Minister Dodovski, who spoke about the 30-year anniversary of the Ramsar Convention and the relevant policy of his Government, as well as about the Prespa Park and the common, integrated, strategic vision that has to be developed by all stakeholders.

Then, the agenda of the meeting was introduced by Mr. Papayannis, Ramsar/ MedWet representative, and accepted by the Committee.

Mrs. Roumeliotou (SPP) presented the *interim* Secretariat's report on the activities in implementation of the Tirana meeting decisions (Agenda item 1.2).

In relation to the pending issues, Mr. Kouvelis (Greek Ministry of Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works) presented the Greek Government's intention to focus on socio-economic issues during preparation of the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) study and have all persons involved develop a common vision for their future.

He further underlined the complicated nature of the building infrastructure project and expressed the Greek Government's political will to increase the budget, so as to build and equip fully-operational monitoring stations that will also serve as points of reference for the dissemination of information collected. The other two government representatives welcomed the proposed expansion of the project and gave assurances that the necessary documentation and permits will be issued with no problems.

Mr. Kouvelis also referred to the project for the establishment of the Regional Research/ Educational Centre on the Greek side, which will be funded through the EP-PER III programme due to become operational in the next few months.

Regarding the REReP project, he talked about his meeting with Ms. Sieburger (KfW), and a related project proposal by the University of Athens. He concluded that there should be a unified project that will be co-financed by the German Bank and the Greek Government.

Finally, in relation to the proposed establishment of a Biosphere Reserve encompassing the Prespa and Ohrid areas, Mr. Kouvelis expressed the Greek Government's reservations mainly due to the mandate contained in the Prime-ministerial Declaration of 2 February 2000, which was limited to the Prespa basin.

This initiated a long discussion on the desirability of such a development. Several speakers expressed their support, at least in principle, to the idea, including Mr. Dedej (NEA, Albania), Mr. Micevski (MAP), Ms. Sieburger, and Mr. Nastov (NFP for Ramsar Convention, FYR of Macedonia); whereas others expressed concern, including Mrs. Malakou (SPP), Mr. Dimovski, Mr. Germanidis (Mayor of Prespa, Greece), Mrs. Nikuseva (DEM/MAP), and Mr. Salathé (Ramsar Bureau).

The Chairman recapped the foregoing discussion and concluded, based on the positions taken by Mr. Kouvelis and Mr. Papayannis, that the Biosphere Reserve

option should be one of the possibilities for further developing the Prespa Park initiative that have to be studied in detail in the context of the SAP study (see below, Conclusions, para.2 and 9).

The next item on the agenda (2) was presented by Mrs. Malakou who elaborated on the proposed Operational Plan and programme of activities of the Committee.

In this connection, the main issue that was extensively discussed related to point 1.1. of the Plan, namely whether the task of informing all relevant authorities and organisations of the establishment of the CC should be carried out only by the Secretariat, or by individual members of the CC as well (see below, Conclusions, para.6).

The Secretariat was then instructed to ask for information from all pertinent bodies in order to complete the inventory of activities affecting the Prespa area on the basis of the approved form (see below, Annex III). Should the NGOs responsible for gathering the data face a problem, they could ask the local and national authority representative for assistance.

Moreover, still in the context of the Communication axis of the Plan, existing tools, such as the PPNEA/ EURONATUR newsletter and the Ramsar website, were kindly offered to be used until a general communication plan, as proposed by Mr. Papayannis, is put into effect (see below, Conclusions, para.6).

As far as the Sustainable Development axis is concerned, Mr. Kouvelis presented the Greek Ministry's thoughts on the content of the SAP study. He specifically said that Chapters C and D are the substantive ones, whereas the data of Chapter B should be kept to a minimum. He added that a memo with the Ministry's points will be circulated, and then briefly described them as follows: Focus should be placed on the social and economic problems in the three countries and specific plans should be drawn to address them; specific proposals should also be formulated with a view at organising transboundary co-operation, accompanied by preliminary budgets and funding sources. He concluded by asking for the express CC consent to the above.

Ms. Sieburger conveyed KfW's readiness to provide additional funds in order to cover foreign expert contribution to the SAP.

Finally, the CC approved the establishment of a hot line between the three government representatives for emergency assistance purposes, as proposed by Mr. Papayannis, until a more permanent contingency system is put in place.

