

REPORT of the SECOND REGULAR MEETING

of the **PRESPA PARK**

CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

Agenda.....	1
Summary Minutes.....	2
Conclusions.....	
Annex I – Provisional proposals of the SAP study.....	
Annex II – Prespa Park Communication Plan 2001-2002	
Annex III – CC Operational Plan and Programme of Activities- 2002	
Annex IV – Prespa Park CC Secretariat Terms of Reference...	
Annex V – CC Budget – 2002.....	
Annex VI - List of participants.....	

Second Regular Meeting of the Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee

Psarades, 19-20 November 2001

Hosted by the Municipality of Prespa and the Society for the Protection of Prespa, Greece

At the invitation of Mr.Michalis Modinos, President of the National Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development of Greece, representative of the Greek Ministry of Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, the Co-ordination Committee (CC) of the Prespa Park held its second regular meeting in the Women's Co-operative Hotel, Psarades, on November 19-20, 2001.

Seven out of the ten members of the CC from the three countries involved and from Ramsar/MedWet, as well as observers from international and other organisations, attended the meeting (see the complete list of participants in Annex VI). The Mayor of Resen was represented by Mrs.Daniela Apostolovska, Officer for Development and Correspondence of the Municipality of Resen, while Mr.Zamir Dedej, of the Albanian Ministry of Environment, a PPNEA representative, and Mr.Spase Shumka, the Secretariat member from Albania, were absent.

The meeting was opened by the Mayor of the Municipality of Prespa, Mr.Ioannis Germanidis, and chaired by Mr.Michalis Modinos.

Agenda

1. Opening session:

- 1.1. Welcome address by the Mayor of Prespa
Presentation and approval of the working agenda by the Acting Chairman
- 1.2. Activities since the first regular CC meeting at Skopje
 - 1.2.1. General report by the Secretariat (Working document 1)
 - 1.2.2. Special reports on the peripheral road study, and the KfW planned activities in the Prespa region in Albania and the FYR of Macedonia by the Secretariat (Working Document 2)
 - 1.2.3. Presentation of the GTZ planned activities in the Prespa region by Mr.D.Biallas
 - 1.2.3. Additional contributions from the CC members and discussion

2. Implementation of Operational Plan and Programme of Activities for the year 2001:

- 2.1. General presentation by the Secretariat (Working document 3)
- 2.2. Presentation of the progress of the Strategic Action Plan study by Mrs.M.Malakou (SPP) (Working Document 4)
- 2.3. Discussion
- 2.4. Presentation of the draft proposal for a comprehensive Communication Plan by the Secretariat (Working Document 5)
- 2.5. Discussion and approval

3. Operational Plan and Programme of Activities for the year 2002:

- 3.1. Presentation of the draft proposal by the Secretariat (Working Document 6)
- 3.2. Discussion and approval

4. Preparation of a GEF project proposal:

- 4.1. Information on the review of the Concept Paper by the GEF Secretariat and introduction of the PDF B request phase by Mr. Nick Remple (UNDP)
- 4.2. Discussion and approval

5. Terms of Reference of the Secretariat:

- 5.1. Presentation of the draft proposal by the Secretariat (Working Document 8)
- 5.2. Discussion and approval

6. Financial matters:

- 6.1. Presentation of the proposed budget for 2002 by the Secretariat (Working document 9)
- 6.2. Discussion and approval

7. Any other business

8. Closure of the meeting:

- 8.1. Adoption of decisions, recommendations and conclusions of the meeting
- 8.2. Date and place of the next meeting
- 8.3. Closing remarks

Summary Minutes

The Mayor of the Municipality of Prespa, Mr.Germanidis, welcomed the participants and talked about the rich natural and cultural environment of the region and the problems of diminishing human resources and environmental degradation it is facing. He noted that the Prespa Park has no precise legal status and no definite border, and that increases the importance of taking into account the views of the local people in any decisions of the Co-ordination Committee (CC). He concluded by wishing every success to the Committee's second regular meeting.

The acting Chairman, Mr.Modinos, also welcomed the participants and conveyed the full support of the Greek Government and the Prime Minister to this innovative form of international co-operation for a region suffering from a spiral of environmental degradation accompanied by depopulation and social problems. He also noted that the three countries are not alone in their attempt to mitigate this reality, since there is considerable international interest for the Prespa region and for the effort undertaken here. The agenda of the meeting was then presented and approved.

Mrs.Roumeliotou (SPP), on behalf of the Secretariat, subsequently presented the first item on the agenda, namely information on the activities that took place since the Skopje meeting, on the basis of Working Document 1. The main activities during this period were the preparation of the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) study and of the GEF project. Other

planned activities have been delayed, and especially the infrastructure project to be funded by the Greek Government and the hydrogeological project endorsed by the REReP system. The former delay was due to the overall restructuring of the development assistance scheme of Greece, which has been transferred from the Ministry of National Economy to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; it is, however, hoped that implementation could start within the next few months. The Macedonian delegates requested some specific information on the details of the project, such as the dimension of the buildings, the procedure for disbursing the money, the terms for the contractors etc., in view of the fact that the competent authorities of Resen need to approve a detailed technical proposal. However, although the commitment still exists, the final details and terms of the project have not been approved and fixed yet.

With regard to the hydrogeological project, a meeting of experts, held on 15-16 November 2001, finalised the proposal and put together a comprehensive budget; the project could thus be implemented soon if the necessary funding could be secured. Mr.Germanidis asked whether the hydrologists have already co-operated with the competent authorities to learn what the situation is, and whether they have studied the data of the area. Mrs.Roumeliotou replied that it was the first meeting of experts from the three countries and they were there to establish a transboundary project; when funding will be found, they will form proper teams and start the actual work, including the tasks mentioned by the Mayor. Mr.Dimovski (Ministry of Environment, the FYR of Macedonia) asked whether the hydrogeological project has to be put again in the REReP system, if a donor has not been already identified. Mrs.Roumeliotou reminded the meeting that in 2001 two donors, the Greek Government and the KfW, had expressed their intention to provide funds, but it was then thought that experts from the three sides should consult in order to improve the existing proposal. Mr.Kouvelis (MedWet/Ramsar) expressed the view that the Greek side would be reconsidering its offer after the development assistance restructuring is completed. Ms.Sieburger (KfW) said the KfW is still committed to fund the programme, and suggested that the two donors might collaborate on that.

The issue of recent works on Micro Prespa was also presented by the Secretariat (Working Document 2). It was reminded that major hydrological interventions have in the past been undertaken in the Micro Prespa area and that the old canals diverting the Devolli River into the lake stopped operating at the end of 2000. Recently, however, a new canal was built to take water out of the lake for irrigation purposes. The Secretariat suggested that the problem should be addressed in a holistic way in the context of the hydrological programme. The Albanian delegates presented the irrigation problem of the area for which the new work was carried out, while reiterating the firm commitment that the Devolli waters will not be directed into the lake again in the future.

On the peripheral road study, the Secretariat showed a map with the proposed interventions and informed the meeting that the Region of Western Macedonia of Greece has included the project in its Interreg III plans; however, no concrete information on when implementation will start exists as yet.

Mr.Micevski (MAP), on behalf of the Secretariat, then presented information on the wastewater treatment facilities in Resen and other projects in the Prespa area that are planned to be funded by KfW, for an overall of 14m DM.

Ms.Sieburger presented the overall picture of KfW plans for the region. Several projects are going on in Albania: In co-operation with the Albanian Development Fund (ADF), which manages a total sum of 4mDM from KfW, 600000DM will be dedicated to social infrastructure in the villages of the Albanian Prespa NP. Another 8mDM are earmarked for the protected area in Prespa (national and transboundary) on the basis of a feasibility study completed last year, through an entirely different project. She also talked about old German funds committed to Greece, which should be put in effective use in the Prespa area. Mr.Germanidis wondered whether the interventions would be effective, and in particular whether the central government in Albania has a comprehensive development plan.

Mr. Andoni (Mayor of Ligenas, Albania) said that the money given to the Albanian side will be used effectively, but the funds should be increased because this part of Prespa is the most degraded and basic infrastructure is missing.

Lastly, the figures already mentioned (14m DM) regarding the FYR of Macedonia are channelled through a bilateral assistance scheme, which will, however, take into account the whole picture in Prespa. Answering on a remark by Mr. Germanidis, Ms. Sieburger said that the German Government plans its investments for the protection of the area at the bilateral level, but they are also firmly committed that for issues such as the hydrological one, a programme can only be trilateral. Mr. Dimovski also noted that the 14m were initially directed to water treatment infrastructure, but the GEF Concept Paper places the emphasis on integrated ecosystem management; the corresponding change in the direction of German funding in his country must, therefore, first be agreed at the bilateral level and then put in front of the Committee for discussion. Mr. Modinos and Mr. Kouvelis talked about synergies and the need for a clear picture regarding projects to be funded in the region. In this context, the Secretariat should try to compile a full list of projects and funds for the next meetings. Mr. Remple (UNDP) noted that PDF funds will be directed towards baseline mapping, which is exactly relevant to what is being discussed, and that there are various formats for data collection in this respect. Mrs. Malakou (SPP) added that the last chapter of the SAP study will be presenting all the financial instruments that could fund the required projects.

Mr. Biallas (GTZ) subsequently presented the German technical co-operation programme (2m DM), which is primarily directed to the transboundary process in Prespa rather than the bilateral level. He stressed that this is not an investment programme, and that it is intended for use by local societies, civil societies, private institutions etc., and not just governments. He would like to see co-operation extended from environmental protection to economic and social activities in Prespa, and that is why transboundary "micro-projects" are eligible for funding. He added that these should be proposed or at least approved by the CC; he then presented a table of several proposals already submitted to the GTZ, ranked in two categories in terms of maturity. During this first phase, GTZ will enter into contracts directly with the implementing bodies (GO, Municipalities, NGOs); while at a second phase, after the CC acquires legal status, the GTZ would like to have the CC manage the money directly. Mr. Papayannis (MedWet/ Ramsar) posed the issue of establishing a legal entity, such as a Trust Fund, that could receive and manage money. Mr. Remple said the GEF has a lot of experience with Trust Funds, but the regional ones are very complicated; however, this possibility can be explored during the PDF phase. Mr. Germanidis noted that all this is positive, but it has to form part of an integrated programme directed towards comprehensive development under the control of the CC. Answering a question by Mrs. Malakou, Mr. Biallas explained that only the category 1 projects need to be considered by the CC members at this point. Mrs. Malakou expressed the opinion that the CC members could not and should not have a say on projects outside the Prespa Park area (Pogradec etc.). He replied that, for the time being, the CC members are not asked to decide, but rather to give a comment or opinion if they wish.

