Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) – 2009-2012 version

Available for download from http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key_ris_index.htm.

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX. 22 of the 9th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2005).

Notes for compilers:

1. The RIS should be completed in accordance with the attached *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*. Compilers are strongly advised to read this guidance before filling in the RIS.

2. Further information and guidance in support of Ramsar site designations are provided in the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 14, 3rd edition). A 4th edition of the Handbook is in preparation and will be available in 2009.

3. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers should provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of all maps.

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1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD MM YY

Designation date | Site Reference Number

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2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:
June, 5th, 2013

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3. Country:
Albania

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4. Name of the Ramsar site: Albanian Prespa Lakes. (Liqenet e Prespes Shqiptare)

The precise name of the designated site in one of the three official languages (English, French or Spanish) of the Convention. Alternative names, including in local language(s), should be given in parentheses after the precise name.

5. Designation of new Ramsar site or update of existing site:

This RIS is for (tick one box only)**:**
a) Designation of a new Ramsar site X; or
b) Updated information on an existing Ramsar site ❑

6. For RIS updates only, changes to the site since its designation or earlier update:

a) Site boundary and area

The Ramsar site boundary and site area are unchanged: ❑

or
If the site boundary has changed:
i) the boundary has been delineated more accurately ❑; or
ii) the boundary has been extended ❑; or
iii) the boundary has been restricted** ❑

and/or

If the site area has changed:
i) the area has been measured more accurately ❑; or
ii) the area has been extended ❑; or
iii) the area has been reduced** ❑

** **Important note**: If the boundary and/or area of the designated site is being restricted/reduced, the Contracting Party should have followed the procedures established by the Conference of the Parties in the Annex to COP9 Resolution IX.6 and provided a report in line with paragraph 28 of that Annex, prior to the submission of an updated RIS.

b) Describe briefly any major changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site:

7. Map of site:
Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps, including digital maps.

a) A map of the site, with clearly delineated boundaries, is included as:
i**) a hard copy** (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): X;

ii**) an electronic format** (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) X;

iii) **a GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables** X.

b) Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:
e.g. the boundary is the same as an existing protected area (nature reserve, national park, etc.), or follows a catchment boundary, or follows a geopolitical boundary such as a local government jurisdiction, follows physical boundaries such as roads, follows the shoreline of a waterbody, etc.

The boundary of the proposed 'Albanian Prespa Lakes' Ramsar site is the same as the boundary of Prespa National Park regarding aquatic component but partly as the boundary of terrestrial component and its boundaries correspond to the watershed of the Prespa Lakes. The terrestrial ecosystem is dominated by the Mali i Thate (Dry Mountain) calcareous massif that extends south from the Albanian -

Macedonian border and represents an extension of the Galicica Mountain range immediately to the north. In the south it borders on the NP Prespa in Greece. The aquatic component includes all Albanian waters in Lakes Macro Prespa and Micro Prespa and the Island Malin Grad. 'Albanian Prespa Lakes' Ramsar site 15,118 ha include agricultural lands dedicated to the production of field crops, vineyards and orchards (2,133.23 ha), forests (7,262.4 ha), pastures and meadows (320.17 ha), settlements, roads, rocky and otherwise unproductive areas (167.33 ha), and the entire Albanian aquatic component of the two Prespa Lakes (5235.45 ha).

8. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude, in degrees and minutes):
Provide the coordinates of the approximate centre of the site and/or the limits of the site. If the site is composed of more than one separate area, provide coordinates for each of these areas.

Point 1:	x= 4491710.92 E	y=4531669.34 N
Point 2:	x= 4497778.10 E	y=4529977.61 N
Point 3:	x= 4497778.10 E	y=4529977.61 N
Point 4:	x= 4504975.15 E	y=4503812.55 N
Point 5:	x= 4504975.15 E	y=4503812.55 N
Point 6:	x= 4498389.01 E	y=4505964.24 N
Point 7:	x= 4490412.41 E	y=4513756.10 N
Point 8:	x= 4494260.71 E	y=4524540.87 N
Point 9:	x= 4491661.23 E	y=4527638.41 N
Point10	x= 4493116.41 E	y=4529349.63 N
Point11	x= 4491710.92 E	y=4531669.34 N

Approximate central coordinate**: N 40° 51′ 23′′ E 20° 56 ′ 43′′**

9. General location:
Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s) the site lies and the location of the nearest large town.
Prespa is located in the south east part of Albania, some 25 km from the town of Korcha (pop.est. 70.000). Prespa is the intersection border with Greece and FYR of Macedonia. 12 small villages are situated within the area of the proposed RAMSAR site. The whole population is settled in 12 human settlements. Their average distance from each other is 4,3 km but it ranges from 3,9 km in Micro Prespa to 4,5 km in Macro Prespa.
The differences in area's population are clearly shown in the following table:

Villages around Macro Prespa Lake:

No.	Village	Year 1900 Inhabitants	Year 1932 Inhabitants	Year 2009 Inhabitants
1	Lajthiza (Leska)	70	95	257
2	Cerja (Cerje)	120	140	234
3	Zaroshka (Zrnosko)	250	156	382
4	Liqenas (Pustec)	410	582	1.176
5	Djellas (Shulin)	400	531	563
6	Gollomboc (Gllobocen)	248	422	298
7	Gorica e Vogel (Dolna Gorica)	42	136	408
8	Gorica e Madhe (Gorna Gorica)	420	456	551
9	Kallamas (Tuminec)	360	310	738
	Total	2.320	2.828	4.607

Source: Commune of Liqenas

Villages around Micro Prespa Lake:

Village	No. of inhabitants
Rakicke	235
Shuec	210
Zagradec	160
Total	605

10. Elevation: (in metres: average and/or maximum & minimum)

Min.850 m Max: 2287 m

11. Area: (in hectares)
15,118.58 ha

Total area:……15,118.58 ha
Unproductive Area:…….. 13.40 ha
Pasture & Meadows Area:……320.17 ha
Forest Area:……...7,262.40 ha
Agriculture land Area:……....2,133.23 ha
Water surfaces Area:……..5,235.45 ha
Urban:……..133.38 ha
Urban &Agriculture:……..20.55 ha

12. General overview of the site:
Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland.
The Prespa region is located in the Balkan Peninsula, in south-eastern. It is a high-altitude basin which includes two inter-linked lakes, Macro Prespa and Micro Prespa and the surrounding mountains. Prespa comprises both terrestrial and aquatic components and its boundaries partly correspond to the watershed of the Prespa Lakes. The terrestrial ecosystem is dominated by the Mali i Thate (Dry Mountain) calcareous massif that extends south from the Albanian -Macedonian border and represents an extension of the Galicica Mountain range immediately to the north. In the south it borders on the NP Prespa in Greece. The aquatic component includes all Albanian waters in Lakes Macro Prespa and Micro Prespa and the Island Malin Grad. Prespa National Park's 27,750 ha include agricultural lands dedicated to the production of field crops, vineyards and orchards (2,100 ha), forests (13,500 ha), pastures and meadows (1,828 ha), settlements, roads, rocky and otherwise unproductive areas (5,372 ha), and the entire Albanian aquatic component of the two Prespa Lakes (5235.45 ha). Nevertheless, the NP Prespa-Albania still possesses a great diversity of fauna and flora amongst which many are of European and global importance.

