Additional information

Justification for the application of each Criterion

Criterion 1

The main habitats in Prespa National Park are forests, sub-alpine and alpine meadows, and aquatic ecosystems

Maliqi Lake was a shallow and eutrophic lake originally surrounded by a several hundred hectares large swamp fed by the Devolli River. The river was channelled at the end of the 1960s together with the drainage of the swamp and the water body of the Maliqi lake. The Devolli channel now collects spring rainfall and pours it into Micro Prespa lake. During the summer water is used for irrigation purposes downstream of the Devoll in the drained Korca plain (ex-Maliqi swamp). By this encroachment the upstream area of the Devolli river has artificially become part of the water catchment of the Prespa basin.

The Albanian part of the Prespa basin is formed by mountain ridges that separate the lakes' basin to the west from the Korca plain and to the north-west from the Ohrid basin. The highest mountain is Mali i Thate (Pllaja e Pusit 2,287m a.s.l.), which acts to extend the mountain ridge of the Galicica massif into Albania. In the southern part the Rakicka and Llapishti highlands border the basin. There, the highest mountain is Mali i Ivanit (1,763m a.s.l.).

The beauty of the landscape, in a rather macroscopic scale, which includes geological formations, waters, relief and in broad terms the vegetation. Moreover, the beauty of the landscape in a smaller (closer) scale which is certainly determined by the previous features, but also from the structure and form of settlements, the mosaic of biotopes and the form of agricultural zones. All the values are so connected between three parts.
The lakes as wetlands, which perform a number of functions such as storing and releasing heat; storing good quality drinking and irrigation water; sustaining food chains, fishing stocks, biomass; and providing recreation opportunities (water sports, swimming etc.).
In areas like Prespa, with immemorial human presence, preservation of natural values does not imply restrictions in the exploitation of natural resources or exclusion of the natural presence of people in certain locations, except in very few and small-scale cases. On the contrary, careful and conditional exploitation of natural resources constitutes not only a desirable but also an indispensable factor for the protection of the natural values of the area.

Criterion 2.

The fish fauna of Prespa is characterized by high endemism. According to the "Red List of Freshwater Fish in the Mediterranean", recently updated by the IUCN (2006), Prespa is characterized as one of the ten most important wetlands in the Mediterranean. The distinction as one of the most important wetlands in the Mediterranean is closely followed by Prespa's classification among the areas with the "greatest concentration of threatened species". According to the aforementioned IUCN Red List, all endemic species, except the Prespa Chub (Squalius prespensis) are characterized as Vulnerable (VU) or Endangered (EN). Apart from the internationally threatened conservation status for many of the endemic fish species of Prespa, some of these species are in European Directives and Conventions. For example, Pelasgus prespensis included in ANNEX II of the Habitats Directive 92/43, as an animal species of Community Interest, whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas for Conservation and Alburnoides prespensis is listed in ANNEX III of the Bern Convention, as protected fauna species. The Spined Loach, the Spirlin, the Bleak, the Nase, the Minnow and

the Chub are all lacustrine species endemics of the area, while the Prespa Trout is only found in the streams of the eastern sector of the basin, in Greece and the FYR of Macedonia. A recent study has exposed that the Prespa Barbel is more widely distributed in Albania and not confined to the Prespa basin.

Further references on the status of species and role of the lake and catchment itself can be found in the annexes of this form

The forests of Prespa National Park are characterized by an oak *(Quercus spp.)* zone, a transition mixed oak-beech zone, and a beech (*Fagus spp.)* zone in the higher elevations up to the tree line. The oak zone ranges from 600 m to approximately 1300 m asl. The woods are dominated by oak (*Quercus petraea, Q. frainetto, Q. pubescens and Q. cerris).* On dry, stony sites, Quercus trojana dominates. Also confined to dry and stony sites is a stand of the rare Juniper excelsa on the Kallamas Peninsula. As the trees in these dry oak and juniper communities often occur in solitary stands, patches in between them are often covered by grasslands (*Festucetalia*). The oak zone has been considerably degraded over decades. The shrubland species include *Crataegus monogyna, Cornus mas, Corylus avellana* and *Rosa canina*. Springs or rivulets are scarce within the oak zone. However, where they do occur, small wetland patches are surrounded by meadows.