With regard to agenda item 2, namely implementation of programme of activities for 2001, Mr. Micevski, on behalf of the Secretariat, presented Working Document 3. During this year, the work of the Committee and its Secretariat has focussed on three axes, communication, sustainable development, and research, monitoring and conservation. Mr. Dimovski enquired about the problems encountered in receiving completed forms for the inventory of activities. The Secretariat reminded the meeting that, at the Skopje meeting, the CC decided to adopt a simple form as a tool for information gathering; however, to date the Secretariat completes the forms by itself, and it would be useful to have everybody participate in this exercise. Mr. Papayannis said that the Secretariat is one of the few concrete results that the CC has to present to date, and the fact that it reports to the Committee as a single body is something to be especially welcomed. Mr. Germanidis asked how the Secretariat co-operates, by what means, and whether they actually meet, and stressed the need of the CC members

communicating with the Secretariat and between themselves more often. Mrs.Roumeliotou answered that the Secretariat members are in contact at an almost daily basis among themselves and also with the government representatives, but more staff and funding are definitely needed in order to have an effective organ. Mr.Papayannis supported this idea and stressed the importance of the Secretariat working closely with the local communities; he thought that any new funds should be directed to this area as a matter of priority. Mr.Dimovski suggested using a small portion of the available money for a small project on institutional strengthening and capacity building of the NGOs lying in the core of the Prespa Park process. Mr.Biallas said the GTZ might be able to help financially in this respect, and requested that the Chairman discuss relevant details with the Secretariat and GTZ.

Subsequently, Mrs.Malakou presented progress with the Strategic Action Plan study under agenda item 2.2 (Working Document 4). The focus of the presentation was on future projects and programmes rather than on a description of the Prespa basin or the gaps in knowledge identified so far. She initially presented the study area, which coincides with the Prespa Lakes catchment basin (2,519.1km²), of which 60% is under various regimes of protection. The main thematic areas of the study are environmental protection, sustainable development, and institutional development of the transboundary co-operation. The specific objectives and proposals presented appear in Annex I. Answering a question by Mr.Modinos, Mrs.Malakou explained that consideration of the administrative or legal measures needed to accommodate decisions taken at the trilateral level, such as common fishing regulations or land-use planning, is still ongoing. Mr.Melovski expressed the view that the delineation of the Prespa Park borders should be done on the basis of the ecosystems approach; he also noted that the Macedonian side has not been informed on the proposals, and large areas have been neglected. Mrs.Malakou explained that the catchment approach was chosen, because the ecosystem approach needs much more extended and complex basic research that cannot be carried out in a short time. Mr.Micevski noted that the MAP had never met in order to be informed and that the ideas and proposals came from experts and from the local government.

Mr.Dimovski suggested that the CC should organise a special session to discuss the SAP in detail; he thought that the presentation was very interesting, and the difficulties are apparent. It is especially obvious that the three teams are not working equally well, and that the terms of reference of the national working groups have to be reviewed in order to include more fields of expertise other than biology. Moreover, he noted that some experts that have actually worked in his country do not appear in the list of Working Document 4, and wondered what is the exact connection of the CC with the project, and whether the latter is the recipient. Answering a question by Ms.Sukova (Ministry of Environment, the FYR of Macedonia), the NGO representatives explained how the working groups were formed and reminded the meeting that the NGOs were appointed as implementing bodies by the Governments and these issues were repeatedly discussed at the trilateral meetings.

Mr.Kouvelis expressed the opinion that there is no prioritisation or strategic targets in the SAP so far and agreed with the idea that a special meeting of the CC be held, in view of the fact that the full backing on the final results of the project by the three Administrations would be needed in order to base the future GEF project and other future activities on the results of the SAP. Mr.Germanidis said that the proposals presented are unrealistic, because the required funds will not be forthcoming. Therefore, clear priority targets have to be set and the whole plan should be reviewed; he suggested that the first priority should be the hydrogeological study. Mr.Biallas suggested that the Governments have to include this planning in their bilateral negotiations with Germany, if they want to have funds to implement the proposed measures, and Mr.Papayannis proposed that there should be discussions among the national members of the CC before the special CC meeting on the SAP, in order to achieve real consensus.

Mrs.Roumeliotou, on behalf of the Secretariat, subsequently presented the proposal on the Communication Plan on the basis of Working Document 5. She briefly presented the

proposed target groups, tools and activities, and relevant timetable. She maintained that special staff is needed for the implementation of the plan, and then moved to specific proposals concerning the Prespa Park logo, fact sheet, and newsletter. Mr.Micevski also presented the consultations with the Ramsar Convention system with regard to the Prespa Park web site. Finally, the proposals for the celebration of the second anniversary of the Prespa Park were briefly explained. Mr.Papayannis noted that the most pressing issue is the second anniversary, which has to happen on the 2nd of February and cannot be postponed. He proposed that the most practical solution is to hold an extraordinary CC meeting to discuss the SAP results, issue a relevant press release, and print a trilingual poster. Mr.Modinos agreed and said he would work with the Secretariat to finalise the details. Mr.Dimovski said that a joint press conference is preferable to three separate ones, and that the festival in Resen is rather unfeasible in such a short notice. He also thought that the web site should have progressed more, and that the fact that the Secretariat has to wait for CC decisions can be a problem; in this connection, he suggested that the Chairman should in the future have more active involvement and take minor decisions in the intervals between CC meetings. He also offered the Ministry's web site as a host site, asked the Secretariat to prepare the material to be included in the web site, and the CC to just set a relevant deadline for the Secretariat. He concluded by offering financial support from the Ministry to publish the fact sheet and the newsletter until the end of this year.

Several participants rejected the proposal to hold a winter bird census on the 2nd of February, in view of the fact that this event is scheduled to take place on the 15th of January. Moreover, the Chairman proposed to establish an ad hoc editorial board for all publications, including the web site, with one person from each side, not necessarily from the Committee members. Mr.Micevski proposed to appoint the Secretariat members and one of the national Committee members from each country in the editorial board.

With regard to the new post of the Communication Officer, Mr.Dimovski opted for a new person to be hired but expressed concern on whether that person would be easy to found and on where his/ her base will be. The Chairman asked whether the NGOs could support the communication activities for the next six months. Mrs.Malakou answered that the SPP cannot support them by itself and it will ask help from WWF Greece, if needed. The Chairman proposed to include in the CC budget some expenses for the Communication Officer and for some of the activities included in the proposal, i.e. web site, leaflet, newsletter. Mr.Micevski informed the meeting that the BSPSM is going to publish a bulletin for Ezerani, including information on the Prespa Park that will be distributed in all households around the Reserve. Several participants said that the logo is much too complicated and not adequately reflecting the image of Prespa. Mr.Kouvelis proposed to hold a children competition and develop a logo from the best entries. The idea was accepted and the CC agreed that there will be a competition in the Prespa schools, collect the entries at the end of January and exhibit them in Resen on the 2nd of February; the Mayors agreed to organise it.

The Plan was approved in principle as it appears in Annex II. It was agreed that a proposal to the GTZ would be submitted for a fact sheet, newsletter, and Communication Officer, and that on the 2nd of February, the SAP CC meeting will be combined with a large press conference, and the poster exhibition.

Subsequently, agenda item 3 was presented, i.e. a proposal on the CC Operational Plan and Programme of Activities for the year 2002 (Working Document 6). Mrs.Roumeliotou, on behalf of the Secretariat, presented the proposal, which is along the same axes as the previous programme of activities. She went through the new elements for next year, namely the implementation of the Communication Plan, the use of the EUROPARC system for exchange of experience and training, preparation of an environmental education joint programme, joint social and cultural events, and the joint presentation of the Prespa Park in the Ramsar COP8. With regard to sustainable development, the results of the SAP are pending, and there can be no specific decisions; the only concrete proposal is the preparation of a programme for the establishment of a transboundary environmental impact

assessment procedure in Prespa. However, in the next regular CC meeting the results and priorities of the SAP must be elaborated and some actions chosen for immediate implementation. With regard to research, monitoring and conservation, the two delayed projects have to be implemented. Related to the infrastructure project is the proposal to establish a joint monitoring scheme. The mutual emergency assistance activity is also very complicated and there is a need for a specific programme with funds to allow the necessary consultations between the competent authorities to take place. Lastly, with regard to funding, collection and systematisation of information on funding sources seems urgent and necessary; the PDF B request must also be prepared and submitted to the GEF Secretariat and the three Governments should proceed with allocation of core funds for the Prespa Park.

Mr.Kramaric of the EUROPARC Federation talked about the Phare project that allowed expertise exchange between the Albanian NP and Galitchitsa NP. Unfortunately, the project is almost over and has not been followed-up by a new source of funding. In any case, the EUROPARC network remains open and willing to give any assistance requested by the protected area authorities in the three sides of Prespa. In the same context, there is also a working group investigating the standards of transfrontier co-operation and their report will be made available soon; the relevant work is ongoing at the pan-European level and the Prespa Park participants are welcome to be involved in this work. Mr.Biallas referred to the social activities appearing in the proposal and expressed GTZ's willingness to fund such activities.

The Chairman considered the sustainable development paragraph weak and would like to see more substance even before the SAP is concluded; he also proposed that sustainable development should come first in order, because it is the primary target of transboundary co-operation and the other axes are just there to facilitate sustainable development. Mrs.Roumeliotou explained that the decision to put communication first was taken at the Skopje meeting because this Committee is actually a communication platform that brings the three sides together; it is characteristic that most of the activities undertaken or planned relate to communication more than anything else. If more specific activities related to sustainable development are proposed and agreed by the Committee, the Secretariat would be glad to redraft the document; however, it cannot itself propose anything more than what is already include in working document 6.

Mr.Dimovski said this is one of the weakest documents presented and it should follow the pattern of the Communication Plan, be precise and have a concrete timeframe. Mr.Kouvelis pointed out that the budget must also correspond to the programme of activities. The Secretariat explained that it could not come up with more precise timetable based on the experience of the first year.

Mrs.Malakou expressed concern regarding how the workload is shared and how this plan will be implemented by the Secretariat. Mr.Modinos agreed and said that not everything should be assigned to the Secretariat, which is too small; however, the decisions taken up to now to widen the Secretariat might really help. The CC members should also perform some tasks and help with implementation of the decisions. Mr.Kouvelis proposed that the CC should share the responsibility with the Secretariat and form an assessment team to evaluate the its work so far, so that decisions can be taken to support and assist the Secretariat. The relevant assessment could be presented in the next regular Committee meeting.

The Chairman then proposed to bring agenda item 5, the Secretariat's Terms of Reference, for discussion at that stage. Mr.Dimovski proposed to discuss the budget rather than the Secretariat Terms of Reference and this was accepted.

Mr.Micevski, on behalf of the Secretariat, presented agenda item 6, on the basis of Working Document 9. He presented the structure of the budget, and referred to the consultations held with the governments and donors regarding the funds they are ready to commit for next

year. He then explained the core expenses for the operation of the CC and Secretariat and the commitments by the various donors, including the column "other donors" which was basically left blank, with only some provisional GTZ commitments appearing in brackets. Mr.Biallas explained that the GTZ could co-finance some activities, provided that the other sources of funding for each activity provide their share. Mr.Micevski, finally, explained that the non-core costs relate to the previous item discussed, namely the programme of activities for 2002.

