

REPORT of the FOURTH REGULAR MEETING
of the PRESPA PARK
CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

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Fourth Regular Meeting of the Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee

Oteshevo, 7-8 February 2003

Hosted by the Government of the FYR of Macedonia - Ministry of Environment and the Municipality of Resen

At the invitation of Mr. Metodija Dimovski, Head of European Integration Department of the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of the FYR of Macedonia, representative of the Ministry to the Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee (CC), the CC held its fourth regular meeting in KJUBI Hotel, Oteshevo, on 7-8 February 2003.

Eight out of the ten members (or alternate 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 V). The Committee welcomed two new members from Greece, Mr. Spyros Plessas (Department of Management of the Natural Environment - Directorate of Environmental Planning), recently appointed representative of the Greek Ministry of Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, and Mr. Lazaros Nalpantidis, the newly elected Mayor of Prespa. Mrs. Myrsini Malakou of SPP and Mr. Aleko Miho of PPNEA were absent.

The meeting was opened by the Mayor of Resen, Dr. Dimko Toskovski, and chaired by Mr. Metodija Dimovski.

Agenda

1. Opening session:

- 1.1. Welcome addresses - Presentation and adoption of the working agenda
- 1.2. Activities since the Second Regular meeting at Psarades
 - 1.2.1. Presentation of report by the Secretariat (Working document 1)
 - 1.2.2. Additional contributions from the CC members

2. Implementation of Operational Plan and Programme of Activities – 2002

- 2.1. Presentation of report by the Secretariat (Working document 2)
- 2.2. Discussion

3. PDF B project

- 3.1. Presentation by the UNDP and KfW representatives
- 3.2. Discussion on PDF B

4. Operational Plan and Programme of Activities – 2003

- 4.1. Presentation of the proposal by the Secretariat (Working Document 3)
- 4.1. Discussion and approval

5. GTZ Micro-projects

- 5.1. Presentation of criteria for selection, progress with Round 2 projects, and selection of Round 3 projects by the GTZ representatives (Working Document 4)
- 5.2. Discussion and conclusions

6. Financial matters

- 6.1. Presentation of financial report for the year 2002 by the Secretariat (Working Document 5)
- 6.2. Presentation of proposed budget for the year 2003 by the Secretariat (Working Document 6)
- 6.3. Discussion and approval

7. Any other business

- 7.1. Extension of the CC mandate
- 7.2. Extension of the CC Chair's term

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 acting Chairman, Mr. Metodija Dimovski (Ministry of Environment, FYR of Macedonia), opened the meeting and welcomed the new members of the Committee from Greece, Mr. Spyros Plessas, Ministry of Environment representative and Mr. Lazaros Nalpantidis, the new Mayor of Prespa. He also welcomed all first-time observers to the meeting wishing for fruitful discussions with all participants contributing to the main goal, the sustainable development of the Prespa region.

The Mayor of Resen, Dr. Dimko Toskovski, in his capacity as host of the meeting welcomed all participants to Oteshevo and to the Fourth Regular Meeting of the Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee and expressed his gratitude to the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of the FYR of Macedonia, of Albania and of Greece as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece, which contributed to the realisation of the meeting. He also welcomed the members of the local self-governments, all members of the CC and the Secretariat, the representatives of the donor organisations and all participants present. Dr. Toskovski noted the entrance to the third year of the Prespa Park process after the joint Declaration of the three governments in Ag. Germanos, on 2nd February 2000, when political consensus on the protection of the Prespa Park was achieved. He continued by stressing the unique ecological values of the Prespa Lakes and the importance of the conservation of this ecosystem, which also provides the grounds for the development of the three bordering countries for the benefit of the inhabitants and of peace and friendship. He noted the importance of the formation of the CC and the Secretariat, as well as of the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) project, for the operation and the pragmatic implementation of the Declaration goals, and made a quick reference to the SAP's main areas of interest. He remarked that the Municipality of Resen sees the Prespa region as one entity and the future of the region

in two projects: the Prespa Park and the Euroregion. Both of them, he added, have the full support of the Municipality of Resen and, with the assistance of international foundations and donors, they could be successfully implemented. Dr. Toskovski also stressed that Greece, as a member of the EU, can contribute to a better implementation of projects planned in the three countries and to the promotion of the Prespa region in the European framework. He concluded with a reference to main facts about the Municipality of Resen, regarding physical characteristics, social parameters, cultural and ecological characteristics and infrastructure, and with his aspiration that Prespa should grow to be a perfect example of transborder co-operation.