13. Ramsar Criteria:
Tick the box under each Criterion applied to the designation of the Ramsar site. See Annex II of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines* for the Criteria and guidelines for their application (adopted by Resolution VII.11). All Criteria which apply should be ticked.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

14. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 13 above:
Provide justification for each Criterion in turn, clearly identifying to which Criterion the justification applies (see Annex II for guidance on acceptable forms of justification).

Criterion 1.

Prespa area is comprised of both terrestrial and aquatic components. The terrestrial ecosystem is dominated by the Mali i Thate (Dry Mountain) calcareous massif that extends south from the Albanian - Macedonian border and represents an extension of the Galicica Mountain range immediately to the north. The aquatic component includes all Albanian waters in the Macro Prespa and Micro Prespa Lakes.

Prespa National Park's 27,750 ha include agricultural lands dedicated to the production of field crops, vineyards and orchards (2,100 ha), forests (13,500 ha), pastures and meadows (1,828 ha), settlements, roads, rocky and otherwise unproductive areas (5,372 ha), and the entire Albanian aquatic component of the two Prespa Lakes (5235.45 ha).

The park's landscape and biotopes have been greatly disturbed through various human interventions for hundreds of years. The second half of the past century saw the greatest alterations when much of the park's forest was cut and there was tremendous grazing and hunting pressure. It should be noted, however, that under certain conditions, land use practices, such as grazing, mowing, and the creation of small woodland openings for agriculture or as a result of selective logging, have often created conditions favouring biodiversity. Aside from its natural and scenic values, the park also possesses great cultural and historic values. Numerous archaeological sites and Byzantine and meta-Byzantine monuments bear witness to the area's rich cultural and historic heritage. A hermitic church is found along the cliffs of the Macro Prespa Lake, and the remains of ancient churches are found on Mali Grad Island.

The population of approximately 5,000 within the park lives in 12 small and scattered settlements that are still replete with traditional forms of housing. In short, the landscape presents a striking combination of outstanding biodiversity values, landscape beauty, cultural and historical heritage values, and a longstanding relationship between the natural world and human settlement and land use that continues to influence and shape the landscape today.

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

Table 1: The Lakes System (Fremuth, 2000)

	Surface Area of water body (km²)	Max. depth (m)	Altitude a.s.l. (m)	Categorised trophic condition
Ohrid	358.2	300	695	Oligotrophic
Macro Prespa	285	52	845	Mesotrophic
Micro Prespa	44	9	845-850	Eutrophic

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 3.

Although no comprehensive studies have been carried out so far, it is known that the park's aquatic ecosystems are very rich in endemic species. It is believed that 80 % of the *Infusoria* of the Prespa Lakes are endemic On the basis of their endemism and rarity in Europe, the most significant plant species of the Prespa region include: *Centaurea prespana, Ramonda serbica, Narcissus poeticus, Diphelypaea boissieri, Crocus peristericus, Galanthus nivalis,* and *Lesquerexia syriaca.* The Prespa region's fauna is characterised by not only high diversity but also a high level of endemism at both lower and higher taxonomic levels. This is the result of numerous factors, including its location in the peri-Mediterrannean zone, its climatic characteristics, the very old age of the lakes, their geomorphology, the high altitudinal and microclimatic differences that exist within a small area, the presence of two different geological substrates (granite and limestone), and different land uses established in the territory over time.

There are 16 invertebrate endemic species of different taxonomic groups registered in the Prespa basin, including: *Spongilla prespensis, Dendrocoelum prespensis*, *Dactylogyrus prespensis, D. crivellius, Ochridacyclops arndti prespensis, Gammarus triacanthus prespensis, Gammarus rambouseki, Niphargus stankoi, Microcharon latus prespensis*, *Brachidesmus peristerensis, Hadena clara macedonica, Agrochola thurneri, Porphyrinia thurneri*, *Scythris crypta, Scythris similes,* and *Caryocolum xuthellum.*

In the Micro and Macro Prespa Lakes, 23 fish species have been recorded. Of the 23 species, 12 species are indigenous and 11 are introduced species. Of the 12 indigenous species, 7 are endemics. *Barbus prespensis, Alburnoides bipunctatus prespensis, Chondrostoma prespensis, Salmo trutta peristericus,* and *Chalcalburnus*

belvica are endemic to the two Prespa lakes, while *Paraphoxinus epiroticus prespensis* and *Rutilus prespensis* are endemics of the Balkan Peninsula.

Among amphibians, *Rana graeca* and *Rana balcanica*, as well as the subspecies *Pelobates syriacus balcanicus, Bombina variegata scabra, Triturus vulgaris graecus* and *Triturus carnifex macedonicus,* are considered to be Balkan endemics. *Pelobatus syriacus* occurs here at the westernmost limit of its global distribution and is found at relatively higher altitudes than usual.

Criterion 4.

Both the Dalmatian pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) (over 1000 pairs, i.e. the biggest breeding colony in the world) and the Pygmy cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*), both of which breed and winter in the Greek section of Prespa. The Greek Prespa is also the only breeding area of the White pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*) in the European Union, while Ferruginous duck (*Aythya nyroca*) breeds in the Ezerani Lagoon in the FYR of Macedonia and Micro Prespa in Greece. The ferruginous duck is classified as Near Threatened (NT) on the IUCN Red List. It is also listed on Appendices I and II of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS or Bonn Convention), Appendix III of the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, Annex I of the EC Birds Directive and Annex 2 of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (see also: Kear, 2005; Callhager, 1997; Robinson et alt., 2005).
All these and many other bird species use the whole surface of the two lakes in all countries as feeding grounds.

Criterion 5.