Mr. Papayannis then introduced agenda item 3, i.e. operating arrangements for the CC and its Secretariat. After discussion, the proposed document was approved with necessary clarifications and amendments (see below, Conclusions, paras.12-14, and Annex II). The main issues of debate were the exact mandate and tasks of the Secretariat and the precise role of the participating NGOs, which are to be laid down in the Terms of Reference to be approved at the next CC meeting.

On the second day of the meeting, the first topic of discussion was the 2001 budget of the CC and the Secretariat (agenda item 4.1). Mr. Kouvelis presented the relevant allocations secured by the Greek Government's DAC budget through the SAP project, as they appear in Working Document 4.

Responses to a question posed by Mr. Papayannis, furthermore, made clear that the three involved NGOs also contribute in money or in kind to the effective operation of the CC and especially to the Secretariat's future work.

The CC members agreed with a proposal by the Chairman to have every contribution appear in the budget so that it is made clear what the CC and the Secretariat

operational expenses really are and who contributes what (see also below, Conclusions, paras.14-16 and Annex V).

With regard to agenda item 4.2, Ms. Akhtar (GEF) referred to the possibility for a large joint GEF project for Prespa, preferably under GEF Operational Programme 12 - Integrated Ecosystem and Resource Management, and then made a very useful, detailed presentation of the various items that have to be included in the Concept Paper, which, if accepted, would allow application for project development funding (PDF).

The CC members agreed that such a Concept Paper should be prepared before April 9, when the current deadline for submission expires and, therefore, accepted a proposal by Mr. Papayannis to hire expert consultants to urgently carry out this task. Ms. Sieburger kindly offered to cover the relevant costs, and that offer was taken up by the CC members with the condition that the consultants will be carefully chosen with a view at ensuring that the needs of the area are fully understood and that all CC members are properly consulted throughout this process, as stressed by Mr. Dedej (see also below, Conclusions, para.17).

The debate on financial matters concluded with an examination of point 4.2 of the Operational Plan. The government representatives agreed that they all have to contribute financially to the common effort for the development of the Prespa Park and that more detailed commitments should be made at the second CC meeting when a three year budget will be discussed (see below, Conclusions, para.16).

Ms. Sieburger then made a brief but interesting presentation of the KfW's work with special emphasis on the Prespa region.

Ms. Petra Andersson (OSCE, Spillover Mission to Skopje) spoke about the Mission's interest in the Prespa region and the ongoing initiative for the establishment of a Euroregion in the Prespa/ Ohrid area, which is likely to have significant benefits for the area and its people. In this connection, she stressed the importance of co-ordination between the Prespa Park process and all parallel initiatives.

Subsequently, the CC members informed the meeting on the activities planned to celebrate World Wetlands Day 2001, coinciding with the first anniversary of the Prespa Park, and accepted Mr. Papayannis proposal to organise a major joint event for 2002 and make a joint presentation of the Prespa Park in the upcoming Conference of the Parties of the Ramsar Convention in Valencia in November 2002 (COP8).

Mr. Kouvelis then asked the CC to endorse re-submission to REReP of an expanded hydrological project and undertook to consult with other possible donors so that the project gets under way as soon as possible (see below, Conclusions, para.3).

The Chairman asked the NGOs to communicate the appointments of the Secretariat members together with the minutes of the meeting to the other CC members (see below, Conclusions, para.18).

The CC then decided on the date and place of its next meeting, upon a proposal by Mr. Papayannis, (see below, Conclusions, para.20) and adopted the Conclusions contained in the following section.

Mr. Vassilatou (EU/Phare) followed with a brief presentation of a study commissioned by a Greek regional authority regarding the construction of a peripheral road around the Prespa Lakes. The CC asked to be officially informed about these plans, as proposed by Mr. Kouvelis (see below, Conclusions, para.19), especially as there were certain reservations voiced concerning the tracing of the proposed road through the Ezerani Ramsar site.

Finally, several CC members expressed their appreciation to the organisers of this first meeting and the Chairman declared it closed.