Mr. Nalpantidis then greeted the meeting and expressed his hope that joint activities tie all parties together in a common effort to achieve the Prespa Park goals.

Mr. Spyros Kouvelis (Ramsar/ MedWet) greeted the members of the CC and the observers, and expressed his pleasure in seeing more people showing an active interest in this innovative process as observers. He continued by noting the importance of this fourth meeting, which signifies a point of maturity, since the SAP has been developed and the next steps of kicking off and implementing the PDF and the ensuing GEF project will be taken. He also stressed the close logical and sequential connection between these three projects and noted the immense importance of the PDF B and GEF projects for the sustainable development of the region. Mr. Kouvelis also noted that the Ramsar Convention is taking very seriously the example of the Prespa Park, including extensive reference to the initiative in its annual report to the contracting parties, while MedWet has used the transboundary co-operation in Prespa as a model for developing such initiatives in other areas in the Mediterranean (Neretva river in Croatia-Bosnia/Herzegovina and N.Africa).

The Chairman then proceeded to the presentation of the agenda of the meeting. Mr. Dimovski proposed the inclusion of two topics under agenda item 7, "Any other business": a) Mandate of the Committee and b) Extension of the chairman's mandate to one year. The agenda was adopted with these amendments.

Mrs. Vivi Roumeliotou (Secretariat-SPP) subsequently presented the first item of the agenda, namely information on the activities that took place since the meeting in Psarades, on behalf of the Secretariat, on the basis of Working Document 1. The main activity during this period was the finalisation of the SAP study and the realization of a consultation process, which is finished in Greece and Albania but is still pending in the FYR of Macedonia. Another important activity was preparation of the PDF B project, which is elaborated as a separate agenda item (3). Regarding the water issue in the Prespa basin, the transboundary hydrogeological study agreed upon by the CC in previous meetings has been incorporated in the PDF B project so as to enable its immediate implementation. Other developments in 2002, were the operation of the Albanian canal which brings water from the Devolli river into Micro Prespa Lake, as well as the beginning of a EU LIFE project implemented by the SPP, which includes the regulation of the water level of Micro Prespa. Another development since the last meeting, was the re-orientation of the ECCONET Action Fund Project, implemented by the PPNEA, towards support of the Albanian Prespa National Park. Moreover, reference was made to the recruitment of a Communication Officer, which however was significantly delayed, in turn impeding implementation of the Communication Plan. Regarding the GTZ micro-projects, the selection panel of the CC had recently approved some new projects, and this is discussed as a separate agenda item (5). Reference was also made to the continuation of KfW bilateral assistance activities, to the delay noted in implementation of the infrastructure project, to the Resen event on 2nd February 2002, to the presentation of the Prespa Park in Ramsar COP8, to a project by East-West institute for the establishment of a Prespa Economic Task Force, to the Declaration of the three Ministers of Culture on the Prespa Lakes, and to other planned activities which have not been carried out, but are nevertheless expected to be realised within the context of the PDF B project.

Subsequently, Mr. Antonis Rigas (SPP), co-ordinator of the LIFE project "Conservation of priority bird species (Dalmatian pelican and Pygmy cormorant) in Lake Micro Prespa, Greece", made a brief presentation of the project that includes water management of the lake, through the reconstruction of the sluice between the two lakes, management of littoral vegetation, monitoring and awareness-raising activities. Mr. Kouvelis congratulated the SPP for this initiative stressing the importance of the project and noting that it covers some of the priorities already laid down in the SAP, while Mr. Branko Micevski (Secretariat-MAP) expressed the opinion that the SPP cannot carry out monitoring activities for this project without co-operating with organisations from the other two countries.

The Chairman then opened the floor for further discussion on Working Document 1. Mr. Micevski noted that the SAP consultation procedure has been carried out in his country and several project proposals are currently being drafted in order to be included in the SAP document. He also informed the Committee on some communication activities undertaken by BSPSM in Prespa during 2002.