According to the last Inventory of Albanian wetlands, Macro and Micro Prespa fulfills this criterion as it regularly supports 20,000 or more water birds (Catsadorakis et alt. 2012: Wintering water birds in Prespa Lakes as revealed fully synchronised counts in the three littoral countries.).

Criterion 6.

The Dalmatian pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) is with over 1000 pairs the biggest breeding colony in the world of this species.
With these numbers of breeding Dalmatian Pelicans the species crosses the threshold of 1% of the biogeographic population multiply. (1% of *Pelicanus crispus* are 30 individuals; 700 = 23,3%; see Wetlands International "Waterbird Population Estimates", third Edition)

Criterion 7.

The aquatic ecosystems of the region are rich in endemic species such as the Prespa barbel (*Barbus prespensis*), the Prespa nose (*Chondrostoma nasus prespensis*), Prespa roach (*Rutilus prespensis*), Prespa trout (*Salo persitericus*), *Pelasgus prespensis*, and others. Of the 12 indigenous fish taxa identified, 6 of them are considered as vulnerable or threatened (endangered or critically endangered. (See the respective status in the Annex 2)

Among the **Macrozoobenthos** groups for the littoral zone **Spongia:** *Spongilla fragilis;* **Turbellaria:** *Dendrocoelum adenodactylosum, Dendrocoelum lacteum and Dendrocoelum sp.;*
Oligochaeta: *Potamothrix hammoniensis, Limnodrillus hoffmeisteri and Rhynchlemis comareki*; **Hirudinea:** *Glossiphonia complanata, Glossiphonia maculosa, Dina sp. And Erpobdella octuculata;* **Bivalvia:** *Dreissena polymorpha, Sphaerium corneum;* **Gastropoda:** *Valvata sp., Pyrgula prespensis and Gyraulus sp.;* **Crustacea:** *Rivulogamarus roeseli triacathus, Asselus aquaticus;* **Insecta:** *Chironomus plumosus, Chironomus sp. and Cryptochyronomus sp.*

According to IUCN register *Pisidium maasseni* is small freshwater bivalve is restricted to Lake Prespa, where the range of distribution is less than 500 km² and where there is a continuing decline in the habitat quality in relation with eutrophication and macrophyte growth affecting the oxygen availability for this species. The extent of the habitat is also shrinking, in particular on the eastern shore and the ecology of the species makes it more sensitive to habitat changes. It is therefore considered as Endangered (EN).

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		

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) (see Table above).

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.

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15. Biogeography (required when Criteria 1 and/or 3 and /or certain applications of Criterion 2 are applied to the designation):
Name the relevant biogeographic region that includes the Ramsar site, and identify the biogeographic regionalisation system that has been applied.

a) biogeographic region: Mediterranean region

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation): Eastern Mediterranean Region (according to *Waterbird Population Estimates, 3rd Edition*, 2002)

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16. Physical features of the site:
Describe, as appropriate, the geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; downstream area; general climate, etc.

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 1° steep. The steeply mountainous - hilly relief from north border to south one, and south-east of watershed goes from 8-10° up to maximum (45 °) 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 10.6^{o}C, summer days and ice days the mean temperature is 18.8^{0}C and winter temperature is 2.8^{0}C. 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 km^{2}. 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 m^{3}; 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-^{18}O), and with problems of the dynamics of water systems (measurements of radioactive isotopes of hydrogen-T and carbon-^{14}C).

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.

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17. Physical features of the catchment area:
Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, and climate (including climate type).

The Prespa area is located between the latitudes 40^0 43'and 40^0 51' North and 20^0 00''and 20^0 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. NO_3-N ranges from 3 to 20 mg/l, whereas NH_4-N is less than 0.1 mg/l.

The mean annual temperature is 11.3^0C. The average temperature of the summer months is 20.5^0C and of winter months 2.7^0C. Coldest month is January with 1.4^0C; July is the warmest with 21.6^0C. The amplitude of the annual temperature is 20.2^0C. 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 (6.8^0C), average summer soil temperature (19.1^0C) and the mean annual soil temperature (12.3^0C), 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.

18. Hydrological values:
Describe the functions and values of the wetland in groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.

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.

19. Wetland Types

a) presence:
Circle or underline the applicable codes for the wetland types of the Ramsar "Classification System for Wetland Type" present in the Ramsar site. Descriptions of each wetland type code are provided in Annex I of the *Explanatory Notes & Guidelines.*

Marine/coastal: A • B • C • D • E • F • G • H • I • J • K • Zk(a)

Inland: L • M • N • O • P • Q • R • Sp • Ss • Tp Ts • U • Va •
Vt • W • Xf • Xp • Y • Zg • Zk(b)

Human-made: 1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9 • Zk(c)

b) dominance:
List the wetland types identified in a) above in order of their dominance (by area) in the Ramsar site, starting with the wetland type with the largest area.

1. O Permanent freshwater lakes
2. Xf Freshwater tree dominated wetlands
3. Ts Seasonal/intermittent freshwater marshes/pools
4. 4 Seasonally flooded agricultural land
5. 3 Irrigated land
6. M Permanent rivers/streams/creeks
7. Tp Permanent freshwater marshes/pools
8. 9 Canals and drainage channels, ditches
9. N Seasonal/intermittent/irregular rivers/streams/creeks
10. Y Freshwater springs
11. Zk (b) Subterranean karst and cave hydrological systems.

20. General ecological features:

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site, and the ecosystem services of the site and the benefits derived from them.

The vegetation structure corresponds fully to Continental-Central European character with a slight influence of Mediterranean elements (Mersinllari, 1997 & 2000; Pavlides, 1997). Climatic and soil conditions favour the growth of a rich and interesting flora and vegetation; ca. 1000 species of higher plants have been recorded in this area, where most of them (ca. 65 %) consists of *hemicriptophytes* and *geophytes*, which are typical to continental climate. In lower parts of the region may be encountered Mediterranean species, only ca. 8 % of the total species; ca. 12 % of species are of Balkan origin, growing up mainly in mountainous areas, mostly in Mali-Thate. Some rare or subendemic elements increase further the values of the vegetation, such as *Juniperus foetidissima, Cerastium tomentosum, Alyssum bertoloni, Hypericum spruneri, Silene sendtneri, Gypsophylla spergulifolia, Alyssum margrafii, Geranium dalmaticum, Buplerum kargli, Syderits syriaca, Orchis* sp. *diverse* etc.