## Conclusions

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1. The CC has reviewed and endorsed the report on the activities since the Tirana meeting, as presented in working document 1.
2. The CC has decided to further examine the issue of establishing a Biosphere Reserve in the region at its third meeting, after receiving an in-depth analysis of relevant possibilities and benefits for the Park, to be carried out in the framework of the SAP project.
3. The CC concluded that the three Governments will consult with a view at expanding the existing REReP project, in order to include the activities proposed by the University of Athens.
4. The CC has reviewed the proposed Operational Plan and Programme of activities for 2001 and adopted it with the amendments proposed (see Annex I).
5. The CC has instructed its Secretariat to proceed with the compilation of the inventory of all activities in the region, using the approved form prepared by the *interim* Secretariat, which needs to be annotated (see Annex III).
6. Information dissemination will be organised by the Secretariat in the year 2001. The Secretariat shall prepare a Communication Plan to be adopted by the CC at its second meeting. The awareness and involvement of the intermediate levels of government and the local societies must be one of the urgent tasks of the CC and of its Secretariat.
7. The Secretariat shall prepare a detailed plan for celebrating the second anniversary of the Park on 2 February 2002.
8. Furthermore, a direct communication network among the three government representatives in the CC will be established in order to mobilise transboundary assistance in case of natural or anthropogenic calamities.
9. The CC requests the team that will be responsible for the preparation of the SAP (see Annex IV) to investigate all possible options for the enlargement of collaboration concerning the Prespa Park on the local, regional and international levels.
10. The contents of the SAP will be reviewed in conformity with the guidelines discussed and approved by the CC, as proposed by the Ministry of Environment of Greece.
11. The Macedonian and Albanian sides have to undertake any required actions in order to obtain all necessary permits for the construction of the environmental monitoring centres, so as to be ready to start implementing the project as soon as the Greek side will provide the necessary financial means on the basis of a reviewed project proposal.
12. The CC has reviewed the Operational Arrangements for the CC and its Secretariat and has adopted them with the appropriate amendments (see Annex II).

13. The CC has decided to entrust the Secretariat with preparing Terms of Reference for the latter's tasks and duties (paragraph 19 of working document 3), which will be reviewed at the CC's second meeting.
14. Paragraphs 13 and 22 of working document 3 shall be approved later via written approval by each CC member, together with the Budget for 2001 (see next point).
15. The CC has reviewed working document 4 and decided it should be redrafted by the Secretariat. The new draft shall present the full operational budgets indicating the sources of the means (see Annex V). The amounts shall be expressed in Euros. The final approval shall be given by written confirmation of the CC members within one month.
16. The CC has entrusted the Secretariat to prepare a three-year operational budget for 2002-2004, to be reviewed at the second meeting of the CC.
17. The CC decided to submit a Concept Paper for a project to be financed by GEF. The Chairman shall work closely with KfW in appointing a technical expert to prepare the concept paper. The time schedule for these activities shall be as follows:
 

- recruitment of the expert	10 February
- drafting the Concept Paper	10 March
- completion of the draft with UNDP	24 March
- endorsement letter by GEF NFP	1 April
- revision by the CC members	5 April
- submission to GEF	9 April
18. The CC has decided that the members of its Secretariat shall be from the three collaborating NGOs: SPP, PPNEA and MAP. The names of the persons shall be communicated to the CC members together with the Minutes of the meeting. The Secretariat members shall be different than the NGO representatives in the CC.
19. The CC, through its Secretariat, will officially request to be informed about the peripheral road plans by the competent authorities.
20. The next regular meeting of the CC will be held in Aghios Germanos, Greece, on September 24-25, 2001.
21. The CC expressed its gratitude to the donor community for their interest in the Prespa Park demonstrated by their participation in the first meeting of the Committee. Furthermore, the CC encouraged the donor community to closely coordinate its efforts in order to ensure the greatest synergy in favour of the Prespa region and its people.
22. Finally, the CC expressed its gratitude to the Government of the FYR of Macedonia for its warm hospitality and excellent organisation of its first meeting.

## **Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee Operational Plan and Programme of Activities - 2001**

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In the first year of its operation, the provisional Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee has to lay solid foundations for its future work. Its role, according to the Tirana Meeting decisions that have been endorsed by the three governments involved in the Prespa Park process, is envisaged to be at the same time political, administrative, institutional and technical so that the objectives of the Prespa Park, as laid down in the Declaration of February 2, 2000, become reality (see Tirana Meeting documents, Appendix I, at points 6 and 7).