Dr. Toskovski noted the importance of developing a website for the Prespa Park for better dissemination of information. He also added that, regarding irrigation works in the region, the water of the Prespa lake should not be used for agricultural purposes, and noted the lack of monitoring of water quality of the lakes, although the sites for the necessary stations had already been marked. Finally, the Mayor urged the CC members to make an appeal to all governments for the opening of the borders in the region.

Mr. Dieter Biallas (GTZ) remarked that during the last eighteen months more than thirty micro-projects, funded by GTZ, have been implemented by NGOs and/ or local communities, including Greek partners, in the area.

The Chairman then wrapped up the discussion on the first agenda item leaving final decision for later, when the absent members of the CC from Albania would be present.

Mrs. Roumeliotou, on behalf of the Secretariat, subsequently presented agenda item 2, Implementation of Operational Plan and Programme of Activities 2002. She noted that several planned activities for the year 2002 were delayed or left undone. Regarding implementation of the Communication Plan, most of the relevant activities were not carried out due to the significant delay noted in the recruitment of the Communication Officer. However, a fact-sheet was published, by the Ministry of Environment of the FYR of Macedonia, and the Secretariat continued its day-to-day work, including compilation of an inventory of activities and informing respective bodies, such as the Ministers of Culture of the three countries. Another achievement was the joint presentation in the Ramsar COP8 through a poster on the cultural values of the area. Other elements which lagged behind this year were: the collaboration of PA authorities through the EUROPARC system, the youth exchange programme, and the collaboration of local authorities. On the Sustainable Development axis, it was noted that the SAP was completed, and at the moment it was in a consultation process. However, identification and implementation of priorities, as stated in the 2002 workplan, was not yet achieved. On the Research, Monitoring and Conservation axis, implementation of the infrastructure and the hydrogeological projects, along with the preparatory activities for a monitoring scheme, have not started yet. The Secretariat continued updating the database of scientists/ experts, and publications. However, the envisaged 3rd Scientific Symposium for Prespa, to be held in Greece, was not carried out this year. Co-operation for the preparation of joint contingency plans continued, but not much notable progress was achieved so far -although in the year 2002 there had been no need for emergency assistance. This gap, together with the collaboration of the Municipalities, is expected to be filled in 2003, and the specific proposals would be presented under agenda item 4. The Secretariat continued its efforts on funding, but this is a cumbersome and complicated task. The main relevant development had been the PDF B project request. Finally, the Governments had undertaken to allocate minimum core funding, which has been partially achieved.

The Chairman said that apart from the Secretariat's work he would expect substantial input from every member of the CC and subsequently opened the floor to discussion. Mr. Biallas noted that contrary to what is stated in Working Document 2, the Municipalities of Prespa have co-operated in cultural and social activities through GTZ micro-projects, as noted in Working Document 5.

Mr. Kouvelis said that although this report shows weakness to deliver due to lack of financial or human capacity, it also shows that a set of parallel activities have been going on. He also added that the new 'LIFE' project should be taken into account in the programming and the reporting.

At that time the Albanian delegation arrived and the Chairman gave the floor to Mr. Zamir Dedej (Ministry of Environment). Mr. Dedej remarked that the Secretariat did a good job with Working Documents 1 and 2. He then introduced Ms. Aferdita Ponari, the new Communication Officer. He expressed the interest of the Government of Albania to support the process and expressed his hope that the GEF project would also give financial support.