The beech zone occupies elevations from 1,200 to 1,900 m. As well as the beech trees (*Fagus sylvatica, Fagus moesiaca*), *Acer obtusatum, A. pseudoplatanus* and *Corylus colurna* are also present. As in the oak zone, only a few areas are still in a good condition, and these remaining woods are still threatened by cutting. In the lower parts of the beech zone, close to settlements, some orchards of plum, cherry and apple trees have been established.

The alpine zone of Mali i Thate extends from an altitude of about 1,900m to the top of the mountain ridge. Various types of alpine meadows (*Seslerietalia*), dwarf shrub formations of *Juniperion nanae*, and communities typical of rocky sites and crevices are found above the timberline. This alpine meadow zone is rich in floral biodiversity, and is also important habitat for endangered reptiles.

The Prespa aquatic ecosystems are comprised of the Albanian parts of Macro Prespa and Micro Prespa Lakes with a total area of 4,950 ha. The aquatic vegetation can be classified into three main communities: *Lemnetum,* (comprising the vegetation of floating plants), *Myriophyllo-Nupharetum* (comprising submerged and partially floating vegetation), and *Phragmitetum and Typhetum* (comprising the immersed aquatic vegetation).

The aquatic plant communities are divided into several associations: *Typhetum latifolia, Schoenoplecto- Phragmitetum, Potametum perfoliati, Potameto vallisnerietum, Myriopylletonupharetum and Lemneto-Spirodeletum polyrhizae.*

The avifauna of the two Prespa Lakes is represented by approximately 285 species. Among them are globally endangered species such as the two pelican species of Europe, the Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) and the White Pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*), which have breeding sites only in the Greek part of the Micro Prespa Lake but which forage for fish all across the Macro and Micro Prespa Lakes. The Pygmy Cormorant (*Phalacrocoraxpygmaeus*) both breeds and winters at the two lakes.

Among the mammals, 27 species have been recorded despite the fact that a systematic inventory of fauna has not yet been completed. Among amphibians, while no comprehensive studies have been carried out in the Albanian part of the Prespa region, 9 species have been recorded. Most common are *Triturus cristatus, Triturus vulgaris, Bufo bufo, Bufo viridis, Hyla arborea, Rana dalmatina* and *Rana balcanica*. *Salamandra salamandra* was found in only six places, and

Bombina variegate was found in only five locations. The rarest amphibian species is *Rana graeca*, which may occur only in one place within the Albanian part of the Prespa Lakes' watershed. So far, 14 reptile species have been recorded in the Albanian part of the region, including two rare species, *Coluber najadum* and *Coronella austriaca,* and the threatened tortoise *Testudo hermanii.*

Criterion 8

There have been described twenty three species of fish within the Prespa basin and nine of these have been identified as endemic to the area (see table below: Shumka unpublished data).

No.	Species	Origin	IUCN red List	Berne Convention Annex	Albanian Red List 2007
1	Anguilla anguilla*	Native	VU		
2	Alburnoides prespensis	Native	VU		
3	Alburnus belvica	Native	CR		
4	Barbus prespensis	Native	VU		LRcd
6	Chondrostoma prspense	Native	VU		
7	Cobitis meridionalis	Native	VU	&	LRlc
8	Pelasgus prespensis	Native	EN		
16	Rutilus prespensis	Native	LC		
18	Salmo peristericus	Native	EN		
20	Squalius prespensis	Native	LC		

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Apart from the internationally threatened conservation status for many of the endemic fish species of Prespa, some of these species are in European Directives and Conventions. For example, Pelasgus prespensis included in ANNEX II of the Habitats Directive 92/43, as an animal species of Community Interest, whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas for Conservation and Alburnoides prespensis is listed in ANNEX III of the Bern Convention, as protected fauna species. The Spined Loach, the Spirlin, the Bleak, the Nase, the Minnow and the Chub are all lacustrine species endemics of the area, while the Prespa Trout is only found in the streams of the eastern sector of the basin, in Greece and the FYR of Macedonia. A recent study has exposed that the Prespa Barbel is more widely distributed in Albania and not confined to the Prespa basin.

Alburnoides prespensis (Spirlin): This species is generally a riverine species, and is found rarely in lakes. It is endemic to Prespa lakes. It is a non-commercial species. Based on the monitoring at Lake Lesser Prespa(greek colleagues), it showed strong decline in one station and stability in another station. In Lake Greater Prespa, in 2007 it showed the lowest abundance. Consequently, it is a species of concern, a hypothesis about its "decline" is negative impact of introduced species such as *Pseudorasbora parva* and *Lepomis gibbosus*. In Albanian side in the year 2011 there is an evidently clear increase of its presence.