In this framework, the Co-ordination Committee has been bestowed with a series of specific responsibilities (see Tirana Meeting documents, Appendix I, at points 8-10). It follows that the central issue that the Committee has considered in its first meeting was how to organise and plan its work during this first year, in order to produce tangible results while building a simple but flexible institutional structure that will serve the trilateral co-operation in Prespa. This work will focus on three main axes, **Communication, Sustainable Development and Research, Monitoring and Conservation.**

### **1. Communication**

The first challenge facing the Committee is how to organise its “clearing-house” function, i.e. collection and dissemination of information on activities of any kind that may have a direct or indirect effect on the natural or socio-economic status of the Prespa Park area. The Co-ordination Committee, moreover, has to establish and maintain a communication channel with all bodies and organisations that have an interest in Prespa, including national authorities and services, NGOs, universities, international organisations etc. This is extremely important if the Committee is to fulfil its co-ordinating role and integrate all stakeholders and activities in the Prespa Park framework. To this effect, the Committee directly or through its Secretariat will

- 1.1. Inform all local, regional, national, and international authorities and organisations concerned with Prespa of the establishment of the Committee and ask for their collaboration. To this effect, a series of meetings with the bodies and public services involved could be organised in the three countries by the various Committee members.
- 1.2. Fill in the form included in Annex III with the required information on every activity that he/she is aware of.
- 1.3. Review in each meeting the inventory of activities and projects that will be maintained and updated by the Secretariat.
- 1.4. Allow public access to all non-confidential information contained in the inventory through the Prespa Park web site. The Secretariat will consider and prepare a plan for the creation of this web site to be approved at the second meeting of the Committee.
- 1.5. In order to establish and maintain the necessary communication channel, the Secretariat will also consider and prepare a proposal for specific action, such as a Prespa Park newsletter, with detailed budget, to be approved by the Committee at its second meeting.
- 1.6. Finally, the Co-ordination Committee should adopt a general Communication Plan, including specific actions for celebrating the second anniversary of the



Park. The Secretariat will prepare a relevant proposal and submit it to the Committee for approval at its second meeting.

## **2. Sustainable Development**

The second main task of the Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee is to monitor and co-ordinate the formulation of a Strategic Action Plan for the Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park (see Tirana Meeting documents, Appendix II). This project is envisaged to run throughout the year 2001 and be completed in early 2002. The project will be implemented by the three NGOs involved in the Prespa Park process with Greek Government funds (see Annex IV).

- 2.1. The Committee will discuss progress made with the study at its second meeting.
- 2.2. The Co-ordination Committee will pinpoint to the relevant governments (or other interested bodies) gaps in information that emerge as the above-mentioned project unfolds and propose appropriate follow-up actions.

## **3. Research, Monitoring and Conservation**

In order to begin organising the necessary co-ordination of scientific research and monitoring in Prespa,

- 3.1. The Co-ordination Committee will monitor – during 2001 - the project concerning the establishment of biological stations in Albania and FYROM to be funded by the Greek Government. The project will be implemented under the supervision of SPP and according to the conditions that will be set by the three Governments.
- 3.2. The Greek Government should follow up on its commitment to examine the partial funding of the project for the Enhancement of the Hydrological Regime and Conservation of Biodiversity of the Prespa Balkan Park, endorsed at the November 2000 REReP Task Force Meeting.
- 3.3. The Secretariat should compile a list of all scientists that have worked on Prespa.
- 3.4. The Co-ordination Committee will also have to establish a mechanism for the provision of mutual emergency assistance in case of unexpected natural or anthropogenic hazard. To this effect, the Secretariat will prepare a relevant plan and submit it to the Committee for approval at its second meeting.

## **4. Funding**

The Co-ordination Committee will evaluate possible funding sources at a national, European and international level to enable implementation of all the above activities. The Secretariat will be responsible for collecting all relevant information, such as calls of interest, and presenting it to the Committee members in due course.

- 4.1. A first action to be pursued is the submission of a Concept Paper that would allow application for project preparation funding to GEF.

- 4.2. In parallel, all three Governments have to make sure that the minimum core funding for the implementation of the Prespa Park work plan is made available.