The Chairman proposed to decide which activities will be funded and then to proceed with identifying the donors willing to cover them. Mr.Gaetlich (National Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development, Greece) proposed to ask NGOs such as WWF Greece to undertake fund-raising for the activities envisaged, in order to mobilise private sources of funding as well. Mr.Dimovski doubted the ability of the MAP and the PPNEA to cover their own expenses, and requested a clear correspondence with the operational plan and programme of activities. He added that the Ministry have committed 15,000EURO, and not 3,000 as it appears on the budget. Mr.Micevski answered that the Secretariat can rely only on concrete commitments, and that is why he put a much smaller amount, which according to his own judgment could be eventually disbursed by the Government. Responding to a suggestion by Mr.Dimovski that the various projects should not appear in the budget of the Committee, Mrs.Roumeliotou explained that the activities proposed are activities decided or endorsed by the Committee and that is why they appear on the CC budget. Ms.Sieburger suggested there should be two different tables, one for the core costs and one for the other activities, and Mr.Biallas asked to restructure the overall budget so as to show clearly what the deficit of the core costs is. Mrs.Malakou added that for every activity there should be a project proposal, and even if the budget is redrafted this could not happen now. Mr.Kouvelis finally noted that budgets and timetables have always a degree of uncertainty, but a timetable appended to next year's programme of activities would be very useful.

The Secretariat was requested to redraft the budget with the assistance of Mr.Kouvelis, draft a timetable for working document 6 (as it appears in Annex IV), as well as some conclusions from the discussion so far.

At the beginning of the second day of the meeting, the first issue of discussion was the redrafted budget. Mr.Kouvelis presented the new document as it appears in Annex V. The communication activities that were adopted the previous day were included in the core budget of the Committee and thus the total core costs for 2002 amount to 160,400EURO (deficit of 105,100EURO). Two projects have been included in the "other activities" sheet, the infrastructure and the hydrogeological project, the latter with no committed funds.

Mr.Biallas enquired about the office costs of the NGOs participating in the Secretariat. In this connection it was explained that the NGOs incur important costs for hosting and providing administrative support to the persons working for the Secretariat. Mr.Biallas also asked what the overheads for the communication activities are; it was explained that there is a standard way to calculate overheads and unexpected costs. Mr.Dimovski asked why the communication officer should cost three times as much as the Secretariat officer from Greece. It was explained that a person working for a transboundary system, whereas the Secretariat members are working part-time – at least in theory – and they are existing staff of NGOs; the two are thus not comparable. Mr.Dimovski also doubted the size of the office costs for the two NGOs from Albania and the FYR of Macedonia and thought they were too high. It was explained that there are actually very high costs involved in the transboundary co-operation (Mr.Modinos, Ms.Sieburger, Mr.Stojanov (MAP)). Mrs.Malakou said that it would not be difficult for the SPP to present what its relevant costs were in 2001 and her offer was accepted. Lastly, Mr.Germanidis said there can be no doubt about the costs presented here. As regards the hydrogeological project, he noted that its cost is high, but that is just normal for such a programme, which is a top priority for the region.

Mr.Biallas offered to fund the totality of the communication part of the budget, and Ms.Sieburger offered to fund the extraordinary meeting of the Committee. Mrs.Roumeliotou then noted that there is a remaining deficit in the core costs and this should be covered, e.g. the third and fourth regular CC meetings are not fully covered. Mr.Dimovski brought up again the offer of his Government to fund some of the communication activities until the end of the year. If that is done, Mr.Biallas said that the GTZ would be able to cover the cost of the third regular CC meeting. Mrs.Roumeliotou, however, noted that if an editorial board is to be set up, there is no way material could be printed in one month; all these issues have to be clarified, and Mr.Kouvelis added that the newsletter is not a one off activity and, if the Government of the FYR of Macedonia produces the first issue, then there must be a follow up. Mr. Dimovski concluded that he would enquire into the possibility of making an advance payment and complete the publications later.

Mrs.Malakou said the hydrogeological proposal will be circulated for approval to the CC members so that donors can then be approached. The specific modalities for implementing the project will be determined after the donor has been identified, and the government representatives should follow up on this issue. Ms.Sieburger expressed the KfW willingness to fund the project, either from a German regional fund or together with the Greek Government, while Mr.Dimovski insisted on presenting the project to the REReP system once more.

Mr.Kouvelis wrapped up the budget discussion: GTZ had committed 72,600 EURO, with either all the communication activities or some of these plus the third regular meeting depending on the results of the enquiry on the Macedonian side; the KfW had committed 10,000EURO for the extraordinary meeting; while another 10,000 were committed from the Macedonian side. The core budget is thus left with a deficit of roughly 10,000EURO. Mr.Remple said that the CC could expect to have GEF funds early next year that could cover some of these costs. Mr.Kouvelis proposed to conclude that the deficit would be covered either by the PDF funds or by the three Governments. Mr.Biallas finally noted that he should receive a formal letter from the CC requesting the above funds.

Mr.Remple subsequently presented agenda item 4, namely the outcome of the submission of the Prespa Park Concept Paper to the GEF Secretariat and the requirements for a PDF request. He recapped the steps followed so far and informed the Committee that the GEF Secretariat approved the Concept Paper on 15 November for "pipeline entry" pending resolution of its comments; these relate to the 6m decrease of the water level of Macro Prespa, to the boundaries of the hydrogeological basin and the hydrological links between Ohrid and Prespa, to the lessons learned from the Lake Ohrid project funded by the GEF, and to the World Bank comments - which were in general very positive.

The next step is the formulation of a PDF B request. There is no deadline for submitting that request, but it is advisable to act quickly. The GEF Secretariat will look at the PDF B request only in terms of its cost-effectiveness and of the technical questions regarding achievement of the goals set therein. A detailed financial plan, detailed execution/ implementation arrangements, more detail about the threats, and a reply to the GEFSec comments have to be included in the request; there also has to be a cost-effective and efficient review process.

The purpose or goals of PDF B are: to effectively design a fully formulated project; to acquire greater knowledge about the ecosystem and other issues; to achieve deeper ownership by stakeholders; and more committed support by donors.

In order to produce a full scale proposal eligible for GEF funding the PDF B money can fund: consultations (e.g. with donors, governments); stakeholder meetings; technical studies (e.g. hydrogeographical basin, thus the PDF B funds can partly finance the hydrogeological programme); technical assistance (e.g. GEF project design); and information gathering (e.g. baseline mapping).

The key elements of the full project design are: technical components (threats analysis; stakeholder analysis; logical frame analysis); implementation/ execution arrangements (e.g. a project steering committee); public participation mechanisms; project monitoring system; and a financing plan (GEF and non-GEF, incremental cost analysis).

For PDF formulation, the UNDP can provide a format, examples, expert assistance, and editorial assistance. In order to facilitate approval of the PDF B request it is advisable: not to depart too much from the Concept Paper, but rather use its text; to directly address GEFSec comments; to ensure clarity regarding project formulation needs; to show clear co-financing commitments, including money that runs in parallel; to prepare endorsement letters from GEF OFPs and from the Greek Government; to include the Terms of Reference of consultants and sub-contracts; to have a precise workplan; and an input budget (UNDP format with co-financing).

The time frame depends on agreements reached regarding contents of PDF B; if it is clear what needs to be done in order to have a full project proposal, little time is needed. The PDF B document will be reviewed at the UNDP headquarters, usually within two to three weeks, and will then be submitted to the GEF Secretariat, which normally gives approval in five days (two to three weeks should, however, be allowed for). The execution arrangements then have to be established and implementation can begin, which can also be made in two to three weeks. The full project should be approved at the end of 2003. In the mean time, the PDF B resources will be available. Their limit is 750,000USD; nevertheless, it is not advisable to go for the ceiling amount but rather to plan carefully the project preparation activities that are needed in the case of the Prespa Park project.

Mr.Kouvelis asked Mr.Remple who will draft the PDF B request, is it, e.g. the Secretariat, and his opinion on the realistic time frame. Mr.Remple replied that the UNDP can send a consultant (not Ms.Akhtar, however, in view of the fact that she is not actually working in the region anymore), or the CC can do its own draft first. Mr.Dimovski suggested that it should preferably be done before Christmas and that the CC should take specific decisions on the procedure to be followed. The consultants should have a specific agenda and a very precise time frame. Ms.Sieburger said there should be a decision on the division of labour; KfW is co-funding the PDF phase; more specifically, issues related to investment, protected area management plans and their implementation falls under KfW's scope. If the CC agrees, there can be an expert of KfW to work with the UNDP consultant, and come up with a full project development plan. The KfW could even be the overall executing agency for both GEF and German funds, but that should be defined during this preparatory phase and appear on paper. She concluded that, from the German side, the commitment is there and they will press the issue at the GEF Secretariat.

The Chairman asked who is the recipient body of the PDF funds. Mr.Remple replied that normally some of the money goes through the local UNDP offices at the recipient governments, but some may go to the Secretariat as well; there is some room for agreement between the interested parties on this issue, and KfW may even manage some of these funds. As far as the full-scale project is concerned, there might be a need for different arrangements. In this connection, Mr.Kouvelis said that there is a need to go ahead with the establishment of a legal institution for the CC and its Secretariat, and to this effect there should be a project proposal for legal consultancy, which is of interest also to the GTZ. If GTZ funds could not be allocated for such an activity, the possibility of using PDF funds could be considered. He also offered to assist the Secretariat in drafting the relevant proposal. Mr.Dimovski concurred with the previous speaker and asked KfW to communicate immediately with UNDP to arrange for their joint consultancy mission; he added that, until the end of January, the CC should know whether GTZ money could fund this activity, and, if not, this activity could be included in the PDF plan. With regard to the full GEF project, he proposed to have project offices in all three countries to see that implementation of activities is actually carried out, and also to hold an extraordinary meeting of the CC sometime during 2002 in order to finalise the relevant execution arrangements.

Mrs.Roumeliotou further enquired about the possibility of establishing a Trust Fund, which relates both to legal personality and to the rationalization of various funding sources. Mr.Remple responded that Trust Funds are often established within GEF projects, but regional conservation funds are very difficult to organise. This could well be investigated during the PDF B phase, especially as regards the governance of such an institution; he expressed the opinion that an option would be to consider the establishment of two funds, one for the FYR of Macedonia and one for Albania, and possibly one for recurring costs of the Secretariat.

The Chairman expressed doubts on whether a legal entity could be established soon, since these ideas need some time to mature, but, in any case, his agency could undertake the legal consulting. He added that although it is true that the target is to establish a legal entity to manage the Prespa Park, there is a need for many more consultations and noted that in the SAP there is not much reference to the harmonisation of legal regimes, management plans etc. Mr.Kouvelis said that there are several examples of intergovernmental bodies that have the mandate to take decisions binding on the participating governments, such as REC. Mr.Dimovski agreed that it is too early to discuss a joint management body for the area, but this is different from an administrative legal institution that could solve a lot of practical problems in the work of the CC. Mr.Germanidis expressed the opinion that the discussion has become too theoretical and it misses the point, namely that the Committee has to take specific decisions, especially with regard to the GEF project. The Chairman agreed and proposed to discuss where the PDF B proposal should be drafted. Mr.Dimovski said there has been past experience with that and it should be followed. Mr.Kouvelis proposed to have a final meeting of the two consultants, the Chairman, himself and the Secretariat for finalising the PDF B request at the National Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development's office. The Chairman and Mr.Dimovski agreed; the latter further proposed that one meeting of the three CC members and the Secretariat member in each country should be organised before the final meeting in Athens.