21. Noteworthy flora:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 14, Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

Flora: *Alkanna noneiformis, Anchusa serpentinicola, Asperula doerfleri, Astragalus baldaccii, Centaurea deustiformis, Crocus cvijicii, Dianthus myrtinervius, Erodium guicciardii, Jurinea taygetea, Oxytropis purpurea, Pinus peuce, Rindera graeca, Sempervivum octopodes, Soldanella pindicola, Trifolim pilczii, Viola eximia, Botrychium lunaria, Crocus pelistericus, Gentiana lutea, Sideritis raeseri*

22. Noteworthy fauna:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 14. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc., including count data. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

Parabythinella malaprespensis. This species lies close to the sister (sub)species *Marstoniopsis macedonica macedonica* (Lake Prespa) and *Marstoniopsis macedonica graeca* (Vegoritis), the only three species known in the former genus of *Parabythinella* Radoman, 1973, which is restricted to freshwater lakes in Greece, Albania and The FYR of Macedonia. According to IUCN, *Parabythinella malaprespensis* is only known from a single lake with a small extent of occurrence (under 100 km^2) which has been declining in size and in the habitat quality due to over abstraction of water and eutrophication. It is therefore considered as Critically Endangered (CR) B1ab(ii,iii) and at present there are no species-specific conservation action plans in place. Again the main threats are the habitat loss due to the abrupt drop in water level (of several metres) caused by excessive abstraction of water for agriculture coupled with low inflow from the catchment due to extremely dry summers, is the major threat to this littoral species. In addition, pollution related to intensive agriculture practice in the neighbouring area, is responsible for the eutrophication of the lake. In relation with this, the biofilm (algae) present on the hard substrate is changing, diminishing habitat and food availability for this small gastropod. Herbicides might also impact diatom communities, which are the major food source for this snail. Introduction of alien fish species for fishing purposes has contributed to profound modification of the natural ecosystem of the lake.

The population of the European River otter (*Lutra lutra*) has significantly increased in the last two decades. The species considered as vulnerable (IUCN Red List) has been only partly monitored and considered as important tool for biological monitoring of the Prespa lakes (Bego and Malltezi, 2012).

23. Social and cultural values:

a) Describe if the site has any general social and/or cultural values e.g., fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological sites, social relations with the wetland, etc. Distinguish between historical/archaeological/religious significance and current socio-economic 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.

b) Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning?

If Yes, tick the box **X** and describe this importance under one or more of the following categories:

Prespa region is rich in cultural values, with remains dating back to the Neolithic and the Bronze Age, while the Byzantine and Ottoman empires have left significant monuments. The most outstanding elements are perhaps the various Byzantine hermitages and of course the stone-built houses, characteristic of the local architecture. Traditional practices, ranging from fishing methods to local festivals, still survive in the area.

i) sites which provide a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland:
Traditional fishing is represented through 'namet' or 'llovishte' and the land maintenances without intensive applications.

ii) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland:
Treni Cave in Micro Prespa; The fortification on Treni Cave; St. Mary church on Mali Gradi Island (Macro Prespa Lake), Hermit chapel of St. Mary in Glloboko near Bezmisht, etc.

iii) sites where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples:

iv) sites where relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland:

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24. Land tenure/ownership:

According to the data provided in the RDF Korca, based on the latest but outdated forestry inventory of 1985, some 13,500 ha of forest lands are included in the NP of Prespa (= 49% of the given NP area of 27,750 ha2).

The forest land of 13,500 ha has the following type of ownerships:
- State forest land 9,399 ha (69.6%)
- Communal forest land 3,721 ha (27.6 %)
- Private forest land 3 380 ha (2.8%)

(a) within Ransar site: 93% of the area is state property, and 7% is farmers property

Data for the Ramsar site:

Total area:……	15,118.58 ha
Unproductive Area:……..	13.40 ha
Pasture & Meadows Area:……	320.17 ha
Forest Area:……...	7,262.40 ha
Agriculture land Area:……....	2,133.23 ha
Water surfaces Area:……..	5,235.45 ha
Urban:……..	133.38 ha
Urban &Agriculture:……..	20.55 ha
Urban……	133.38 ha
Urban & Agriculture:……...	20.55 ha

(b) in the surrounding area i.e. in the Prespa National Park area the private property is equal to 12.18% or 2.8% of the total forest area.

25. Current land (including water) use:

(a) within the Ramsar site:

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.

(b) in the surroundings/catchment:

Korcha and Devolli Districts are composing the surround area of Prespa and their population for the year 2000 was 260 000 inhabitants that in considerable number are concentrated at the cities of Korcha and Bilishti. The main activities of this area are about crop production (since Korcha Field is one of the most productive in the overall country).

26. 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.

27. Conservation measures taken:

a) List national and/or international category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site:
In particular, if the site is partly or wholly a World Heritage Site and/or a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, please give the names of the site under these designations.

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 includes the whole aquatic area of the two Prespa Lakes on the Albanian side, which have to be considered as a sole biological and geological unit with a total surface area of 277.5 sq. km, with geographical co-ordinates:

b) If appropriate, list the IUCN (1994) protected areas category/ies which apply to the site (tick the box or boxes as appropriate):

Ia ❑;Ib ❑; II [X]; III ❑; IV ❑; V ❑; VI ❑

c) Does an officially approved management plan exist; and is it being implemented?:

A guidelines management plan is existing since 2002 and currently the MP is under preparation .

d) Describe any other current management practices:

-Fishery activities control and coordination among neighbouring countries since 2007, particularly the ban during the spawning periods.
-Forestry management and control

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:
e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

In 1999 Albania produced its first Biodiversity strategy and Action Plan (BSAP). Among the others the enforcement of Protected Areas is one of the priorities. There is foreseen to declare the Ohrid and Prespa area as Bisphere Reserve that still is not done.

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

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

As a follow-up to the Declaration of Prespa Park, the three states have established an interim "Co-ordination Committee for the Prespa Park" (CC) which includes representatives from the environmental authorities, local government, and NGO community in each country as well as the Ramsar Convention Secretariat/MedWet as observer. The main responsibility of the Co-ordination Committee is to ensure co-ordination among the three countries and concerned stakeholders to facilitate the establishment of the

trilateral Prespa Park, the protection of its ecosystems and the sustainable development of the region. The Committee is expected to become the formal body responsible for the implementation of the proposed transboundary, tri-lateral environmental and sustainable development program, benefiting the lake region.

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

In addition, the following supporting measures have been taken by 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.

29. Current scientific research and facilities:
e.g., details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

- 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.

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30. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:
e.g. visitors' centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

- National park authority plays a leading role with various activities (expo, press release, media events, work with schools, etc) i education and awareness rising;
- NGOs are working in both Micro and Macro Prespa, where the Education Centre in Zagradec village is operating since 2008.