## **Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee Operating Arrangements**

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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 (CC)**

#### **Structure of the Committee**

1. **Chairperson:** The CC 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 CC 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).<sup>1</sup>

#### **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 CC.
6. **Extraordinary meetings:** Such meetings can be held either at the request of the Chairperson or of at least 4 members of the CC to deal with urgent and unexpected developments. Members should be consulted by the Secretariat as to their

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

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 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 CC at least one month before the meeting, so that they have the possibility to make comments.
10. Quorum: The CC 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 CC 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 CC 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 CC 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 CC 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 CC. At this stage, the Secretariat will consist of three persons, belonging to the non-governmental organisations members of the CC. 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 CC work plan, to be approved at the last regular CC 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 CC. 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 CC.
20. Guidance and supervision: The work of the Secretariat will be guided by the decisions of the CC and will be supervised by the Chairperson of this Committee. The Secretariat will submit to the CC 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 CC 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.

## Activities relating to Prespa

<b>Organisation(s) and/or body(-ies) involved</b>	
<b>Type of organisation</b>	
<b>Title of activity</b>	
<b>Description of activity</b>	
<b>Budget</b>	
<b>Funding sources</b>	
<b>Contact person(s)</b>	
<b>Expected output</b>	
<b>Start Date</b>	
<b>End Date</b>	

## **Programme for the Preparation of a Strategic Action Plan for the Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park**

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### **1. Introduction**

The Prespa region, which is shared by Albania, Greece and the FYR of Macedonia, has many common natural, economic, social and cultural elements. Its conservation and development therefore requires a Strategic Action Plan that has a common development policy and is implemented simultaneously in the three countries. The development of the wider Prespa region should depend upon the same common principles and share an integrated vision and direction.

Consequently, it is proposed to prepare a pilot development programme based on the principles of sustainable development that reflects the Prespa location, its unique natural values and its socio-economic character. This programme will provide the opportunity for the three governments to co-operate for the benefit of their countries.

On the basis of the above concept, in 1999, the Society for the Protection of Prespa and WWF Greece submitted to the Greek Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Environment a proposal that related to the creation of the first transboundary protected region in the Balkans. The proposal was immediately accepted by the governments of the three states, so on the 2 February 2000 a Joint Declaration between Albania, Greece, and the FYR of Macedonia for the establishment of the Prespa Park, the first transboundary protected region in the Balkans, was signed by the three Prime Ministers.

The current proposal is the next step following the signing of the Declaration. Its goal is the comprehensive planning for proper implementation of the Declaration through the preparation of an integrated Strategic Action Plan for the sustainable development and effective management of this transboundary protected area. The need for this step was unanimously endorsed in the trilateral working meeting for the establishment of the Prespa Park (Tirana, 16-17/10/2000), where representatives of the competent environmental ministries from the three countries as well as of the NGOs active in the Prespa region took part.

The participation of NGOs from the three countries in the preparation of the Plan will constitute an important contribution to these objectives, due to their long-term experience in the Prespa region and knowledge of ecological and development issues relevant to protected area management.

### **2. Overall Goal of the Strategic Action Plan**

The overall goal of the Strategic Action Plan is to promote the sustainable development of the Prespa Park, including conservation of the natural and cultural values of the region, and to determine the major management challenges that call for a common strategy in all three countries in the framework of the trilateral co-operation, through the preparation of a Strategic Action Plan.

### **3. Proposed works - Expected results**

The Strategic Action Plan will include the following:

#### **A. Introduction**

1. Aims and objectives of the plan
2. Description of the Prespa Park catchment area
3. Placing the Prespa Park in the wider region
4. Designated areas and existing management regimes.