Subsequently, Mrs.Roumeliotou, on behalf of the Secretariat, briefly presented the Terms of Reference of the Secretariat, on the basis of Working Document 8. The proposed terms intend to reflect the actual work of the Secretariat and resolve some practical issues, such as the keeping of archives. Answering a question by the Chairman, Mrs.Roumeliotou said that, as already discussed, some of the tasks are performed efficiently and some not, and the Secretariat needs to be reinforced, as already proposed in the context of the Communication Plan; regarding communication among the Secretariat members it is very regular by e-mail, but also depends on the issues the Secretariat needs to handle at a given time.

The Chairman then proposed to just read the headlines of each paragraph in order to approve them. Mr.Dimovski thought there should be a general discussion first and, if needed, go through the text paragraph by paragraph. He further suggested to delete the word "co-ordinate" from the first paragraph regarding the Secretariat's mission, since this is not its role; moreover, at paragraph 3.6 (4.6 as amended), he suggested that the Secretariat cannot hold meetings with donors etc. on its own initiative, unless instructed by the Chairman or the Committee. In general, he noted that the language of the text is rather declarative rather than descriptive and it would require a legal expert to fix it; for instance, in the paragraph regarding the structure of the Secretariat, the last phrase referring to a possible increase of the staff should not appear in such a text. Furthermore in the paragraph regarding the operation of the organ, it is mentioned that decisions are taken by consensus, and he thought that the Secretariat may not take decisions of any sort. In this connection, it was explained that "decisions" refer to the Secretariat's work and not to the Prespa Park as a whole. Finally, in the paragraph referring to visa arrangements, he disagreed with the reference to specific years, in view of the fact that the Prespa Park is a long-term process. The Chairman suggested that the language could be somewhat softened up, when it refers to co-ordination or initiatives to be taken, and it should be made clearer that this is done under the instructions of the CC and the Chairman, since the Secretariat clearly does not co-

ordinate but rather assists in the co-ordination, nor does it carry out fund-raising but rather again assists in that respect. Both he and Mr.Dimovski questioned whether the issue of visas should be mentioned at all in this document.

Mrs.Roumeliotou responded that all the text in bold was agreed at the Skopje meeting, and the Secretariat built on that and did not start from scratch. The fact that the seat of the Secretariat is in one country, Greece, which has strict visa requirements, makes reference to this issue very relevant in the Operational Arrangements of this body. Moreover, reference to specific years – which was in any case already inserted at the Skopje meeting - is also very relevant, because, strictly speaking, the CC is an interim committee as agreed so far; it is a pilot phase of a trilateral organ with no specific legal status. She further proposed to reformulate paragraph 2 of the Operational Arrangements so as to avoid misunderstandings regarding decision-making, and noted that the text has been drafted with extreme care so as not to imply that the Secretariat has any overriding power on the CC. However, she added, it is true that the Secretariat takes “decisions” more often than the CC, since it has to decide on how to organise its work on an every day basis. Mr.Dimovski insisted that the Secretariat may not take any decisions, and maintained that any questions its members may have must be referred to the Chairman or the Committee.

The Chairman noted that if the CC decided that the Secretariat is not allowed to take any decisions, although it does so on an everyday basis, there might be a risk of paralysing the operation of this significant organ. Mr.Biallas concurred and added that the only thing that could be an issue is whether the powers of the Secretariat are exceeded. Mr.Germanidis agreed with Mr.Dimovski that the Secretariat cannot take decisions, and it should always be aware of the decisive role of the CC; however, the Secretariat is doing all the day-to-day work and that must make the CC more lenient towards recognising some decision-making powers. The Chairman maintained that the dominant role of the CC is clear in all documents, and thus the only issue of concern should be the more effective performance of the CC role, by way of more meetings, more direct contacts, and more responsibility of the CC members, which would enable the Secretariat to better perform its role too. He concluded that only marginal amendments are needed to the text, and specifically proposed to move the “guidance and supervision” paragraph to the beginning of the Terms of Reference. The amended text of this document appears in Annex IV.

Mr.Kouvelis then brought up again his proposal on the assessment needed to identify the needs and strengths of the Secretariat, with a view at taking corrective measures to improve its work as well as that of the CC. He, moreover, volunteered to participate in the relevant panel, consisting of himself and one representative of each country; this panel will review the documents forming the basis for the work of the Secretariat and the CC and submit a relevant report to the Committee, in a time frame of two months. Mr.Melovski and Mr.Dimovski agreed; the latter added that this could prove useful for the PDF B proposal as well. The members of the Committee appointed were Mr.Germanidis from Greece, Mr.Dimovski from the FYR of Macedonia, and Mr.Dedej from Albania.

Under the agenda item 7, “any other business”, the issue of consultancy for a legal entity was recapped: The CC will submit a request for funding to the GTZ, and the Chairman offered his agency’s legal expertise in environmental matters and international law to carry out this work.

Ms.Sieburger informed the Committee of another project under preparation in the FYR of Macedonia that has some relevance to the Prespa Park area, namely a project for waste disposal in South-western Macedonia, for which a feasibility study is on tender at the moment.

Mr.Melovski proposed to discuss again the question of appointing alternative members to the CC members; Mr.Dimovski concurred and added that it is clear, according to the Skopje meeting decisions, that such persons have to be appointed. The only remaining issue to be clarified is whether they will be appointed at an ad hoc or at a permanent basis, and whether

they will be appointed by the CC members themselves or by the competent Ministry that has formally appointed the CC members in the first place. He suggested that the Chairman address a letter to the competent Ministers asking them to identify the alternatives, which would address the relevant concerns of Mr.Dedej as expressed in the Thessaloniki meeting; this should be done as a matter of urgency, and before the next CC meeting. Mr.Micevski concurred. Mr.Dimovski also proposed to extend the term of office of the Chairman, starting from next year, to one full year, because he considered the six months period as insufficient for the Chairman to be fully informed and produce results. Mr.Kouvelis said that this discussion could be only an exchange of views, because there is no quorum in order to change the terms of reference of the Committee. Mr.Dimovski said he had no intention to change the rules, he only feels there is a clear need for alternatives, and, in that sense, if the rules say that the CC members themselves will appoint them, he is ready to agree with that. Mrs.Roumeliotou proposed to postpone any decision until the issue is discussed with the Albanian CC members, while the Chairman agreed that he should write these letters.

Mr.Dimovski also remarked that the list of participants is still not complete, after many meetings, and urged the Secretariat to made further efforts to find the contact details of all participants; an indication of the CC members should also be included.

Mrs.Malakou requested some clarification on the issue of where the Communication Officer will be based, and added that if the CC opted for the Officer to be based in Aghios Germanos, at the seat of the Secretariat, which the SPP can indeed support from the logistical point of view, there should be at least one corresponding person in Albania and one in the FYR of Macedonia; otherwise, the Communication Officer would not be able to work effectively. Mr.Kouvelis insisted that one person is needed and that it be based at the National Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development in Athens at least at the initial phase. The Chairman concurred that for the dissemination of information it is more useful to have someone based in one capital. Mrs.Roumeliotou posed an additional question, i.e. who would hire the officer. Mr.Melovski concurred and asked whether it would be late if the CC waited for the establishment of a legal entity before proceeding with the Communication Officer. Upon a further proposal by Mr.Micevski to the effect that one officer in each country be hired, Mr.Biallas maintained that this would be a sign of suspicion among the Prespa Park stakeholders. He also proposed the solution of having the GTZ formally hire the Communication Officer directly, and added that the issue of the seat relates closely to this person's terms of reference. Mr.Dimovski concurred with this last opinion and proposed that the Secretariat drafts some terms of reference, which should be circulated to the CC members and then submitted to the GTZ for funding. Mrs.Roumeliotou said that exactly for that, the CC has to make the central choices, e.g. whether it would be Athens or Prespa etc. Mr.Kouvelis suggested that at least on the issue of the number of persons, there seems to be some consensus that one person is needed, and insisted that the first priority at the moment should be to place somebody in a capital; the local communication needs might well be covered by the NGOs. Finally, he suggested that the legal entity that would host this person could be his employer as well, and that his/ her travel expenses should be incorporated in the salary that appears in the budget. Ms.Sieburger proposed to base the person in Skopje, because access to Prespa is much easier than from Athens. Mr.Melovski concurred and Mr.Dimovski said that if he is placed in a capital he would have increased travel costs, and, therefore insisted on his previous proposal that the Secretariat draft the terms of reference, circulate them, and submit the proposal. The Chairman added that it would not be easy to find that person, with an appropriate background in international environmental issues, in any case.

Subsequently, the conclusions that appear in the following section were read, completed and agreed upon pending approval by the Albanian CC members that were absent. The issue of the next regular meeting of the CC was also discussed, but in view of the fact that two of the three Albanian CC members were absent, it was decided to determine the exact place and

date later. The importance of having fixed dates for regular meetings well in advance and try to observe them was especially stressed (Mr.Dimovski, Mrs.Roumeliotou).

Finally the Chairman thanked all participants, on behalf of the Greek Government, for their contribution to the fruitful work of the meeting; he held the view that the Committee has entered a phase of maturity, and expressed the opinion that, although much has been done in Prespa, there is a lot still to be done, for which he feels his share of the burden. He finally thanked the translators for their hard work, as well as the local authority, the Mayor, and Mrs.Myrsini Malakou for organising this meeting, and he declared it closed.

Conclusions

1. At its second regular meeting, the CC was initially informed on the activities that had taken place since its first meeting in Skopje; among others, it was informed about the recent works on the Albanian side of Micro Prespa to abstract water for irrigation purposes. The Committee expressed its concern about the past and present interventions, and the overall hydrological status of the Prespa lakes that is gradually deteriorating, and agreed to start implementation of the hydrogeological programme that has been under preparation for more than a year, as soon as funding becomes available. The relevant project proposal, which was initially proposed to the REReP system by the Albanian Government and later endorsed by the other two countries, has been recently finalised by a trilateral expert meeting and aims at identifying the hydrological balance of the watershed and address the water needs of the three countries in a sustainable way. The KfW expressed its readiness to fund the project in consultation with the Greek Government.
2. The CC heard information on the available funding for the Prespa area by the KfW and GTZ representatives, welcomed the readiness of international donors to contribute to the Prespa Park process and identified the need to systematize, organise and co-ordinate the various funding schemes, possibly under a Prespa Trust Fund, in order to ensure that all programmes to be funded observe the single strategic planning that the CC is trying to achieve. Both international donors have committed themselves to place all their relevant projects in the Prespa area under examination by the CC, to avoid confusion and overlapping of the activities to be implemented.
3. The implementation of the CC Programme of Activities for the current year was discussed, and certain delays were noted. In particular, the delay with implementation of the infrastructure project to be funded by the Greek Government, due to major restructuring of this country's development assistance scheme, was explained, and further clarifications as to what exactly that programme shall entail, as far as formal requirements and procedures are concerned, were sought.
4. Under the same item, the CC reviewed progress with the SAP project and attended a detailed presentation of the provisional results of the study by the SPP Director, Mrs. Malakou (see Annex I). The Committee appreciated the work done by the three collaborating NGOs and discussed in detail the difficulties encountered in the preparation of the study. It specifically agreed that there is a need to correct the inefficiencies noted and to undertake more consultations with local societies and responsible authorities on the content of the strategic planning for the Prespa basin. It was also agreed that an integrated approach should be followed and urgent and mature activities, among the ones presented, should be promoted.
5. The CC discussed the draft Communication Plan prepared by the Secretariat and approved it in principle (see Annex II). It further agreed to implement some specific activities envisaged therein as a matter of priority. It specifically decided to organise an extraordinary meeting of the CC to discuss the results of the SAP study, as well as to organise a children poster competition, in Resen, followed by a joint press conference, on 2 February 2002, on the occasion of the second anniversary of the Prespa Park. The CC finally decided to develop some concrete communication tools, namely a fact sheet, a newsletter, a Prespa Park logo and a website, and reinforce the Secretariat with a full-time Communication Officer. The relevant costs have further been incorporated in the core operational costs of the Committee for the year 2002.