The next item on the agenda (3) was the presentation on the PDF B by Ms. Claudia Loy (KfW) and Mr. Nick Remple (UNDP). Mr. Remple said that the PDF B request had already been at the GEF Secretariat for the past 3 weeks, and that it would be most probably approved. He informed the CC that GEF was suffering a crisis last year, waiting for replenishment, and that no cash was available at the moment and apologized for the delay. He added that if an e-mail connection were available he would be able to immediately check if the approval letter from GEF had arrived. Mr. Remple then presented to the CC a handout with the PDF results and products, effectively a reflection of the Terms of Reference (ToR). He commented that this proposal was impact-oriented, aligned to SAP and stressing the threats to biodiversity and water quality and added that there should be a mix of investment and technical assistance, including equal measures of GEF and non-GEF finance. He noted that more consultations with the Governments and the other donors were needed. On the next steps proposed by UNDP and KfW, he said that it was very important to have a Steering Committee (SC) for the project, able to take decisions on a regular basis, and not every 6 months. To this effect, he suggested that the governments nominate a representative of each country with the authority to take decisions, since the implementation structure should move as quickly and efficiently as possible. The SC could be made up from the National Project Directors (officially appointed by the Governments); UNDP and KfW, together with Mr. Kouvelis (MedWet/Ramsar), could be the advisors to the SC and the CC Secretariat could also be assisting. Furthermore, the Project Implementation Units would be reporting to the SC, and, finally, the consultant team, involving the IPM and some short-term experts, would be formed by a specific consultant firm. Mr. Remple concluded by saying that the approval would be a matter of, if not minutes, perhaps days. He then introduced Ms. Anita Kodzoman, the UNDP environment officer based in Skopje, the office to be linked with the SC.

Ms. Loy greeted the participants and said that she will attend the Prespa Park meetings more regularly, joined by other officers.

The Chairman opened the floor to interventions, commenting that the scheme of the implementation structure of the PDF B just proposed by UNDP and KfW was different from the one the CC had already endorsed, especially with regard to the proposed SC.

Mr. Dedej remarked that the organogramme presented was simpler than the previous one. He asked how UNDP and KfW would regulate their relation since UNDP is normally the implementing agency, and what would be the relationship between the different National Project Coordinators (NPC). He also asked where the project office/unit would be based. On the issue of the consultant firm, he wondered whether the SC would participate in the whole selection process or merely in the end. Ms. Loy replied that regarding the UNDP-KfW relation, it was decided that UNDP would have the prime responsibility for results 1-3 and 8, and KfW for results 4-7, since KfW would co-fund the PDF B with equal amounts.

Nevertheless, they would jointly supervise the consultant team with joint terms of reference. A comprehensive paper on this would be presented to the GEF. She stressed that the teams, the consulting firm and the short-term experts should not be working independently. Finally, regarding Mr. Dedej's question whether there would be a memorandum of understanding between the two agencies, Ms. Loy replied positively.

Mr. Remple said that the positions would be advertised nationally, and that the UNDP would take charge of this process, and give a shortlist of best candidates -or the ideal one- to the CC for approval. Ms. Kodzoman added that the normal process would be to shortlist, interview and select the best candidate and then proceed to a recommendation to the CC. Mr. Dedej argued that in that process there was no place for national institutions. Mr. Remple said that the National Project Directors would be named by each government, and the National Project Coordinator positions would be advertised, and that in the selection panel the Ministries of Albania and FYR of Macedonia would be included. The National Project Offices should be located in the region itself, but that should be flexible. Regarding the consultant contract and the participation of the CC, Mr. Remple said that this was not a "take it or leave it" proposal, and that if the Governments object, they would reconsider.

Mr. Dimovski noted that the issues of the NPD, NPC and office location had already been clarified in the PDF B document. On the proposed SC, where the Governments are represented by the NPDs and the NGOs by the Secretariat, he noted that there was no place for local authorities. Secondly, he argued that such an arrangement would be a duplication of work for the Secretariat and it would not guarantee smooth and fast operation. He proposed that instead of having a SC as such, the CC should authorise the NPDs -who should be selected by the local authorities as well- to act on its behalf as an operational body. He said that the central officer -that is the International Project Manager- should have a final outlook post, and he proposed his/ her permanent seat to be located in Resen. Regarding the structure, he said that the original one was good enough and there was no need to invent a new one, and concluded that all that was needed was good ToRs.

Mr. Remple agreed and said that they need to be transparent and quick. He added that they do not want to eliminate the local authorities from the scheme and agreed that the CC Secretariat indeed had also other things to do, repeating that the UNDP/ KfW presentation was only a proposal. The Chairman said that the CC members could exchange their relevant comments and reach decisions on a "no-objection basis" after the meeting, and that good ToRs should clear the issue. Mr. Kouvelis said the MedWet could join in the supervision scheme as a technical advisor, not in administration, and that they could provide space and facilities. On the SC, he agreed that the local authorities should be represented. Regarding the consultant firm, he said that it should be ensured that expertise is built in the region.