Alburnus belvica (Prespa bleak): This species is the most abundant fish species with *Rutilus prespensis* in both Prespa lakes. It is endemic to Prespa lakes. It is a commercial species. It shows an increasing significant trend in Lake Lesser Prespa and stability in Lake Greater Prespa. According to Crivelli et alt. (2007), this species is one of the major prey of piscivorous water birds and is a also a target species of fishermen and local people. Thanks to its life-history strategy it can cope with such a high predation mortality. On Albanian side it is the dominant economic resource in terms of fishery.

Barbus prespensis (Prespa barbel): This species is generally a riverine species, and is found rarely in lakes. It is endemic to Prespa lakes. It is a commercial species. In both Prespa lakes it showed recently a slight decrease which led to the publication of an Action plan for the species in the Greek part of Macro Prespa (Catsadorakis et al., 1996). Some specific habitats in Zaveri, Kallams and Gollomboch bay need a special protection in terms of barbell conservation.

Chondrostoma prespense (Prespa nase): This species is generally a riverine species, and is found very rarely in lakes. It is endemic to Prespa lakes. It is a commercial species. Its trend in Lesser Prespa is showing a rapid decrease. According to Crivelli (2007) it reproduces on gravel along the coast of Micro Prespa. In Macro Prespa, it spawns on the coast, but it also enters at night the permanent rivers for spawning, starting late April to late May when the water temperature in the stream is 6 to 12° C (Crivelli et al., 1997). Consequently, it is a species of concern, a hypothesis about its "decline" is an overexploitation by fishermen and by poaching during the spawning migration in rivers.

Physical features of the site

The basin of the lake as well as the relief has different slopes. The steep slopes around the lake go directly there, where the 10 m isobar in the majority of cases is close to the earth such as Akoll Cape, Gollomboçi peninsula, and in special cases can go up to 25-35 m far away from the shoreline such as Kallamas, Goricë e Vogël, Pustec.

The greatest part of the watershed is mountainous and hilly quite steep hugging the lake, in all directions. We can find in small areas such as Zaroshk, Pustec, Gollomboç, Goricë e Vogël, Kallamas, Shuec and Zagrodec of Micri Prespa bays and field shoreline 1o steep. The steeply mountainous - hilly relief from north border to south one, and south-east of watershed goes from 8-10o up to maximum (45 o) represented by precipices of Mali i Thatë, Mali i Ivanit up to Vejskovarit mountain (1532 m) of watershed.

	Surface Area of water body (km2)	Max. depth (m)	Altitude a.s.l. (m)	Categorised trophic condition
Macro Prespa	285	52	845	Mesotrophic
Micro Prespa	44	9	845-850	Eutrophic

Prespa watershed according to the climate division belongs to south - eastern mountainous Mediterranean sub region. Cold winter with long - times ices and cool summer not too dry are the climatic characteristics of the region. The annual average temperature is 10.6oC, summer days and ice days the mean temperature is 18.80C and winter temperature is 2.80C. During winter there are much snow days and icy days.

On the Albanian territory the Macro Prespa Lake has a coastal line of about 35 km, including different geomorphologic shapes, many capes. The Lake lies 853 m over sea level, and Micri Prespa Lake lies only between Zogradec and Shuec villages in Albania with a small surface in southeastern part of it, 5 km long and some metros up to 3.6-km width.

Through Wolf Gorge (Grykës së Ujkut) the Lake is connected to Devolli Valley. The watershed surrounded by high mountains, steep slopes, nearly vertical position, and proofs of its tectonic falling. Treni Cave lying close to lake is under the surface water level, and the second floor of it is wet. The cave is like a double vertical plased caves, and the second one is always dry. The surrounded mountainsides are low vegetated with low shrubs and big degradation. There are gravel streams out-falls in the lake with small deposition cones.

The total watershed area of Lake Prespa is 1425 km2. Macro Prespa Lake has a longitude and latitude 26.3 km and 26.6 km respectively. Micro Prespa Lake has a longitude and latitude 10.6 and 6.6-km respectively. Macro Prespa has depth of 54 m; the average depth is 18 m and water volume 5.2-milliard m3; the entire coastal line is 150 km long. The atmospheric precipitation is the main water supply of the lake (about 760 mm); a part of which fall as snow; the watershed evaporates is about 664 mm/year. The intensive discharge of Macro Prespa Lake water to Ohrid Lake flows on underground ways, because Prespa is 160 m higher than Ohrid Lake.