B. Outline and analysis of the area

1. Abiotic environment
  - 1.1 Geomorphology
  - 1.2 Geology
  - 1.3 Climate
  - 1.4 Hydrology, water quality
  - 1.5 Pedology
2. Biotic environment
  - 2.1 Vegetation and flora
  - 2.2 Fauna
  - 2.3 Threatened endemic rare and protected species and habitats
  - 2.4 Specification and evaluation of designated areas/habitats
3. Ecosystem functioning
  - 3.1 Identification of ecological processes
  - 3.2 Anthropogenic impacts on ecosystem integrity
    - Interventions to the hydrology
    - Degradation of the ecosystems
    - Unsustainable spatial planning
4. Anthropogenic environment
  - 4.1 Primary sector (agriculture, stock raising, fisheries, forestry, mineral extraction)
  - 4.2 Secondary sector (processing, manufacture, small industry)
  - 4.3 Tertiary sector (tourism in particular)
5. Social parameters and trends
  - 5.1 Demographic records
  - 5.2 Residential structure and services
  - 5.3 Administrative structure and social infrastructure
  - 5.4 Network of technical infrastructure
  - 5.5 Transport network and facilities
  - 5.6 Domestic water supply, irrigation systems, sewage treatment, waste disposal
  - 5.7 Power and telecommunication infrastructure
  - 5.8 Cultural elements (such as monuments, archaeological sites, traditional buildings)

C. Complete appraisal and evaluation of the area and synthesis of all records

1. Analysis of the basic strategic and political keystones for the development and protection of Prespa Park
2. Identification of specific indicators for environmental protection and sustainable development



3. Identification of the fundamental management issues that relate to all three countries and require co-ordination on a catchment basis, such as:
  - 3.1 Management of waters
  - 3.2 Management of ecosystems and species, including agro-ecosystems
  - 3.3 Management of sewage waste
  - 3.4. Spatial planning of activities and building
  - 3.5. Co-ordination and control of activities
4. Proposals for formalising the transboundary co-operation and the establishment of a management committee for the Prespa Park

D. Proposals for specific programmes and management measures per sector, taking into account the particularities of each country, including networks for transboundary co-operation.

1. Specific programmes for the protection of the environment in the region as a whole, and actions depending on the needs of each country
2. Specific programmes for the promotion of sustainable development in the region as a whole and actions per sector of activity (primary, secondary, tertiary, infrastructure etc.), in each country

#### **4. Methodology**

The programme will be executed in two phases. The first involves the completion of Chapter A and the study of the elements of Chapter B by experts in the three countries (hydrogeologist, biologist, economist and other scientists depending on the needs that arise during the course of the programme); this phase will last five months. The second phase, which will analyse and synthesise the results of the first phase, i.e. prepare Chapters C and D, will be executed by all collaborating organisations and experts and will last seven months. Special experts from third countries with proven experience in the organisation and functioning of transboundary protected areas will contribute to the completion of the study. Finally, pursuant to the decisions of the Tirana Meeting, the Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee will supervise and support the execution of the study.

#### **5. Programme implementation bodies**

Overall co-ordination of the execution of the project is assigned to the Society for the Protection of Prespa. Dr. Giorgos Catsadorakis, SPP Scientific Advisor, will be the Scientific Co-ordinator of the project. World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) – Greece will be the collaborating body in Greece. For the organisation and co-ordination of the project in Albania, the NGO «Protection and Preservation of the Natural Environment in Albania» (PPNEA), with Mr. Spase Shumka as Scientific Co-ordinator, will act as Project Implementation Unit. In the FYR of Macedonia, the Project Implementation Unit will be the NGO “Macedonian Alliance for Prespa”, with Prof. Branko Micevski as Scientific Co-ordinator. These NGOs have been appointed by their respective governments as the NGO partners in the Prespa Park process.

#### **Brief C.V. of G.E.Catsadorakis**

G.E.Katsadorakis was born in Athens in 1958.

He studied biology at the University of Athens. In 1990, he received his PhD degree from the Division of Ecology and Taxonomy, Department of Biology, University of Athens, for his thesis on the ecology of the passerine birds of the Prespa National Park.

He has participated in 12 scientific conferences in Greece and abroad, where he has presented 10 papers.

He has delivered more than twenty lectures on ecology and biodiversity management.

He has published 25 papers in established international scientific ecological and ornithological journals and has written more than 20 articles in ecological magazines; he has also written 18 unpublished papers. Most of his scientific work relates to the Prespa ecosystem, the ecology of pelicans, waterfowl, and fish, and the relationship between man and nature.

He has also authored seven books on ecological issues, six of which deal with the ecology, geography and folklore culture of Prespa.

He participated in the establishment and operation of the SPP, with which he collaborated on many occasions, and of which he has always been a scientific advisor. He is a freelance biologist, expert in biotope, and especially wetland, management, ornithology, and monitoring.

He is fluent in English and has a limited command of French.

Since 1998 he works as a scientific advisor of WWF-Greece.