Ms. Roumeliotou asked for clarifications on the relationship of the consultant firm with the ToR of the various studies and wondered whether the international firm would take on these ToR, or would they use their own procedure to carry out the studies. Mr. Remple replied that the firm could either do the studies themselves, or subcontract them. He further added that the ToRs were not final and that some elements were missing. He agreed that there has to be made sure that local capacity is built, and that effort would be made to hire local consultants. Ms. Roumeliotou followed up on that, commenting that this might lead to a group of experts from some totally unrelated, remote country carrying out all the studies. Ms. Loy replied that they intend to have one company with proven track record in doing studies like this, and they would pick the best through a tender process, while they would ensure that experts from the region are included.

Mr. Biallas intervened saying that, having worked in technical assistance for sometime, he could say that experts play an important role. However, in the proposed diagramme nobody was controlling them, and they were at an equal level with the NPCs. He thought that there should be a direct link between the SC and the consultants, and that they had to report to

the SC in order to be able to keep the project on track. Ms. Loy said that they certainly agree on that and that there had been an editorial problem and a relevant line had been left out.

The Chairman noted that although there would be a tender, subject to joint selection by the beneficiaries, the ToRs would not be subject to approval by the beneficiaries. He added that he would not like to see yet another donor-driven project, and that the work and decision-making should remain within the CC. On a regular, periodical basis, the Committee should evaluate the work of the consultants, whereas the IPM would exert control on a daily basis. Regarding participation of local people, he said that it should be very clearly specified in the ToRs that the firm should recruit an appropriate number of local experts.

Subsequently, Mr. Thymio Papayannis (MedWet Senior Advisor) posed two questions: whether the IPM would be part of the consultant team and what the exact relation between the project units and the consultants would be. Mr. Remple replied that the IPM, who would be the head of the project units, would not have authority over the consultants. On the second question, he noted that the project units and the consultants could actually be shown together in one box as they should both report to, and be supervised by, the SC. Ms. Loy stated that it was not their intention to have a project dominated by the donors, but urged everyone to make quick and effective decisions, noting that taking, e.g., two months for reaching an agreement on the ToRs would be too much. She argued that, at least from KfW's perspective, technical issues do not necessarily have to involve everybody. Mr. Dedej commented that bureaucracy should be taken into account and therefore two months would be acceptable.

On the issue of the NPCs, Mr. Dimovski noted that the Greek officer was separated and wondered whether there would be two separate projects. Mr. Remple said that this was left aside because Greece was not a recipient country, and it was separated only because of financial considerations, not operational ones; however, the Greek NPC would be effectively part of the project implementation unit on equal footing. Mr. Dimovski suggested that the implementation structure should be reviewed to fully incorporate Greece as an integral part of the PDF project, and Ms. Loy agreed upon that.

Following that, the Chairman proposed to establish a Task Force to prepare the PDF ToRs, the financial arrangements and whatever else was necessary in a reasonable time. He also asked the government representatives to clarify their position on the availability of co-funding. Ms. Loy agreed with the idea of a Task Force of the CC and noted that the ToRs are very important. The Chairman added that there should be another meeting of the members of the CC and the UNDP and KfW representatives only. Mr. Plessas, Mr. Nalpantidis and Mr. Dedej initially agreed with Mr. Dimovski's proposal, and suggested that the first week of March would be appropriate for the meeting. However, Mr. Dedej wondered whether it would be better to ask the Secretariat to carry out this task, instead of establishing an *ad hoc* Task Force. Mr. Remple, on the other hand, said that UNDP would put together draft ToRs and send them to the CC in two weeks time. The Chairman objected to that and insisted in setting up a Task Force to prepare draft ToRs for the next extraordinary meeting of the CC. Following that, Mr. Nalpantidis offered to host the next extraordinary meeting in Aghios Germanos, in the Greek Prespa.

Subsequently, Mr. Micevski re-introduced the proposal that the Secretariat could be assigned with the task of preparing TORs, while Mr. Dedej maintained that, since the project ToRs is a national duty, the three ministerial representatives to the CC should decide or propose ToRs, and that the Secretariat could of course assist in this procedure. Mr. Kouvelis noted in this connection that, once the ToR are drafted, the national focal points would have to decide, after internal consultations in their countries. The Chairman proposed that a group made up by three persons nominated by their Ministries would have to decide on draft TORs in four or five weeks with the assistance of MedWet.