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31. Current recreation and tourism:
State if the wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type(s) and their frequency/intensity.

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.

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32. Jurisdiction:
Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.

The proposed Ramsar area is under the territorial jurisdiction of Korcha Prefecture, belonging to two districts: Korcha and Devolli .

Functional jurisdiction is divided between different institutions (like other Albanian wetlands). Thus, management is done according to different institutional (sector) policies, as in the table below:

Responsible institutions for the management of the area Albanian Prepsa Lakes

Sectors	Institutions
Forests	Directorate of Forests Policy (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Water Management)
Fishing	Department of Fishery (Ministry of Environment,

	Forest and Water Management)
Tourism strategy	Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports
Environmental Legislation and approval of Management Plans	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Water Management
Territorial Planning	Council of Territorial Planning
Waters	National Water Council
Flora Fauna and Protected Area	Directory of Biodiversity MoEFWA
Archaeology	Institute of Archaeology (Academy of Sciences)

As seen in table above, different Albanian institutions are responsible for the activities concerning the administration of the area. Forests and pastures are managed by the Directorate of Forests Service; fishing by the Directorate of Fisheries (both under the Ministry of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Water Management). Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports is responsible for tourism strategies through the National Tourism Agency. The Ministry of Environment is the main public institution responsible for environmental protection. The highest consultative bodies at national level are the Council of Territorial Planning (KRT) and the National Water Council, both chaired by the Prime Minister of Albania.

33. Management authority:

Provide the name and address of the local office(s) of the agency(ies) or organisation(s) directly responsible for managing the wetland. Wherever possible provide also the title and/or name of the person or persons in this office with responsibility for the wetland.

The Prespa National Park authority that is acting under the Korcha Forest Services has the right of legal administration of the area of National Park. The already, approved management plan is the base document that is regulating all the activities inside the area of NP.

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34. Bibliographical references:

Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 15 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

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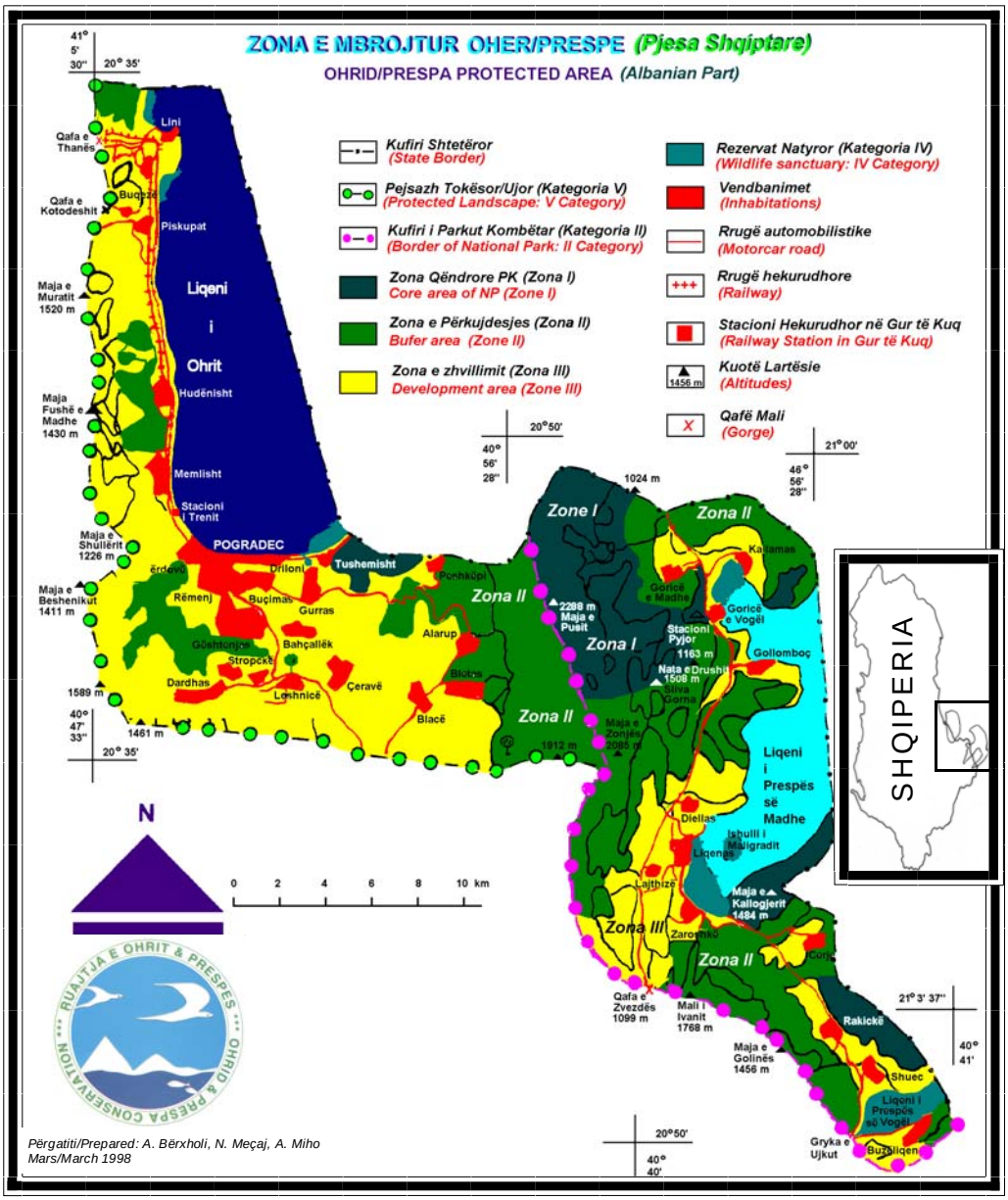
Annex 1: Map showing the Zonation of Prespa National Park;
Annex 2. List of summary fauna species;
Annex 3. List of Fauna species of Prespa;
Annex 4. List of endemic species;
Annex 5. List of fish species in Prespa;
Annex 6. Declaration on Creation of Prespa Park, 2nd February 2002.
Annex 7. Prespa Trilateral Agreement of 2009;
Annex 8. Content of Draft Prespa National Park Management Plan;
Annex 9. ToR of KfW Prespa Biosphere Reserve Project

Annex 1: Map showing the Zonation of Prespa National Park;



Annex 2. List of summary fauna species;