6. More generally, the CC discussed the proposed Operational Plan and Programme of Activities for the year 2002 and approved it with the addition of a timetable of specific activities (see Annex III).
7. The CC heard with satisfaction that the Concept Paper submitted to the GEF Secretariat on behalf of the Committee on 29 October 2001 was approved and that the project had entered the GEF "pipeline". Mr. Remple (UNDP) made a presentation of the GEF Secretariat's comments that have to be addressed in the PDF B request, as well as other elements that need to be included in the relevant document. The CC decided to accept the kind offer by UNDP and KfW to provide expert consultants who will draft the relevant document by the end of January 2002, on the basis of consultations with all interested stakeholders in the three countries. The draft PDF B request will then be circulated for approval by the CC members (2 weeks), will be reviewed by UNDP (2-3 weeks), and will be submitted to the GEF Secretariat for final approval (2-3 weeks).
8. The Committee also took up the kind offer of GTZ to provide funding for legal advice on the possibility that some trilateral body, possibly the Secretariat, acquires legal personality; such a development would greatly facilitate the management of funds and the execution of joint activities in the framework of the GEF project and, more generally, the organisation of work and the management of funds directed to joint activities.
9. The CC approved the proposed Terms of Reference for its Secretariat as amended (Annex IV).
10. The CC approved its budget as it appears in Annex V. The three Governments guaranteed that, if the need arises, any remaining deficit regarding core costs would be covered.
11. The CC decided to establish a review panel to assess the work of the Secretariat and the Committee to date and report to the Committee on its findings. The MedWet/Ramsar representative, Mr. Kouvelis, assumed the main responsibility to organise this activity; the other members of the panel will be Mr. Germanidis (Greece), Mr. Dimovski (the FYR of Macedonia) and Mr. Dedej (Albania).
12. The third regular meeting of the Committee will be held in Albania during the first week of May 2002. The exact place and date will be determined shortly.
13. The CC expressed its gratitude to the donor community for their interest in the Prespa Park demonstrated by their active participation in all its meetings. Furthermore, the CC encouraged the donor community to closely co-ordinate its efforts in order to ensure the greatest synergy in favour of the Prespa region and its people.
14. Finally, the CC expressed its gratitude to all participants for their contribution, and to the organisers of the meeting, and especially the Municipality of Prespa, for their warm hospitality.

Provisional Proposals of the Strategic Action Plan for the Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Study

Strategic Objectives:

- 1. Protection of the natural environment** by implementing measures separately in each country and by organising and promoting joint actions.
- 2. Promotion of sustainable development** by organising and implementing measures for developing the production system, for urban and spatial planning, and for strengthening the local labour potential.
- 3. Institutionalisation of trilateral co-operation** in order to enable protection of the natural environment and promotion of sustainable development.

1. Protection of the Natural Environment in Each Country and Organisation and Promotion of Joint Actions

Specific objectives:

- Promotion of all necessary actions and measures that relate to the management of water resources;
- Identification, documentation, assessment and monitoring of the natural values of the whole catchment basin;
- Implementation of specific management interventions for the conservation, restoration and protection of biotopes and/ or species;
- Linking of management interventions with human activities in the region;
Exchange of information, knowledge, experience and know-how between the stakeholders.

Environment - Transboundary activities

Measure 1: Studies

- Preparation of a hydrogeological study for the whole catchment basin aiming at the immediate mitigation of the problems of siltation of Micro Prespa, pollution of Macro Prespa and decrease of the water level of Macro Prespa by 6 metres;
- Trans boundary diagnostic analysis and strategic action programme in the GEF project development context;
- Study on the populations, distribution, threats of the rare or endemic fish, bird and mammal species;
- Study for the rational management of forest in the catchment basin (timber-felling, measures of fire prevention, erosion, floods, alien species).

Measure 2: Monitoring of basic environmental parameters

- Organisation of a scheme and infrastructure for the monitoring of the basic environmental and socio-economic parameters

Measure 3: Management interventions

- Organisation of a scheme and infrastructure for applying specific management interventions in the three countries in relation to important biotopes or threatened species

Measure 4: Public awareness and participation of local population

- Organisation of awareness-raising/ information activities within and around the Prespa region;
- Joint pilot environmental education programme

Environment - Activities Per Country

Albania

Measure 1: Studies

- Complete inventory and assessment of flora and fauna

Measure 2: Monitoring

- [Organisation of a monitoring system of the impact of the Devolli River on Micro Prespa??]

Measure 3: Management interventions

- Measures for mitigating deforestation and erosion;
- Organisation and application of a management plan for the reed beds of Micro Prespa;
- Restoration of Micro Prespa

Measure 4: Public awareness

- Organisation of environmental education programmes in the schools of the Prespa and Korcha area

Measure 5: Institutional reform

- Establishment of a new management body and accomplishment of a management plan for the Prespa National Park

Environment - Activities Per Country

Greece

Measure 1: Studies

- [Identification and assessment of point and non-point sources of pollution]

Measure 2: Monitoring

- Monitoring of populations and ecosystems of rare and endangered species of avifauna (cont.)

Measure 3: Management interventions

- Implementation of management plan for the restoration of wet meadows in Micro Prespa;
- Construction of works for controlling the fluctuation of the water level of Micro Prespa

Measure 4: Public awareness

- Empowering of local bodies with a view at taking initiatives for environmental protection (operation of information centres etc.)

Measure 5: Institutional reform

- Establishment of the Prespa National Park with a management body and preparation of a relevant management plan

Environment - Activities Per Country
The FYR of Macedonia

Measure 1: Studies

- (Identification and assessment of point and non-point sources of pollution);\
- Complete inventory of flora and fauna in all catchment area

Measure 2: Monitoring

-

Measure 3: Management interventions

- Preparation of a Management Plan for Ezerani;
- Construction of cleaning waste water system and station in Resen (KfW)

Measure 4: Public awareness

- Implementation of p.a. interventions in the Ezerani wetland (i.e. construction of hides, bridges etc.)

Measure 5: Institutional reform

- Establishment of a management body and preparation of a relevant management plan for the Ezerani wetland

2. Promotion of sustainable development - Transboundary Activities

Specific objectives:

- Promotion of a common development philosophy, as well as common principles and objectives for the whole catchment basin;
- Promotion of productive activities that will contribute and turn into a tool for environmental protection and management, or will minimise their long-term negative effect on the environment;
- Promotion of environment-friendly solutions with regard to energy;
- Use of modern or environment-friendly technologies and means;
- Promotion of registered designations of origin and labelling of local products in order to strengthen the economy and enhance a unified approach to the area;

- Mitigation of the large socio-economic differences between the three countries with the ultimate target of achieving comparable levels of infrastructures and services;
- Promotion of intra-communication between the three parts of the Prespa basin;
- Strengthening the local labour potential;
- Increase of the region's GDP;
- Lifting of isolation, increase of opportunities;
- Promotion of joint transboundary development activities.

Sustainable Development - Transboundary Activities

Sub-programme 1: Development of the production system

Measure 1: Development of the primary sector

- [Study on the irrigation needs in each country with a view at more environmental-friendly irrigation and drainage methods];
- Preparation of joint plan for the development of organic agriculture, the reduction of the use of agrochemicals and the joint marketing of organic product

Measure 2: Development of the stockbreeding sector

- Study for the conservation of native races of domesticated animals (dwarf cow, sheep and goat of the Prespa race);
- Feasibility study for the development of organic stockbreeding and marketing of organic animal products

Measure 3: Development of the fishing sector

- Study and organisation of a common system of fishing regulations and management in the three countries

Measure 4: Development of the forestry sector

Measure 5: Strengthening of entrepreneurial activity, small and large industry

- Promotion of regulations for registered designations of origin and labelling of local products

Measure 6: Development of new types of tourism

- Implementation of the peripheral road study;
- Feasibility study on the tourist potential of the area with a view at developing sustainable tourist activities, and pilot project of linked tourist product

Sub-programme 2: Urban and spatial planning

Measure 1: Land-use planning

- Preparation of a spatial planning study for the entire Prespa catchmen

Measure 2: Urban planning studies

Measure 3: Improvement of technical infrastructure

- Feasibility study for the utilization of alternative sources of energy in the Prespa basin (biomass and solar energy)

Measure 4: Improvement of social infrastructure

- Organisation of a health care system for the treatment of emergency cases

Measure 5: Improvement of transport and communications

- Implementation of the peripheral road study

Sub-programme 3: Strengthening the local labour potential

Measure 1: Promotion of new institutions for encouraging productive activity

It is linked with strategic target 3

Measure 2: Training activities

- Organisation of training seminars, transfer of know-how and modernisation of production methods

Measure 3: Promotion of common cultural heritage

- Implementation of the peripheral road study to the extent it addresses promotion of monuments

Sub-programme 4: Implementation – Assessment mechanism

Measure 1: Organisation and operation of a mechanism for the support and assessment of initiatives

It is linked with strategic target 3

Sustainable Development- Activities per country

Albania

Sub-programme 1: Development of the production system

Measure 1: Development of the agricultural sector

- Study for the modernisation and improvement of basic agricultural infrastructure (with the necessary link between agricultural activities and environmental protection)

Measure 2: Development of the stockbreeding sector

- Study of the carrying capacity of grazing lands/ pastures;
- Modernisation of the stockbreeding sector with an emphasis on the use of local resources, means and races

Measure 3: Development of the fishing sector

- Modernisation of basic fishing infrastructure (piers, boats, fishing gear, wardening)

Measure 4: Development of the forestry sector

Measures for the protection and restoration of deforested areas are promoted and, therefore, forestry as a productive activity is not considered

Measure 5: Strengthening of entrepreneurial activity, small and large industry

- Feasibility study for the establishment of small packaging units for the processing of local products;
- Feasibility study for the establishment of a small industrial unit for the use of biomass (use of reeds as fuel and fodder)

Measure 6: Development of new types of tourism

- Study for the long-term organisation of sustainable tourist activities and linking with the corresponding networks in Greece and the FYR of Macedonia;
- Restoration and promotion of Byzantine monuments\

Sub-programme 2: Urban and spatial planning

Measure 1: Land-use planning

- Preparation of a spatial planning study and determination of land use

Measure 2: Urban planning studies

- Inventory and protection of traditional buildings

Measure 3: Improvement of technical infrastructure

- Study and reconstruction of the drinking water networks of all villages in Micro and Macro Prespa;
- Study and reconstruction of the sewage and rain water networks of all villages
- Study and implementation of a waste management system for all villages
- Study and promotion of appropriate solutions for the energy needs of the area (use of new technologies, biomass, solar energy, biogas etc.)