Mr. Dedej expressed doubt that the Ministries would accept the establishment of a Task Force and repeated that consultations should be needed at a national level. At this point, Mr.

Micevski and Mrs. Pandora Nikusheva (MAP) said that the new proposal was distributed to the CC members at a very short notice and hence had created confusion, and underlined again the importance of consulting with the local authorities and the NGO sector. Ms. Kodzoman and Mr. Remple, supporting Mr. Dedej's point, noted that the UNDP would expect one single answer and a legal document signed by the Governments, while Ms. Loy stressed the fact that the work involved is very technical and urged everyone to get started and achieve consensus.

The Chairman finally tried to sum up the preceding discussion saying that the Ministries had appointed the CC members and given them a specific mandate, and consequently the CC would have to take the final decision on the endorsement of the ToRs and financial and organisational arrangements. The Ministries and the implementing agencies would have to work on the documents and then submit them to the Committee. The UNDP should enter into consultation with the Governments and make sure that the Greek Ministry of Environment is also contacted, and should submit the resulting documents to the CC members within two weeks. Two weeks after that, an extraordinary meeting would be held for endorsing the document. The Mayor of Greek Prespa, Mr. Nalpantidis, then reaffirmed his offer to host the extraordinary meeting in Aghios Germanos.

On the second day of the meeting, the Chairman welcomed Mr. I. Stratakis, the Prefect of Florina, Greece, who had just arrived in order to attend the meeting.

Mr. Micevski presented the Operational Plan and Programme of Activities for year 2003 (agenda item 4). On the Communication axis, he noted that the Secretariat should continue its activities of informing on the Prespa Park activities and compiling an inventory of activities, and made reference to the new Communication Officer. On the Sustainable Development axis, he said that the SAP should be adopted by the CC, the Secretariat should prepare and prioritise proposals, and identify resources. On the Research, Monitoring and Conservation axis, he mentioned the PDF B studies, the protected area needs and management plans, the hydrogeological study, and the study and consultations with fire-fighting authorities. On the issue of Funding, he said that the Secretariat would continue collecting information and that the PDF B activities would contribute in this direction.

Following Mr. Micevski's presentation, the Chairman asked the new Communication Officer to present herself to the CC members. Ms. Ponari expressed her appreciation for working with the CC in this meeting. She said she intended to prepare the communication plan in close collaboration with the Secretariat and in co-ordination with all CC members and that she will be present in the region of Prespa regularly.

On the Programme of Activities, Mr. Papayannis commented that the CC should strengthen the Secretariat's capacity. On the communication part, he said that the people around Prespa are eager to see results on the ground.

Mrs. Georgia Zebiliadou (Region of Western Macedonia, Greece) expressed the intention of the Management Unit of the Regional Operational Programme (R.O.P.) of the Region to support the implementation of Prespa Park activities. She would, nevertheless, like to comment that, although the Programme of Activities for 2003 had a very tight schedule for communication activities, planning of specific projects was vague. She hence recommended that the activities and the project proposals should be more specific and prioritised and added that as far as Greek project proposals for the R.O.P. and Interreg are concerned, these should first reach a point of adequate maturity.

Mr. Spase Shumka (Secretariat-PPNEA) then talked again about the communication plan and expressed his appreciation for GTZ co-operation and support. Mr. Dedej suggested to have two- or three-year plans instead of annual ones, stressed the importance of having a

Communication Officer working with the Secretariat, and underlined the correlation between the future PDF B activities and the Prespa Park planning.

Mr. D.Karavellas (WWF International) reaffirmed the interest and willingness of WWF to participate in and assist the Prespa Park process. Regarding the activities for 2002, which were not carried out, as well as the planned activities for 2003, he said that there is need for serious commitment at all three levels, national, local and NGO. He noted that a great amount of work has been done by the Secretariat, i.e. the NGOs, and SPP in particular. He also added that the Secretariat is not the one that should be driving the process, but the governments should take responsibility instead. He finally asked for official adoption of the SAP and stressed the need for building capacity, which will be essential when funding eventually comes.