Taxonomic groups	Number of recorded species
Protozoa	3
Porifera	3
Turbellaria	3
Trematoda	40
Gastropoda	11
Bivalvia	8
Rotifera	58
Oligochaeta	20
Hirudinea	15
Cladocera	41
Copepoda	23
Ostracoda	20
Amphipoda	3
Isopoda	2
Decapoda	1
Myriapoda	20
Odonata	34
Plecoptera	28
Ephemeroptera	25
Trichoptera	1
Psocoptera	20
Lepidoptera (total)	1608
Noctuidae	356
Bombycidae and Sphingidae	160
Geometridae	238
Microlepidoptera	686
Rhopalocera and Grypocera	168
Diptera (Chironomidae)	25
Hydrocanthares (Coleoptera)	18
Pisces	10+13
Amphibia	11
Reptilia	21
Aves	280
Mammalia	51
Total number of species	**2401+13**

Annex 3. List of Fauna species of Prespa

Species	Distribution	Habitat	Importance/Threat
Potamothrix prespensis	μ M	Y	END/B
Psammoryctides ochridanus typica	μ M	Y	END/B
P. o. variabilis	μ M	Y	END/B
Spirosperma tenuis	μ M	Y	END/B
Arctodiaptomus steindachneri	μ M	Y	END/WB
Coenagrion pulchellum	μ	υ	VT, KO
Platychnemis pennipes	μ	υ	VT
Anisoptera			
Gomphus vulgatissimus	μ	υ	VT, KO, CORINE
Calosoma sycophanta		X	RED(V), CORINE, ECE(V)
Lucanus cervus		X	92/43 (II), BERN (III)

Note

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

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

CORINE: CORINE BIOTOPES PROJECT (1998) Technical hanbook1.

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

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

END/B: Balkan endemic species

END/WB : Endemic species of the western Balkans

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

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

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

Rare endemic Fish species in Prespa

Species	Importance
Salmo peristericus	KOK END R/V/E, ECON END
Alburnoides prespensis	KOK END, NAT II, BERN III, CORINE, CRIV END
Barbus prespensis	KOK END E, NAT II, 92/43 V, ECON END, CRIV END
Chalcalburnus belvica	KOK END, ECON END, CRIV END
Chondrostoma prespensis	KOK END, ECON END, CRIV END
Pelasgus prespensis	KOK END, ECON END, CRIV END
Rutilus prespensis	KOK END, NAT II, ECON END, CRIV END
Cobitis meridionalis	KOK END, NAT II, ECON END, CRIV END

NOTE:

KOK	Species mentioned in the Red Book of the Threatened Vertebrates of Greece (Greek Zoological Society, Athens 1992).
E	Threatened
V	Vulnerable
R	Rare
END	Prespa endemic
NAT II	Species included in Appendix II of the Directive 92/43/EEC but it is referred to with another name in the specific Appendix, as explained in detail in the Standardized Fact Form Natura 2000 for the Micro Prespa lake (Area GR1340002, Babalonas *et al.* 1995).
92/43 V	Species included in Appendix V of the Directive 92/43/EEC for the conservation of the natural habitats of wild fauna and flora.
BERN III	Species included in Appendix III of the Bern Convention for the conservation of the European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Decision 82/72/EEC of the European Committee).
ECON END	Endemic species according to the Checklist of Freshwater Fishes of Greece (Economidis P.S., 1991).
CRIV END	Endemic species according to Crivelli *et al.* (1997).

Important Amphibian species

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

		BERN II
10	*Rana balcanica*	92/43 V BERN III
11	*Rana graeca*	92/43 IV BERN III

Note

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

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

I, II, IV, V Appendices.

Important reptilian species

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

14	*Coluber gemonensis*	BERN II
15	*Elaphe situla*	92/43 II/IV BERN II
16	*Elaphe quatuorlineata*	92/43 II/IV BERN II
17	*Elaphe longissima*	92/43 IV BERN II
18	*Natrix natrix*	BERN II
19	*Natrix tessellata*	92/43 IV BERN II
20	*Coronella austriaca*	92/43 IV BERN II
21	*Vipera ammodytes*	92/43 IV BERN II
22	*Vipera berus*	BERN III

Note

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

Important Bird Species

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

6	*Botaurus stellaris*	KOK I BON II 79/409 SPEC 3
7	*Ixobrychus minutus*	BON II 79/409 SPEC 3
8	*Nycticorax nycticorax*	KOK K 79/409 SPEC 3
9	*Ardeola ralloides*	79/409 SPEC 3
10	*Egretta garzetta*	
11	*Egretta alba*	KOK E2 79/409
12	*Ardea purpurea*	KOK V BON II 79/409 SPEC 3
13	*Ciconia ciconia*	BON II 79/409 SPEC 2
14	*Plegadis falcinellus*	KOK E1 BON II 79/409 SPEC 3
15	*Anser anser*	KOK E2 BON II
16	*Tadorna tadorna*	KOK V BON II
17	*Anas penelope*	BON II
18	*Anas strepera*	KOK K BON II SPEC 3
19	*Anas crecca*	BON II
20	*Anas platyrhynchos*	BON II
21	*Anas acuta*	BON II SPEC 3
22	*Anas querquedula*	KOK K BON II SPEC 3
23	*Anas clypeata*	BON II

24	*Netta rufina*	KOK R BON II SPEC 3
25	*Aythya ferina*	KOK K BON II SPEC 4
26	*Aythya nyroca*	BON II 79/409 SPEC 1
27	*Aythya fuligula*	BON II
28	*Bucephala clangula*	BON II
29	*Mergus merganser*	KOK E2 BON II
30	*Pernis apivorus*	BON II CIT II 79/409 SPEC 4
31	*Circaetus gallicus*	KOK I BON II CIT I 79/409 SPEC 3
32	*Circus aeruginosus*	BON II CIT II 79/409
33	*Circus cyaneus*	KOK V BON II CIT II 79/409 SPEC 3
34	*Circus pygargus*	KOK E1 BON II CIT II 79/409 SPEC 4
35	*Accipiter gentilis*	BON II CIT II
36	*Accipiter nisus*	BON II CIT II
37	*Buteo buteo*	BON II CIT II
38	*Aquila chrysaetos*	BON II 79/409 SPEC 3