The theory that treats the territory of Ohrid and Prespa a single entity starts from the end of the 19th Century. The hypothesis for the possibility of the recharging of the St. Naum and Tushemisht Springs (of Ohrid Lake) by Prespa Lake were formulated by Cvijich in 1906. This hypothesis was later used by many hydrologists for water balance calculations for the Ohrid-Prespa Lake hydrologic system, and the contribution of Prespa Lake to Ohrid Lake has been evaluated.

Methods using environmental isotopes are based on the isotopic fractionation of natural waters from different geographic origins and different hydrological nature (IAEA, 1968; 1981; Bradley *et al*., 1972; Payne, 1972). Environmental isotopes are used in hydrology mainly in relation to problems relating to the origin of water systems (measurements of stable isotopes of hydrogen-D and oxygen-18O), and with problems of the dynamics of water systems (measurements of radioactive isotopes of hydrogen-T and carbon-14C).

Environmental isotope techniques have been used to demonstrate that St. Naum and Tushemisht springs are partially recharged by leakage of Prespa Lake water through the Dry Mountain karstic basin, but not from the Manchurishta and Golloborda (Albanian part) springs that issue to the Devolli valley.

During recent decades, after the construction of a dam, water from the Devolli River was introduced into Micro Prespa Lake, through a canal built for hydro-economic purposes and entering at the very south- western part of the lake. This transport continues only during the wet season of the year (September-April). During the dry period of the year (May-August), the waters flow out from Prespa Lake and are used for the irrigation of the Korcha fields.

Physical features of the catchment area

The Prespa area is located between the latitudes 400 43'and 400 51' North and 200 00"and 200 10' East, in the north-eastern part of the Prefecture of Korça Prespa basin belongs to the Pelagonian zone. Its formation is attributed to Eocene tectonic activity.

The substratum of the area comprises a Paleozoic intensely metamorphic system with gneisses, schists, amphibolites and small marble intercalations. The upper part of this system contains mainly schists and in smaller proportion cipolins, marble and serpentines. On top of Paleozoic formations rest Permo- carboniferous to Lower Triassic, slightly metamorphic rocks with intercalations of limestone lenses. These are metamorphic conglomerates, sandstones and arkoses in the deeper strata, passing gradually upwards to phyllites, locally greenstone and schists or various type (chlorite, sercite, graphite, muscovite). During Pleistocene, various sediments of colluvial and alluvial nature were deposited along the mountains, forming terrestrial terraces, scree and talus cones. Some narrow elongated beach ridges are formed between the Micro and Macro Prespa Lakes by wave action. Sands or mixtures of sand and gravel make up the ridges. Their relief does not exceed a few meters.

The geomorphology of the area is closely related to its geology and geological history. The following landforms are recognized in the Prespa: uplands; alluvial fans; flood plains; alluvial and lacustrine plain; organic deposits; beach ridges and colluvial deposits. The uplands comprise the highest parts of the region. Slopes usually exceed 35 %. The hills and the mountains show distinct geomorphologic features depending on their geology. In the areas of igneous rocks, the slopes have usually a sigmoidal shape. The ridges between drainage ways are short and randomly oriented. The areas of metamorphic rocks are randomly arranged with a rather variable summit elevation. The topography is more angular than in the igneous region, but drainage has the same rectangular pattern.

The surveyed area is crossed by creeks or channels with their watersheds located on the surrounding hills or mountains. All channels flow into the Prespa Lake. Three are the main sources of water in the survey area: surface water, i.e. taken from the mentioned creeks and channels, groundwater and lake water. In the lowlands the ground water is present in depths greater than one meter, but is also contaminated due to the careless application of heavy fertilization. NO3-N ranges from 3 to 20 mg/l, whereas NH4-N is less than 0.1 mg/l.

The mean annual temperature is 11.30C. The average temperature of the summer months is 20.50C and of winter months 2.70C. Coldest month is January with 1.40C; July is the warmest with 21.60C. The amplitude of the annual temperature is 20.20C. Annual precipitation is 597 mm. Sixty percent of it falls in the period September through February. In spring falls 24% of the mean annual rainfall. Main air humidity is 63%: maximum- 74% and minimum – 52%. About 17 days of snow and 21 days of frost occur annually in the area. North winds are very common in the Prespa region. The strongest winds, however, blow from the southwest, bringing cold aerial masses. They promote the freezing of the Prespa Lake in the winter and in general, they are responsible for the weather conditions in the region. Mean annual wind velocity is 1.8 m/s. According to Soil clasification and based on the values of average winter soil temperatures (6.80C), average summer soil temperature (19.10C) and the mean annual soil temperature (12.30C), the temperature regime of the Prespa soils are characterized as mesic.