Measure 4: Improvement of social infrastructure

- Study and construction of an electricity supply system for all villages;
- First-level health care infrastructure for the whole region

Measure 5: Improvement of transport and communications

- Improvement/ construction of internal and external road networks in all villages;
- Study and construction of a tele- and radio-communications system for the whole region

Sub-programme 3: Strengthening the local labour potential

Measure 1: Promotion of new institutions for encouraging productive activity

- Promotion of women's co-operative productive activities (local products, agrotourism);
- Organisation of a marketing network for the local products

Measure 2: Training activities

- Implementation of training activities in all sectors of the economy

Sub-programme 4: Implementation – Assessment mechanism

Measure 1: Organisation and operation of a mechanism for the support and assessment of initiatives

It is linked with strategic target 3

Sustainable Development- Activities per country **Greece**

Sub-programme 1: Development of the production system

Measure 1: Development of the agricultural sector

- Replacement of the existing irrigation system with a new dripping system;
- Restoration of the drainage network of the agricultural zone with a view at improved water management and minimisation of erosion;
- Study for the promotion of new agricultural products to replace monocultivation;
- Study for the implementation of the new agro-environmental regulations (organic farming, organic stockbreeding, protection of agricultural landscape, restoration of natural fences etc.);
- Development and expansion of the existing network of organic agriculture

Measure 2: Development of the stockbreeding sector

- Study of the carrying capacity of grazing lands/ pastures;
- Modernisation of the stockbreeding sector and linking of the activity with the implementation of management measures in lakeside areas;
- Completion of the relocation of stockbreeding units;
- Construction of systems of natural sewage cleansing in all seasonal and permanent stockbreeding units;
- Construction of a slaughter unit.

Measure 3: Development of the fishing sector

- Implementation of management measures at the lakeside areas in order to increase spawning grounds for fish

Measure 4: Development of the forestry sector

- Planning and construction of anti-erosion measures

Measure 5: Strengthening of entrepreneurial activity, small and large industry

- Establishment of a bean processing-packaging unit;
- Establishment of a unit for the processing of traditional stockbreeding products;
- Study and organisation of a marketing system for local products;
- Feasibility study for the use of biomass (reeds, timber-felling by-products)

Measure 6: Development of new types of tourism

- Development of support mechanisms for tourist services and promotion of the area;

- Implementation of the proposals contained in the Special Environmental Study for the development of eco-tourism (infrastructure);
- Completion of archaeological excavations and promotion of Byzantine and meta-byzantine monuments

Sub-programme 2: Urban and spatial planning

Measure 1: Land-use planning

- Implementation of measures contained in the Special Environmental Study on land use and safeguarding of productive activities

Measure 2: Urban planning studies

- Updating, expansion and implementation of urban planning studies for all villages;
- Restoration of traditional settlements and buildings

Measure 3: Improvement of technical infrastructure

- Improvement of the drinking water networks of all villages;
- Improvement of the sewage and rain water networks of all villages and construction of natural wastewater cleansing systems with the use of aquatic plants

Measure 4: Improvement of social infrastructure

- Organisation and upgrading of the local medical station to a Health Centre;
- Improvement of the organisation and infrastructure of primary and secondary education

Measure 5: Improvement of transport and communications

- Completion of the new road Karyes-Antartiko;
- Improvement of the tele- and radio-communications system of the region

Sub-programme 3: Strengthening the local labour potential

Measure 1: Training activities

- Organisation of training seminars, transfer of know-how and modernisation of production methods

Sub-programme 4: Implementation – Assessment mechanism

Measure 1: Organisation and operation of a mechanism for the support and assessment of initiatives

It is linked with strategic target 3

Sustainable Development - Activities per country
The FYR of Macedonia

Sub-programme 1: Development of the production system

Measure 1: Development of the agricultural sector

- Promotion of sustainable agriculture

Measure 2: Development of the stockbreeding sector

-

Measure 3: Development of the fishing sector

- Promotion of fishing regulations

Measure 4: Development of the forestry sector

-

Measure 5: Strengthening of entrepreneurial activity, small and large industry

-

Measure 6: Development of new types of tourism

- Cultural and historical heritage of the Prespa Region in connection to the possible tourism development;
- Pilot rural, monuments and eco tourism in the Prespa Region

Sub-programme 2: Urban and spatial planning

Measure 1: Land-use planning

- Preparation of a spatial planning study and determination of land use

Measure 2: Urban planning studies

- Urban planning documentation for the development of Konsko settlement as ethnographic village

Measure 3: Improvement of technical infrastructure

- Improvement of the drinking water networks of all villages;
- Improvement of the solid waste collection system in the Prespa Region

Sub-programme 3: Strengthening the local labour potential

Measure 1: Training activities

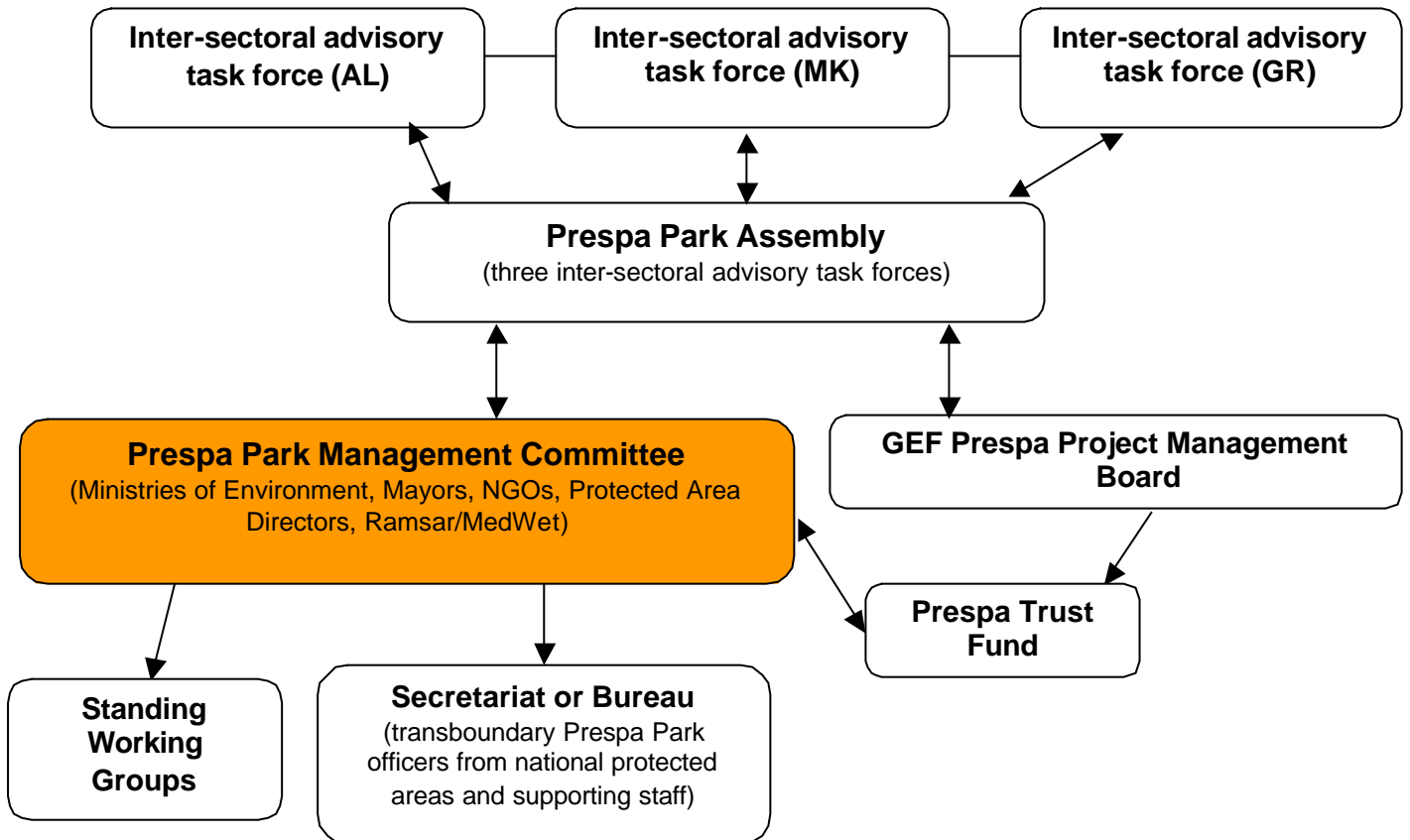
- Training of the local population in active protection and management of natural and cultural values of Prespa

Sub-programme 4: Implementation – Assessment mechanism

Measure 1: Organisation and operation of a mechanism for the support and assessment of initiatives

3. Institutionalisation of trilateral co-operation in order to enable protection of the natural environment and promotion of sustainable development.

Proposed Institutional Structure:



Prespa Park Communication Plan 2001-2002

According to the decisions of the Skopje meeting (Operational Plan and Programme of Activities – 2001), the first challenge facing the Committee is how to organise its “clearing-house” function, i.e. collection and dissemination of information on activities of any kind that may have a direct or indirect effect on the natural or socio-economic status of the Prespa Park area. In addition, the CC has to establish and maintain a communication channel with all bodies and organisations that have an interest in Prespa, including national authorities and services, NGOs, universities, international organisations etc., as well as the general public. Moreover, and irrespective of specific work programmes, the Prespa Park process has to acquire an identifiable image, become widely known, and, most importantly, establish strong roots in the local communities in all three sides of Prespa and in the three countries as a whole. All these objectives are served by a comprehensive Communication Plan, broken down into issue-specific plans, and other actions such as the compilation of inventory of activities, the organisation of information meetings etc. To this effect, at the second ordinary meeting of the CC, the following Communication Plan for the period 2001-2002 was approved in principle (sections A-C), and the more detailed proposals in sections D-F were decided to be implemented as a matter of priority.

A. Target Groups

The target groups of the envisaged communication activities are the following:

1. Local communities in the Prespa Park area in each country and local authorities and organisations that represent them
2. Public authorities and decision-makers in the three countries
3. General public in each country, with special emphasis on the members of environmental NGOs in each country
4. International public
5. International organisations (NGOs and IGOs)

B. Tools – Actions

The following tools will be used in the communication activities of the Prespa Park until the end of 2002:

1. Logo
2. International and national press (trips, contacts, interviews)
3. Fact sheet (in four or six languages)
4. Newsletter to be distributed to local, regional and national bodies in each country in their national language, as well as in English for international bodies (also e-format)
5. Prespa Park web site
6. Press conferences on special occasions
7. Celebration of the second anniversary of the Prespa Park (2/2/2002):
 - a. Extraordinary CC meeting to discuss the SAP results in Resen, followed by a
 - b. Joint press conference, and an
 - c. Exhibition of children posters for the Prespa Park.
8. Promotion in magazines, newsletters, bulletins etc. of national and international organisations and bodies
9. Trilateral radio stations network, sponsored by ERA (National Radio of Greece)
10. Tri-national documentary film
11. Transboundary book in four languages
12. Local events and meetings
13. Any other tool that might prove useful, on the basis of the experience gained in other similar programmes of transboundary co-operation in the Mediterranean and globally.