Mrs. Nikusheva said that the Secretariat is doing pioneering work and under difficult conditions and saluted the recruitment of the Communication Officer.

Mr. Kouvelis expressed the feeling that there could have been more results, but the initiative is anyway still at a take-off level. He supported the proposal to have three-year workplans in the future. He also agreed with Mrs. Zebiliadou that project proposals should reach maturity, and he proposed three criteria for proposed activities: urgency, real preparatory character and funds availability. According to his opinion, the Sustainable Development axis should be the first priority, with the other axes providing support to it. He, moreover, noticed that some activities, which were not implemented in 2002, do not appear in the 2003 planning. Finally, he welcomed the new Communication Officer and opened the opportunity to use the Ramsar/MedWet website for Prespa Park communication purposes.

The Chairman then summarised the preceding discussion in the following points: a) Most CC members agree that the planning period should be extended to three years from 2004 onwards; b) There is a need for building more capacity in the Secretariat, but also in the CC. In this connection, increased communication between the Secretariat and the CC is anticipated, while the work of the Secretariat needs guidance by the CC; c) There is a need for focus when planning the work, taking into account the three criteria mentioned by Mr. Kouvelis; d) The layout of the documents, in particular the Operational Plan and Programme of Activities, must be improved in order to be more easily readable and self-explaining. Consequently, the Secretariat should redraft the Operational Plan in the form of an action plan, including deadlines for each activity; e) The Communication Officer should implement last year's planning and use the website of Ramsar/ MedWet; f) There is a need to secure funding, and to make sure that at the first meeting of each year there is a clear statement of what the Governments have allocated for Prespa.

At that point, Mr. Dedej asked the Greek representative whether there was any progress on the building infrastructure project. Mr. Plessas replied that the Greek Government is still considering the budget of the project and that he would in a position to inform the CC on the Government's final decision at the Committee's next regular meeting.

GTZ then presented working document 4 referring to criteria for selection of GTZ funded micro-projects, progress with Round 2 projects, and selection of Round 3 projects. Mr. Biallas said that the selection panel for screening project proposals to the GTZ had basically worked well, that the process had been an example of what other donors could do and fund, and the progress so far should be appreciated. He added that the GTZ commitment will be over by September 2003, and then will have to be reconsidered whether the programme will be continued; in this context, a relevant request by the CC to the German Government would be helpful. He stressed the importance of strategic planning for sustainable development and proposed that emphasis should be given to economic development, e.g. agrotourism, and to the co-operation of local governments. Ms. Anica Palazzo (GTZ Ohrid) continued saying that up to now the GTZ had supported 25 micro-projects by NGOs and local governments in all three countries. She also mentioned GTZ's special attention to tourism, and the production of a relevant brochure in four languages.

The Chairman then enquired about Round 3 micro-projects, and Mrs. Roumeliotou answered the results of the selection panel's session were only received the previous day. Mr. Biallas asked the CC to confirm the selection done by the special panel. Mr. Dedej said his Government had no objections, whereas Mrs. Nikusheva commented that the only thing they had seen was a list and the project titles and that was not enough in order to form an opinion. Mr. Biallas replied that the GTZ wanted to ensure transparency, and to that effect, he proposed the development of a procedure to make all documents readily available, the elaboration of selection criteria, and the right to veto. In his intervention, Mr. Papayannis repeated that the CC needed to increase its capacity and work in smaller groups, and that it should learn to authorise members to take decisions, but Mr. Micevski objected to this and proposed the involvement of all nine members. Closing the issue, the Chairman considered the Round 3 selection endorsed, since there were no major objections.

On the selection criteria, the Chairman noted that reference to the SAP, which was the basic background paper, was missing, and also asked for transparency and visibility and for clear announcements by the GTZ office. Mr. Kouvelis agreed that the connection of proposed projects to the SAP would ensure continuity. Mr. Dedej asked for a "rest period" of two years, during which the same NGO would not be allowed to apply again but the Chairman argued that such a rule could interfere with competence. Finally, Ms. Palazzo asked the CC members to observe the deadlines agreed during the selection process.