The soils are described according to a system which includes information on geomorphology, direction of soil development, drainage, texture, gravel and stone content, presence of carbonates, soil erosion and the kind and depth of limiting layers or special properties.

Ecosystem Services

Hydrological values:

Groundwater recharge
Both Prespa lakes lie at an altitude of 850 m above sea level, while Ohrid Lake lies approximately 160m lower, at 690 m above sea level. The calcareous barrier formed by the two mountains Galicica and Mali i Thate do not prevent water from the Prespa lakes flowing underground to Ohrid Lake. Water flowing out from the Prespa lakes feeds two mighty springs at Ohrid Lake - at Drilon (Albania) and Sveti Naum (Macedonia). These two springs are the main freshwater supply for Ohrid Lake. These circumstances justify the consideration of all the three lakes acting as a combined aquatic ecosystem.

Sediment and nutrition retention
Lakes of Prespa serve as retention basin for sediments and nutrients that are used by wetland vegetation. Different domestic animals and fish use the vegetation as major food resource.
Parts of the hydrologic network of the area are the reservoirs for agricultural use or those located on the summery grazing lands (lerat) to meet the livestock's necessities. The capacity of these reservoirs is moderated as well. The reservoirs for agricultural use are created at the Tombile's valley (below the gorge of Biglla), at the Zad Bregu gorge (near the village of Lajthize), at the Todorica gorge and north of Rakicka basin. The so-called "Lera" are created in almost all the karstic lowlands and hollows of Mali Thate mountain peaks.

Scientific research:

- The KfW Project "Support to Prespa National Park of Albania" in the last two years was undertaking several studies related to vegetation, forestry, fishery, birds, etc.
- The Faculty of Natural Sciences at the Tirana University, Museum of Natural Sciences and Agricultural University of Tirana (Faculty of Forestry) are the main research institutions covering different aspects of ecosystems.
- National and international NGOs covered different research aspects.

Current recreation and tourism:

As it is happened around the country and wide region as well, tourism is becoming increasingly popular in Prespa, as both mainly domestic and international visitors to the most attractive places. Survey of tourism for an area of developing status, like Prespa show a great interest among travelers and other people within destination this area. Cultural trips, like nature tourism in Prespa often has been combined with other attractions (e.g. stays on the lake side, excursions to the different churches, mountains and upland areas, inland, monasteries, lunch in the village restaurants, etc..)

Analyzes of the existing tourism shows that there is no evidently influences on environment, but for some of the forms it is necessary the building of the adequate facilities like deposits for the wastes and treating as well (e.g. during the day of 30 July-most popular day for Prespa, each year the place of St. Marena Monastery is an arena visited by 1700 people).

The registered number for the years 2009-20011 is over than 5,000 visitors.

Current land (including water) use:

There are 8 villages at the proposed Ramsar area. Kallamas, G. Vogel, Golloboç, Liqenas, Lajthiza and Zaroshka at the Macro Prespa Lake and Shueci and Zagradeci at Micro Prespa Lake. The most populated village is Liqenas with 1.176 from the 5.202 of the total Prespa population.

The inhabitants of Prespa are mainly occupied in the primary sector of production, with agriculture as the main source of income; stock raising and fishing also contribute to the agricultural produce of the area in varying degrees, depending on the country.

The main economical activities developed in the Prespa region are agriculture, livestock raising, fishery and forestry. The main crops are cereals 90% (85% wheat), fruit trees 5%, and vineyards 5%. In 1985, 54% of the arable land was irrigated, while nowadays only 2% of the arable lands are irrigated since the old irrigation scheme was destroyed. The average farm size is 1.4 ha and since soil productivity is low, the yields are very low. There is a good potential for organic agriculture since there is no use of chemical fertilizers.

Social and cultural values:

Particularities of the local culture that are still preserved and mainly relate to the relationship between man and nature (e.g. special fishing methods, cooking recipes and food production and conservation methods, legends and traditions, dances, music and songs, agricultural and stock-rearing practices). The local old varieties of breeding animals and cultivated plants are well maintained. The great scientific interest both in the natural environment but also in all aspects of the man-nature relationship, in view of the fact that the area has almost always been isolated.

Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects

a) **within the Ramsar site:**

The threats to the Prespa ecosystem&Ramsar proposed area is affected by the following gaps:

- lack of integrated planning and weak inter-sectoral co-ordination;
- limited management and enforcement capacity;
- lack of financial and technical resources for ecosystem management and conservation;
- regulatory frameworks and policies not harmonized or co-ordinated among sectors and between the three countries;
- limited income generation opportunities leading to unsustainable use of natural resources and pressure on the ecosystem;
- limited incentives or disincentives to prevent or control environmentally unsustainable practices;
- The main threats on macrozoobenthos are considered the increase of sediment load as the result of erosion of the neighbouring area impacts this small bivalve and its ability to filter water. The eutrophication related to intensive agriculture practice and settlements in the adjacent area to the lake results in the growth of macrophytes, covering the soft substrate and diminishing the oxygen availability within the substrate (anoxic). The introduction of alien fish species for recreational fishing has contributed to profound modification of the natural ecosystem of the lake.

b) **in the surrounding area:**

However, the unique values of this ecosystem are being eroded at a rapid rate and threatened by increasing exploitation of natural resources, inappropriate land-use practices, and uncoordinated

sectoral policies and development activities leading to soil and water contamination and degradation.

The region is thus subject to different and even conflicting management regimes and policies, which further exacerbate the threats to the ecosystem as a whole and make unilateral and piecemeal response measures ineffective.

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

- not existing or inappropriate water management;
- large-scale forest destruction and erosion;
- overgrazing;
- over-exploitation of medicinal plants, fisheries and other natural resources;
- ecologically unsound irrigation practices;
- water and soil contamination from uncontrolled use of pesticides, raw sewage disposal and lake siltation;
- uncontrolled urban and other forms of development;
- pressure from increasing and uncontrolled tourism development

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

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

Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented

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

- Prespa National Park was established in 1999 for the rehabilitation and sustainable protection of critical terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems of the Macro- and Micro Prespa Lake area.
- The Council of Ministers ratified the Ramsar Convention in March 1996.
- The Ministry of Environment established in 2001 replaced the former National Environmental Agency (NEA).
- Approval of legislation framework on protected areas such as the Law "On Protected Areas", No. 8906, 06, 06.2002 - by the provisions of this law the IUCN category system is endorsed for Albania as well. There are also two decree of the government that are related to the procedures for the designation of the PA and the administration duties in 2003. The Law "On Transboundary Lakes", No.9103, date 10.07.2003 was approved by the Parliament as well. The Decision of the Council of Ministers "On Nature Monuments" No. 676, date 20.12.2002 established some 750 of this category in the whole country, Decision of Council of Ministers No 86, date 11.02.2005, "On the management Committees of protected areas"

In June 2004 a Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for entire transboundary basin was endorsed by Prespa Park Coordination Committee (PPCC). This plan foresees actions to be taken by three countries together and in their own. A GEF project is under implementation entitled Integrated Ecosystem Management in the The Albanian Prespa National Park (NPP-AL) covers an area of 27,750 ha including forests or shrub lands, pastures, natural and semi-natural meadows and aquatic areas, as well as cultivated lands.

The National Park Administration has its headquarters in the village of Gorice e Vogel (Macro Prespa in the existing Forestry Station, transformed into an Administration Centre).The National Park Administration depends upon the Central Executive organ (the General Forestry Directory, the Ministry of Agriculture) in accordance with related decision of the Government of the Republic of Albania.
Transboundary Prespa Park Region.

Currently is running the five-year Project "Support to Prespa National Park of Albania" (NPPA) started its activities in August 2010 and is aiming at the improvement of the park´s administration, the rehabilitation of the forests and pastures as well as integration of the National Park Prespa into a system of protected sites around the lakes by support of the nomination of a transboundary UNESCO Biosphere Reserve (TBR).

The PNP was established in 1999 and managed by a park administration which is financially still depended on the Korca forestry directorate which is in line management of Forestry Department of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Water Administration (MoEFWA). With the start of the KfW project the PNP is moving towards a budgetary independence as a prerequisite for a modern nature conservation management. A framework management plan from the year 2000 exists only, which does not serve much in the day to day management of the PNP.

The key activity in the first two project years will be the preparation of a comprehensive management plan, which is to be elaborated in a participatory manner and well adapted to the needs of the park´s administration.

- Transboundary Monitoring system approved at the level of Prespa Park and series of case monitoring in regard to fishes, birds, bats, etc has been implemented.

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