C. Timetable

<i>Target Group</i>	<i>Actions</i>	<i>Tools</i>	<i>Timetable*</i>			
			<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>D</i>
Local communities in the Prespa Park area in each country	Preparation of a fact sheet in four languages	→ Fact sheet Logo				
	Radio broadcasts on the developments with the Prespa park initiative, as well as joint productions promoting cultural exchanges and understanding between the three countries	→ Trilateral local radio stations network, sponsored by ERA (National Radio of Greece)				
	Celebration of the second anniversary of the Prespa Park (2/2/2002)	→ Local event(s), such as a poster exhibition in Resen				
	Organisation of local events and meetings	→ Local events and meetings				
Public authorities in the three countries	Newsletter in the three national languages	→ Newsletter Logo				
	Organisation of working and information meetings	→ Meetings, personal contacts				
General public in each country, with special emphasis on the members of environmental NGOs	Establishment of a Prespa Park web site	→ Web site Logo				
	Preparation of a fact sheet in four languages	→ Fact sheet Logo				
	Preparation of a tri-national documentary in the three languages	→ Documentary				

REPORT OF THE SECOND REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRESPA PARK CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE
ANNEX II

	Coverage in national media	→ Trips, regular personal contacts with media people, interviews in national media → Press conferences on special occasions				
	Preparation of a transboundary book in the three languages	→ Book				
	Radio broadcasts on the developments with the Prespa park initiative, as well as joint productions promoting cultural exchanges and understanding between the three countries	→ Trilateral local radio stations network, sponsored by ERA				
	Promotion in magazines, newsletters, bulletins etc. of national organisations and bodies	→ Magazines, newsletters, bulletins etc.				
	Celebration of the second anniversary of the Prespa Park (2/2/2002)	→ Joint press conference				
International public	Establishment of a Prespa Park web site	→ Web site → Logo				
	Preparation of a tri-national documentary in English	→ Documentary				
	Preparation of a transboundary book in English	→ Book				
	Coverage in international media	→ Trips, regular personal contacts with media people, interviews in international media → Press conferences on special occasions				
International organisations (NGOs and IGOs)	Establishment of a Prespa Park web site	→ Web site → Logo				

REPORT OF THE SECOND REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRESPA PARK CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE
ANNEX II

	Newsletter in English (also in e-format)	→ Newsletter Logo				
	Promotion in magazines, newsletters, bulletins etc. of international organisations and bodies	→ Magazines, newsletters, bulletins etc.				
	Participation in international meetings, conferences etc.	→ International meetings				

* A = until March 2002; B = until June 2002; C = until September 2002; D = until December 2002

D. Staff

To implement the above Communication Plan, staff with special skills and the necessary time availability is required.

The CC decided to recruit a full-time Prespa Park Communication Officer in the framework of its Secretariat. The relevant cost is estimated at approximately EUR36,500/ year. The Communication Officer will be based in one of the capitals and will be responsible for the implementation of the activities described in section E as a matter of priority. The specific job description will be drafted by the Secretariat and the Chairman and will be circulated to the CC members for approval.

E. Specific activities

1. Prespa Park logo

The Prespa Park logo will be the visual “identity” of the transboundary protected area and the relevant co-operative process between the three countries.

The CC decided to organise a poster competition in the Prespa schools and base the Prespa Park logo on the winning poster. The cost of preparing a logo, including printed paper and envelopes, is estimated at EUR4,200.

2. Fact sheet

The Prespa Park Fact sheet will be distributed to the local people, visitors of the Prespa area, and the general public. Copies of the fact sheet will be available at all Information Centres around the Lakes, at the offices of the local authorities of Prespa and at the offices of participating NGOs.

It will serve as the basic tool for providing information and raising awareness for the Prespa Park. It will explain, in a simple and attractive manner, the purpose for which the Prespa Park has been established and the future opportunities it creates, the objectives and work of the trilateral Co-ordination Committee and the first joint projects underway, and will indicate ways to become involved or support the transboundary co-operation in Prespa.

Technical proposal

The fact sheet will be initially published in 10,000 copies (2,500 in each of the four languages, namely Albanian, Greek, Macedonian and English), two colours, double-sided A4, with 1-2 photos. The fact sheet could also be published in French and German to address more visitors of the area, on the condition that the necessary additional funds become available.

Estimated cost: EUR1,700.

3. Newsletter

The Prespa Park Newsletter will be distributed by post to local, regional and national bodies in each country in their national language, as well as in English for international bodies (also e-format).

The main purpose of this publication will be rising awareness and sharing concerns with the central and local governments of the three neighbouring countries, international institutions, NGOs, local communities, and all other interested parties for the protection of one of the ancient world’s lake. The activities of the trilateral co-operation within the framework of the

Prespa Park will be the central theme of the newsletter. Moreover, the Prespa Lakes, their living world, the natural habitats and biodiversity, the people of the surrounding villages and their activities, and architecture and famous churches of the area will also be the subjects of this publication.

Technical proposal

The newsletter be prepared "at one" in Albanian, Greek, Macedonian and English languages; biannual publication; 8 pages; two colours; 4 photos; 4,000 copies; Editorial Board to be determined.

Estimated cost: EUR4,840 using the PPNEA/ EURONATUR newsletter mechanism; EUR 8,500 using the EKBY/ MedWet or the SPP/ WWF mechanisms.

4. Website

The Prespa Park web site will be initially hosted by the Ramsar web site at no cost. Consultations among the Secretariat with the Ramsar webmaster have to be speeded up and concluded in the next months. The above-mentioned Editorial Board will be responsible to determine the contents.

5. Second Anniversary of the Prespa Park

On 2 February 2002, the Prespa Park process will be two-years old. This is a good occasion to communicate its existence, achievements and aspirations to the national and international public, and at the same time build ties between the stakeholders involved, and especially the local communities. Starting from the latter objective, the CC decided to organise in Resen, the FYR of Macedonia, the following activities:

1. The second extraordinary meeting of the CC in Resen, to discuss the results of the SAP study.
2. An exhibition of posters prepared by the Prespa school children, having as a theme the Prespa basin and the transboundary co-operation to protect and develop the region.

Taking into account the Ramsar decision to dedicate the 2002 World Wetlands Day celebrations to the cultural aspects of wetlands, the purpose of these activities is to involve local people, and especially children, in cultural and other exchanges, to bring them together, and to promote the idea of co-existence and co-operation between all inhabitants of the Prespa basin, so that they start to build a sense of "ownership" of the Prespa Park process. The cost of the CC meeting is estimated at EUR7,500 approximately; the cost of the exhibition is to be determined.

3. A joint press conference by all CC members.

The objective of the press conference(s) should be to link the World Wetlands Day with the two years of transboundary co-operation for the Prespa Park, and highlight the main achievements thereof, which will mainly relate to the Strategic Action Plan. The participants at the press conference(s) will, thus, present the results of joint strategic planning and the future joint projects envisaged therein, with special emphasis on the cultural aspects of the Prespa basin as a linkage to the World Wetlands Day theme. The cost of the press conference as an independent event was estimated at EUR4,000; the actual cost, in view of the fact that it will be combined with the extraordinary CC is to be determined.

F. Estimated Communication Budget 2001-2002

Communication Actions	Cost in EURO
1. Fact sheet	1,700
2. Newsletter	4,840 – 8,500
3. Logo – printed paper and envelopes	4,200
4. Book	58,700
5. Documentary film	14,700
6. Press Conferences – Local events	23,000
7. Communication Officer(s) salary	36,500
8. General expenses	2,600
9. Overheads (7%)	10,300
10. Unexpected costs (5% excluding category 9)	7,400
Total Cost	167,600

Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee
Operational Plan and Programme of Activities – 2002

According to the Skopje meeting decisions, the work of the Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee during the first year of operation focussed on three main axes, Communication, Sustainable Development and Research, Monitoring and Conservation. As discussed at the second regular meeting of the Committee, some of the elements of the 2001 work plan progressed at a satisfactory pace, whereas others have been delayed. It is decided that, during 2002, the CC work be continued along the same axes, and be specified as follows:

1. With regard to **Communication**, the CC shall continue the effort to organise the collection and dissemination of information on activities of any kind that may have a direct or indirect effect on the natural or socio-economic status of the Prespa Park area, and establish and maintain a communication channel with all bodies and organisations that have an interest in Prespa, including national authorities and services, NGOs, universities, international organisations etc. To this effect,
 - a. The Secretariat shall continue to inform all local, regional, national, and international authorities and organisations concerned with Prespa of the establishment of the Committee, ask for their collaboration, and organise relevant meetings and contacts.
 - b. The Secretariat shall continue compiling the inventory of activities that may have a direct or indirect effect on the natural or socio-economic status of the Prespa Park area.
 - c. The Secretariat shall concentrate on the implementation of the comprehensive Communication Plan, as approved by the Committee at its current meeting.
 - d. The protected area authorities in the three countries shall use the EUROPARC system to negotiate further exchanges of experience in nature protection, forest and wildlife management, on the basis of the Albanian NP/ Galichitsa NP ongoing co-operation.
 - e. The Secretariat shall assist the competent authorities in the three countries to develop a joint environmental education and youth exchange programme.
 - f. The local authorities are encouraged to take joint initiatives for the organisation of social and cultural events, such as festivals, and sports events.
 - g. The government representatives at the CC, with the assistance of the Secretariat, shall collaborate in preparing a common presentation of the Prespa Park process at the 2002 Ramsar Convention Conference of the Parties.
2. With regard to the **Sustainable Development** work axis, after the Strategic Action Plan for the Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park study is completed in early 2002, the first priority actions identified therein shall be further elaborated and implemented.

In this context, the Secretariat shall prepare a proposal on appropriate follow-up action to the Strategic Action Plan to be approved at the third regular CC meeting, which should include a specific proposal on a programme for the development of a transboundary impact assessment procedure between the three countries sharing the Prespa basin.

3. With regard to the **Research, Monitoring and Conservation** axis of the Operational Plan and Programme of Activities of the Co-ordination Committee,
 - a. Implementation of the two delayed projects, namely the infrastructure and the hydrogeological project, should start within 2002.
 - b. The Secretariat shall assist the protected area administrations and collaborating NGOs to start preparation of a joint monitoring scheme on basic biotic and abiotic parameters.
 - c. The Secretariat shall continue updating the data base with scientists/ experts on Prespa and relevant publications, and assist the organisation of the third scientific symposium on the Prespa basin to be held in Greece.
 - d. The Secretariat shall continue to study and consult with the competent authorities in the three countries in order to prepare joint contingency plans. Until then, it is proposed to continue with the existing arrangement, namely to maintain the direct communication network among the three government representatives in the CC in order to mobilise transboundary assistance if the need arises.
4. Finally, with regard to **Funding**:
 - a. The Secretariat shall continue collecting information on possible funding sources at a national, European and international level to enable implementation of all the above, as well as future activities in the framework of the Prespa Park.
 - b. To the extent the PDF-B request to the GEF is approved, the project development activities envisaged therein shall be supervised by the CC and assisted by the Secretariat.
 - c. The three Governments shall allocate the earmarked minimum core funding for the implementation of the Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee work plan, and will further consider their co-financing contributions to the full GEF project.