39	*Falco tinnunculus*	BON II CIT II SPEC 3
40	*Falco vespertinus*	BON II CIT II SPEC 3
41	*Falco columbarius*	BON II CIT II 79/409
42	*Falco subbuteo*	KOK II BON II 79/409
43	*Tetrastes bonasia*	79/409
44	*Alectoris graeca*	SPEC 2
45	*Perdix perdix*	79/409 SPEC 3
46	*Coturnix coturnix*	KOK K BON II SPEC 3
47	*Porzana parva*	KOK R BON II 79/409 SPEC 4
48	*Charadrius dubius*	BON II
49	*Vanellus vanellus*	BON II
50	*Tringa glareola*	BON II 79/409 SPEC 3
51	*Actitis hypoleucos*	BON II
52	*Sterna hirundo*	79/409
53	*Chlidonias hybridus*	KOK V 79/409 SPEC 3
54	*Streptopelia turtur*	SPEC 3
55	*Bubo bubo*	CIT II 79/409 SPEC 3
56	*Asio otus*	CIT II
57	*Strix aluco*	CIT II SPEC 4
58	*Athene noctua*	CIT II SPEC 3

59	*Caprimulgus europaeus*	79/409 SPEC 2
60	*Merops apiaster*	BON II SPEC 3
61	*Alcedo atthis*	79/409 SPEC 3
62	*Picus viridis*	SPEC 2
63	*Dryocopus martius*	79/409
64	*Dendrocopos syriacus*	79/409 SPEC 4
65	*Dendrocopos medius*	79/409 SPEC 4
66	*Dendrocopos leucotosi*	KOK R 79/409
67	*Calandrella brachydactyla*	79/409 SPEC 3
68	*Galerida cristata*	SPEC 3
69	*Lullula arborea*	79/409 SPEC 2
70	*Alauda arvensis*	SPEC 3
71	*Riparia riparia*	SPEC 3
72	*Hirundo rustica*	SPEC 3
73	*Anthus campestris*	79/409 SPEC 3
74	*Erithacus rubecula*	BON II SPEC 4
75	*Luscinia megarhynchos*	BON II SPEC 4
76	*Phoenicurus ochruros*	BON II
77	*Saxicola torquata*	BON II SPEC 3
78	*Saxicola rubetra*	BON II SPEC 4
79	*Oenanthe oenanthe*	BON II
80	*Oenanthe pleschanka*	BON II
81	*Oenanthe hispanica*	BON II SPEC 2
82	*Monticola saxatilis*	BON II SPEC 3

83	*Turdus torquatus*	KOK R BON II SPEC 4
84	*Turdus merula*	BON II SPEC 4
85	*Turdus pilaris*	BON II SPEC 4
86	*Turdus philomilos*	BON II SPEC 4
87	*Turdus viscivorus*	BON II SPEC 4
88	*Cettia cetti*	BON II
89	*Locustella luscinioides*	KOK K BON II SPEC 4
90	*Acrocephalus melanopogon*	BON II 79/409
91	*Acrocephalus shoenobaenus*	BON II SPEC 4
92	*Acrocephalus palustris*	BON II SPEC 4
93	*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*	BON II SPEC 4
94	*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*	BON II
95	*Hippolais pallida*	BON II SPEC 3
96	*Sylvia cantillans*	BON II SPEC 4
97	*Sylvia hortensis*	BON II SPEC 3
98	*Sylvia nisoria nisoria*	BON II 79/409 SPEC 4
99	*Sylvia curruca*	BON II
100	*Sylvia communis*	BON II SPEC 4
101	*Sylvia atricapilla*	BON II SPEC 4
102	*Phylloscopus bonelli*	BON II SPEC 4
103	*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*	BON II SPEC 4
104	*Phylloscopus collybita*	BON II

105	*Phylloscopus trochilus*	BON II
106	*Regulus regulus*	BON II SPEC 4
	Regulus ignicapillus	BON II SPEC 4
107	*Lanius collurio*	79/409 SPEC 3
108	*Lanius minor*	KOK K 79/409 SPEC 2
109	*Lanius excubitor*	SPEC 3
110	*Lanius senator*	SPEC 2
111	*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*	KOK K 79/409 SPEC 3
112	*Emberiza cia*	SPEC 3
113	*Emberiza hortulana*	79/409 SPEC 2
114	*Emberiza melanocephala*	SPEC 2

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

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

BON	Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals. 1979
CIT	Regulation 3626/82/EEC for the implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).
79/409	Directive 79/409/EEC for the conservation of wild birds.
SPEC	Species of Conservation Concern: 1. Species found in Europe and needing world-wide protection 2. Species whose world-wide population is found only in Europe and is not sufficiently protected 3. Species whose world-wide population is also found in areas other than Europe and is not sufficiently protected 4. Species whose world-wide population is found only in Europe and is sufficiently protected
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe (1991) European Red List of Globally Threatened Animals and Plants, UN.
I, II	Appendices of Directives, Conventions etc.

Important mammal species

	Species	**Importance**
4	*Crocidura leucodon*	BERN III
5	*Crocidura russula*	BERN III
6	*Neomys anomalus*	92/43 II/IV BERN III KOK K
7	*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*	92/43 II/IV BERN II KOK V
8	*Rhinolophus hipposideros*	92/43 IV BERN II
9	*Myotis daubentoni*	92/43 IV BERN II KOK E
10	*Myotis nattereri*	92/43 IV BERN II KOK E ECE I
11	*Nyctalus leisleri*	92/43 IV BERN II KOK E

12	*Pipistrellus kuhli*	92/43	IV	
		BERN	II	
		KOK	V	
13	*Pipistrellus nathusii*	92/43	IV	
		BERN	II	
		KOK	E	
14	*Tadarida teniotis*	BERN	II	
		KOK	E	
		ECE	R	
15	*Lepus europaeus*	92/43	IV	
		BERN	III	
16	*Dryomys nitedula*	92/43	IV	
		BERN	III	
		KOK	R	
17	*Muscardinus avellanarius*	BERN	III	
		END		
		ECE	V	
18	*Glis glis*	BERN	III	
19	*Spalax leucodon*	KOK	V	
		END		
		ECE	I	
20	*Micromys minutus*			
21	*Microtus epiroticus*	END		
22	*Canis lupus*	BERN	II	
		KOK	V	
		CIT	II	
		RED		
		ECE	V	
23	*Ursus arctos*	92/43	✓II/IV	
		BERN	II	
		KOK	E	
		CIT	II	
		ECE	Rev	
24	*Mustela nivalis*	BERN	III	
25	*Martes foina*	BERN	III	
26	*Meles meles*	BERN	III	
27	*Lutra lutra*	92/43	II/IV	
		BERN	II	
		KOK	V	
		CIT	I	I
		RED	V	
		ECE	V	

28	*Felis silvestris*	92/43 IV BERN II KOK V CIT II II
29	*Sus scrofa*	BERN III
30	*Capreolus capreolus*	BERN III KOK V
31	*Rupicapra rupicapra*	92/43 II/IV/V BERN III KOK R

Note

92/43	Directive 92/43/EEC for the conservation of the natural habitats of wild fauna and flora.
✓	Priority species according to Directive 92/43/EEC
BERN	Bern Convention for the conservation of the European Wildlife and Natural Habitats.
KOK	Red Book of the Threatened Vertebrates of Greece (Greek Zoologial Society, Athens 1992).