### **Contact details of project implementation bodies**

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**6. Duration of the programme**

The total duration of the programme will be twelve months after the signing of the relevant contract.

**REPORT OF THE FIRST REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRESPA PARK CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE  
ANNEX IV**

**7. Timetable**

<i>Activities</i>		<i>Months</i>												
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
<b>A. Introduction</b>														
1.	Aims and objectives of the plan	X												
2.	Description of the Prespa Park catchment area	X												
3.	Placing the Prespa Park in the wider region	X	X	X										
4.	Designated areas and existing management regimes	X	X	X										
<b>Meeting of the Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee</b>		X												
<b>B. Outline and analysis of the area</b>														
1.	Abiotic environment		X	X	X	X								
2.	Biotic environment		X	X	X	X								
3.	Ecosystem functioning		X	X	X	X								
4.	Anthropogenic environment		X	X	X	X								
5.	Social parameters and trends		X	X	X	X								
<b>Workshop</b>							X							
<b>Meeting of the Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee</b>								X						
<b>C. Complete appraisal and evaluation of the area and synthesis of all records</b>														
1.	Analysis of the basic strategic and political keystones for the development and protection of Prespa Park						X	X	X	X	X			
2.	Identification of specific indicators for environmental protection and sustainable development						X	X	X	X	X			
3.	Identification of the fundamental management issues that relate to all three countries and require co-ordination on a catchment basis							X	X	X	X	X		
4.	Proposals for formalising the transboundary co-operation and the establishment of a management committee for the Prespa Park							X	X	X	X	X		
<b>D. Proposals for specific programmes and management measures per sector</b>														
1.	Specific programmes for the protection of the environment in the region as a whole, and actions depending on the needs of each country								X	X	X	X	X	
2.	Specific programmes for the promotion of sustainable development in the region as a whole and actions per sector of activity in each country								X	X	X	X	X	
<b>One-day conference before the finalisation of the study</b>														X

<b>REPORT OF THE FIRST REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRESPA PARK CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE</b> <b>ANNEX IV</b>
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## 8. Budget

### A. Costs in Greece: (in GRD)

Transport costs	3,000,000
Dissemination activities (seminar and printed matter)	500,000
Publications	1,700,000
Fees	18,600,000
Administration	2,500,000
Total	<b>26,300,000</b>

### B. Costs in Albania and FYR of Macedonia: (in GRD)

Transport costs	8,300,000
Dissemination activities (seminar and printed matter)	3,000,000
Publications	1,700,000
Fees	17,600,000
Administration	3,000,000
Total	<b>33,600,000</b>

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>GRD59,900,000</b>
	(approx. EURO175,789)

The payments will be forthcoming in three instalments: GRD29,950,000 upon signature of the contract; GRD11,980,000 after the first phase is completed; and GRD17,970,000 after completion of the project.

**Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee  
Budget - 2001**

(in EURO, including VAT where appropriate)

	<b>GREEK GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>SPP</b>	<b>WWF-GR</b>	<b>PPNEA</b>	<b>MAP</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
First regular meeting of the Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee (FYR of Macedonia)	11,738.81					11,738.81
Second regular meeting of the Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee (Greece)	5,869.41					5,869.41
<b>Total cost of Co-ordination Committee meetings</b>	<b>17,608.22</b>					<b>17,608.22</b>
Remuneration of Secretariat member - SPP		8,804.11				8,804.11
Remuneration of Secretariat member - PPNEA	5,869.41					5,869.41
Remuneration of Secretariat member - MAP	5,869.41					5,869.41
Administration and travel costs - SPP	2,934.70	1,834.19	5,869.41			10,638.30
Administration and travel costs - PPNEA	1,467.35			4,956.42		6,423.77
Administration and travel costs - MAP	1,467.35				3,660.85	5,128.21
<b>Total Secretariat cost</b>	<b>17,608.22</b>	<b>10,638.30</b>	<b>5,869.41</b>	<b>4,956.42</b>	<b>3,660.85</b>	<b>42,733.19</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>35,216.43</b>	<b>10,638.30</b>	<b>5,869.41</b>	<b>4,956.42</b>	<b>3,660.85</b>	<b>60,341.41</b>

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**First Regular Meeting of the Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee**  
**List of Participants**

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