The planned activities will be executed according to the following indicative timetable:

REPORT OF THE SECOND REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRESPA PARK CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE
ANNEX III

	Activities	Months											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Implementation of the agreed activities from the comprehensive Communication Plan												
2	Use the EUROPARK system to negotiate further exchanges of experience in nature protection, forest and wildlife management												
3	Assist the competent authorities in the three countries to develop a joint environmental education and youth exchange programme.												
4	Encourage local authorities to take joint initiatives for the organisation of social and cultural events												
5	Prepare a common presentation of the Prespa Park process at the 2002 Ramsar Convention Conference of the Parties.												
6	Preparation of a proposal on appropriate follow-up action to the Strategic Action Plan to be approved at the third regular CC meeting, including a specific project proposal for the development of a programme for the establishment of a transboundary impact assessment procedure between the three countries												

REPORT OF THE SECOND REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRESPA PARK CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE
ANNEX III

7	Implementation of the hydrological programme												
8	Implementation of the infrastructure project												
9	Preparation of a joint monitoring scheme on basic biotic and abiotic parameters.												
10	Continue updating the data base with scientists/experts on Prespa and relevant publications												
11	Organisation of the third scientific symposium on the Prespa basin to be held in Greece.												
12	Preparation of a project proposal for the development of joint contingency plans to be approved at the third CC meeting.												
13	Continue collecting information on possible funding sources at a national, European and international level to enable implementation of all activities of the Prespa Park												
14	Preparation of proposal and implementation of GEF PDF-B activities												

Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee Secretariat Terms of Reference and Operational Arrangements

According to the decisions of the Tirana Working Meeting (October 2000) and the first ordinary Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee (CC) meeting in Skopje (January 2001), the Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee Secretariat (hereinafter, 'the Secretariat') is a technical organ established to serve the CC.

Certain Operating Arrangements, regarding its structure, seat, costs, and visas, have been determined at the Skopje meeting (see Skopje meeting report, Annex II B). At the same meeting, the CC also laid down rules on guidance and supervision of the Secretariat, and assigned it with the important duty to prepare yearly CC work plans, as well as issue-related work plans to be presented to and approved by the CC. Besides preparation of the work plans, the Secretariat has to work on all day-to-day issues that concern the Prespa Park as they arise.

More specific tasks and working rules are defined in its Terms of Reference and Operational Arrangements that were adopted by the CC at its second regular meeting. In the following paragraphs, these Terms of Reference and Operational Arrangements are laid down, with the ones already adopted at the first ordinary CC meeting incorporated in bold letters. These arrangements reflect the current role and operation of the Secretariat, and may of course be amended in the future, if the need arises.

A. Terms of Reference

1. **Mission:** The Secretariat is a subsidiary organ of the Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee and its primary task is to initiate, support, and facilitate the joint activities in the framework of the trilateral Prespa Park process.
2. **Guidance and supervision:** The work of the Secretariat shall be guided by the decisions of the CC and shall be supervised by the Chairperson of this Committee. The Secretariat shall submit to the CC at each meeting a brief report on its activities since the previous meeting, including a detailed financial statement where necessary.
3. **Work plans:** The Secretariat shall prepare a yearly CC work plan with a detailed budget, to be approved at the last regular CC meeting of the previous year. The Secretariat is also responsible for preparing issue-related work plans (e.g. a communication plan) with detailed budgets that will be presented and approved by the CC. The provisions of these plans will then be incorporated accordingly into the annual plans. The Secretariat is also responsible for ensuring the implementation of approved work plans and for the preparation of relevant progress reports and financial statements to be submitted to the CC for assessment and approval.
4. **Other specific tasks:** Besides preparation and ensuring the implementation of the above-mentioned work plans, the Secretariat shall work on all day-to-day issues that concern the Prespa Park as they arise. More specifically, the Secretariat shall have the following specific tasks and duties with regard to the co-operation of the three countries for the environmental protection and sustainable development of the Prespa Park region, which shall be carried out in accordance with paragraph 3:
 - 4.1. *Preparation of meetings.* More specifically, the Secretariat prepares or provides assistance with regard to trilateral political and technical meetings and scientific symposia etc. held in the framework of the Prespa Park.

- 4.2. *Facilitation of consultations.* More specifically, the Secretariat prepares and provides assistance with regard to consultations on policy and other relevant matters between stakeholders; and with regard to consultations at the policy-preparing and technical level within the framework of working groups, expert groups etc. It especially promotes dialogue on the problems and perspectives of the region at the local level (national and tri-national).
- 4.3. *Collection, dissemination and assessment of information* with regard to the Prespa Park area protection, management and development. More specifically, the Secretariat collects information on activities that have, or may have, significant effects on the Prespa Park area, maintains a relevant inventory, and gives suggestions to the CC for appropriate actions.
- 4.4. *Follow-up of joint projects.* More specifically, the Secretariat follows the progress of all joint projects, and especially the first ongoing project, i.e. the SAP study, and reports accordingly to the CC.
- 4.5. *Compilation, evaluation, promotion of scientific research* on the Prespa Park area. More specifically, the Secretariat promotes or takes care of, as appropriate, compilation, updating and evaluation of lists on completed and current research projects; promotes or take care of, as appropriate, the identification of needs and priorities for scientific research, supported by the expertise of the participating NGOs and the priorities set by the SAP study; makes proposals for closer scientific co-operation; and promotes or takes care of, as appropriate, the publication of expert information.
- 4.6. *Contacts and meetings with donors; preparation of project documents.* More specifically, the Secretariat, under the guidance and supervision of the CC and its Chairperson, holds meetings and maintains contact with persons and organisations with an interest in Prespa that can provide funding for projects the CC deems necessary, and prepares or assists in the preparation of project and programme documents, and relevant studies and assessments, as may be required.
- 4.7. *Translation of key documents; technical and secretarial support to the local community representatives.* The Secretariat shall ensure that key documents are made available in the three national languages, and that the local community representatives to the CC have all the technical and secretarial support that is needed to ensure their full participation in the Prespa Park process.
- 4.8. *Representation in international fora.* More specifically, the Secretariat makes suggestions for a co-ordinated approach by the Parties in international *fora*, follows up trilateral initiatives in relevant international organisations, and represents the Prespa Park process in international meetings, conferences etc. in accordance with the instructions of the CC.
- 4.9. *Any other duty* assigned to it by the CC.

B. Operational Arrangements

1. **Structure:** The number and composition of the Secretariat staff (at least one from each country) is decided by the CC. At this stage, the Secretariat will consist of three persons, belonging to the non-governmental organisations members of the CC, which will provide them with all necessary support. These persons must:
 - have an educational and professional background that is appropriate to their tasks,
 - be fluent in English and with reasonable computer skills,

- **be able to devote at least 50% of their time to the work of the Secretariat.**

In a subsequent phase, the staff of the Secretariat can be increased to include support and issue-specific staff, depending on needs and the availability of funds, after a decision of the CC.

2. **Operation:** The Secretariat operates as a collective organ, any decisions, positions and proposals, taken within its mandate, are adopted by consensus, and, as a general rule, the workload and responsibilities are equally shared among its members. Appropriate internal arrangements ensure that all information obtained and initiatives and actions undertaken by one member are communicated to the others, so as to ensure co-ordination and effectiveness. At the same time, each national member of the Secretariat has the special duty to carry out the tasks of paragraph 4 of the above Terms of Reference in his/her country. Finally, the rotating chair of the CC has as a consequence a respective increased responsibility and workload for the Secretariat member from the chairing country.
3. **Working language:** The working language of the Secretariat is English.
4. **Secretariat facilities:** **The seat of the Secretariat will be located at the Society for the Protection of Prespa (SPP) headquarters in Aghios Germanos, Greece.** The SPP will place at the disposal of the Secretariat adequate facilities, will assist in administrative and accounting matters and will provide any other necessary support, thus facilitating the operation of the Secretariat.
5. **Archives:** The central archives of the Secretariat shall be kept at the SPP headquarters in Aghios Germanos. Any member of the CC may have access to these archives and request copies of documents. To enable maintenance of complete archives, all members of the Secretariat have the obligation to communicate all documents and correspondence related to their function to the seat of the Secretariat at the SPP.
6. **Costs:** **The Committee will proceed to secure funding for the operation of its Secretariat through various sources. The relevant costs will include a modest remuneration of its members, as well as travel and operation expenses. A detailed budget for such costs shall be prepared by the Secretariat and approved by the CC as part of the yearly work plan.**
7. **Visas:** Each of the three states shall facilitate the access of Secretariat members from the other two. More specifically, **Greece will ensure that the non-Greek members of the Secretariat will receive multi-entry visas for the entire period 2001-2002.**

**Prespa Park Coordination Committee
Budget 2002 (in Euro)**

SHEET I: CORE OPERATION BUDGET

I. Expenditure

A. Co-ordination Committee meetings

3rd regular meeting (Albania)	12,000
4th regular meeting (FYR Macedonia)	15,000
Extraordinary CC meeting	<u>7,500</u>

SUBTOTAL A 34,500

B1. CC Secretariat members remuneration

SPP	11,300
PPNEA	6,000
MAP	<u>6,000</u>

Subtotal B1 23,300

B2. Office costs

PPNEA	6,000
MAP	<u>6,000</u>

Subtotal B2 12,000

B3. Administration and travel

SPP (includes office costs)	13,000
PPNEA	2,500
MAP	<u>2,500</u>

Subtotal B3 18,000

SUBTOTAL B 53,300

C. Communications plan implementation

Fact sheet	1,700
Newsletter	8,500
WWD 2002 event press conf.)	4,000
Logo (incl. printed paper & envelopes)	4,200
Communication officer	36,500
Overheads	10,300
Contingency Costs	<u>7,400</u>

SUBTOTAL C 72,600

TOTAL EXPENDITURE (A+B+C) **160,400**

SHEET I: CORE OPERATION BUDGET

II. INCOME

Albania	4,000
FYR Macedonia	25,000
Greece	
SPP	18,300
MAP	6,000
PPNEA / Prespa	
NP	6,000
WWF Greece	6,000
GTZ	72,300
KfW	10,000

TOTAL INCOME	147,600
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III. DEFICIT (Income-Expenses)	-12,800
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SHEET II: Activities (adopted by the CC)

I. EXPENDITURE

Project 1 Joint hydrogeological project (<i>annual cost of 2 year project</i>)	500,000
Project 2 Establishment of buildings in AL and MK (<i>annual cost of 3 year project</i>)	235,000

TOTAL EXPENDITURE	735,000
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II. INCOME

Greece (<i>annual pledge for project 2</i>)	235,000
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TOTAL INCOME	235,000
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III. DEFICIT (Income-Expenditure)	-500,000
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List of Participants

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REPORT OF THE SECOND REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRESPA PARK CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE
ANNEX VI

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REPORT OF THE SECOND REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRESPA PARK CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE
ANNEX VI

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