E	Endangered
V	Vulnerable
R	Rare

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

Annex 4. List of endemic species

Taxonomic groups	Prespa watershed endemics (Number)
Protozoa	
Porifera	1
Spongilla prespensis	
Turbellaria	2
Dendrocoelum prespense	
Dendrocoelum adenodactylosum	
Trematoda	3
Dactylogyrus prespensis	
Dactylogyrus balcanicus	
Dactylogyrus crivellus	
Gastropoda	7
Prespolitorea valvataeformis	
Prespiana lacustris	
Prespopyrgula prespensis	
Parabythinella macedonica	
Lymnaea (Radix) pinteri	
Planorbis (Crassiplanorbis) prespensis	
Gyraulus (Gyraulus) stankovici	
Bivalvia	1
Pisidium maassani	
Annelida	4
Potamothrix prespensis	
Psammoryctides ochridanus	
Peloscolex tenuis	
Stylodrilus leucocephalus	
Copepoda	1
Ochridacyclops arndti prespensis	
Ostracoda	5
Pseudocandona prespica	
Candona paionica minor	
Candona marginatoides	
Paralymnocythere karamani	
Leptocythere prespensis	
Amphipoda	3
Gammarus triacanthus prespensis	
Gammarus rambouseki	
Niphargus stankoi	
Isopoda	1
Microcharon latus prespensis	
Decapoda	1
Austropotamobius torrentium macedonicus	
Myriapoda	1
Brachidesmus peristerensis	
Plecoptera	
Nemoura pelisteri	
Lepidoptera (total)	17
Noctuidae	3
Hadena clara macedonica	

Taxonomic groups	Prespa watershed endemics (Number)
Agrochola thurneri	
Porphyrinia thurneri	
Bombycidae and Sphingidae	4
Bankesia macedoniella	
Zygaena purpuralis bukowkyi	
Zygaena laeta orientalis	
Zygaena achilleae winneguthi	
Geometridae	2
Chesias pinkeri	
Calostigia wolfschlageri	
Microlepidoptera	8
Scythris crypta	
Scythris similis	
Parachronistis lunaki	
Caryocolum xuthellum	
Pantacordis panthsa	
Coleophora macedonica	
Coleophora scabrida	
Bucculatrix pseudosylvella	
Pisces	7
Salmo peristericus	
Rutilus prespensis	
Pelasgus prespensis	
Alburnus belvica	
Chondrostoma prespense	
Barbus prespensis	
Cobitis meridionalis	
Total number of endemic species	54

Annex 5. List of fish species in Prespa

No.	Species	Origin	IUCN red List	Berne Convention Annex	Albanian Red List 2007	Observed in Albanian part of Lakes first time
1	Anguilla anguilla*	Native	VU			Last 1996
2	Alburnoides prespensis	Native	VU			
3	Alburnus belvica	Native	CR			
4	Barbus prespensis	Native	VU		LRcd	
5	Carassius gibelio	Nonantive				1973
6	Chondrostoma prspense	Native	VU			
7	Cobitis meridionalis	Native	VU	&	LRlc	
8	Cyprinus carpio	Nonnative	DD			
9	Ctenopharyngodon idella	Nonnative				1979
10	Gambusia holbrooki	Nonnative			LRlc	2006
11	Hypophthalmichthys militrix	Nonnative				1979
12	Lepomis gibbous	Nonnative				1996
13	Pelasgus prespensis	Native	EN			
14	Pseudorasbora parva	Nonnative				1998
15	Rhodeus amarus	Nonnative	VU			1992
16	Rutilus prespensis	Native	LC			
17	Salmo letnica	Nonnative	DD		VU	1982
18	Salmo peristericus	Native	EN			
19	Silurus glanis	Nonnative	LC	&		1996
20	Squalius prespensis	Native	LC			
21	Tinca tinca	Nonnative	LC			1998
22	Prabramis pekinensis	Nonnative				1979
23	Onchorynchus mykiss	Nonnative				1979

Annex 6. Declaration on Creation of Prespa Park, 2nd February 2002

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Annex 7. Prespa Trilateral Agreement of 2009

Annex 8. Content of Draft Prespa National Park Management Plan

Contents

Annex 9. Summary of KfW Prespa Biosphere Reserve Project

Project:	BMZ- Nr 2001 66 785
Project Title	Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Prespa - Support to Prespa National Park of Albania

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.

For this purpose a series of baseline information on habitats and its biodiversity have to be investigated. These are essential data for the management on one hand but on the other hand also as basic reference data for a Monitoring system to be elaborated and established in the framework of this project and to assess the quality of the management carried out by the PNP Administration on mid to long term.

The PNP was subject to a couple random scientific investigations and a systematic approach is now needed. It is especially important to identify the baselines for the following identified indicators to monitor the quality of the applied management:

- Forest cover in the Park: forest conditions should not deteriorate and forest cover shall not decrease as compared to baseline values.
- Integrity of significant habitats: Stabilization of the stock of selected key terrestrial species
- Ecological connectivity with Galicica National Park: No worsening of the ecological connectivity between the two national Parks compared to the baseline.

Little is known regarding the terrestrial wildlife in the National Park Prespa. A recent ornithological survey revealed fresh bear track and feaces in the southern part of the NP. Reports exist about few individual brown bears in the Galicica National Park connected to the Albanian National Prk to the north. Periodically over the last 10 years, ornithologists and other interested individuals have visited the region and compiled lists of birds encountered during their visits mainly to Mali i Thate area (Fremuth et alt., 2001). Also, with some exception there are reliable data on wintering bird data, based on the midwinter bird censuses. In some cases (1999, 2010 and 2011) that has been done in a simultaneously with Greek and Macedonian counts, and that offers the best approach on the issue. But on terrestrial mammals no research was done so far.

Along with other components, the intention is to monitor the distribution and abundance of birds across the terrestrial ecosystems in response to changes in forest structure and composition as

determined by vegetation growth/succession and by human-induced treatments. Based on that in the last 40 years in area of current Prespa National Park, the treatments, such tree lopping, fire wood consumption of the population in and out the PNP, it is assumed that there is an impact on bird population and reflection as well.