Continuing with financial matters, Mr. Shumka, on behalf of the Secretariat, presented the financial report for 2002 (agenda item 6.1). Mr. Papayannis commented that the Secretariat had been practically financed by the NGOs. The Chairman asked for better explanation of activities covered by the budget lines and commented that the SPP had spent much more than its partners. In this connection, Mr. Dedej noted that PPNEA's contribution had been in kind and admitted that the Government had not given its support. Mr. Shumka and Mr. Micevski confirmed that they had not been paid for the work in the Secretariat and that the NGOs should be given motivation in order to continue with this demanding task. Mr. Karavellas intervened saying that WWF-Greece supports SPP, and that this is done with difficulty. Should they decide to withdraw their support, the SPP would not be able to continue its Prespa Park programme and the CC and the Prespa Park itself would probably collapse. Therefore, he said that the governments should also do their job and show commitment. Mrs. Roumeliotou continued in the same vein, saying that having NGOs contribute would not suffice, since they do not have a cash flow all the time and they constantly drain their own limited resources in order to live up to the tasks at hand. Mr. Kouvelis noted that the Ramsar Bureau and the three Prime Ministers' agreement for the Prespa Park implies a serious commitment, at the highest level and hence the Governments are expected to step in the process. He asked that, in approving the budget, the Governments should commit to support the Prespa Park. Mr. Dedej replied that the Governments have many financial obligations and that, at the end of the day, they contributed the work of the Government representatives at the CC. The Chairman added that, according to the report, a considerable amount of the budget had been secured by the NGOs. If that were shown to the responsible Ministers, they would infer that the NGOs are capable of sustaining themselves; therefore, the reality should be reflected in the report, if the Governments were expected to pay for the work of the Prespa Park. Mr. Kouvelis finally concluded that there is definitely a need for distinction between in kind and cash contributions and the Chairman suggested that the CC endorses the report in principle asking the Secretariat to amend it with further break down of figures shown, including the distinction between in kind and cash contribution.

Mr. Shumka proceeded to the presentation of the budget for year 2003 (agenda item 6.2). Mr. Kouvelis asked whether the PDF B project could cover the next regular CC meeting for which there was no secured funding. Mr. Remple expressed UNDP's reluctance to finance a CC regular meeting, at least if it was to take place in Greece, but added that an extraordinary meeting, if in relation to PDF B, could be financed. Mrs. Roumeliotou clarified

that the budget had been drafted before the discussion of the previous day, at a time when the CC was supposed to be the PDF B Steering Committee. She added that, as shown in the budget, the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs alone would sponsor some Prespa Park activities, while others would be sponsored by the Ministry together with WWF and SPP.

Taking the floor, Mr. Biallas stated that the GTZ contribution would be in two parts: the GTZ micro-projects, included under "Parallel activities" and a sum of €50,000, mainly for the Prespa Park communication plan.

Mr. Dedej noted that as the coming extraordinary meeting would take place in Aghios Germanos, the Municipality of Prespa could be mentioned in the budget as the donor, instead of the PDF B. The Chairman suggested that at least the second extraordinary meeting of the Committee be covered by the PDF B and Mr. Remple replied that they could consider that, but they would want to see government contribution as well. Mr. Dedej proposed that the two Governments (Albania, FYR of Macedonia) could cover the €18,000 deficit in the budget, initially in-kind, by sharing it.

The Chairman and Mr. Kouvelis both asked for more detail, inclusion of specific actions – as opposed to everyday work - and a separation of in-kind contributions, while Mr. Dedej added that KfW projects should also be included in the Prespa Park budget. Mr. Micevski then asked the government representatives to contact their governments and determine their contribution and Mr. Dimovski answered that the government of the FYR of Macedonia would contribute up to €20,000 but he would have to confirm that after the current meeting.

The Chairman concluded that, although the budget for year 2003 could not be endorsed that day, there were a lot of good comments and suggestions, and some new commitments by the governments of Albania and the FYR of Macedonia and the Municipality of Prespa. The CC entrusted the Secretariat to continue its work on the budget by: breaking it down to maximum detail; allocate secured amounts to the different items; include, as a separate part of the budget, GTZ and KfW activities. The redrafted budget should be submitted to CC for approval in the next meeting. Following that, Mr. Kouvelis offered to assist the Secretariat in the reformulation of the budget.

Passing to "any other business" (agenda item 7), the Chairman stressed the need for an extension of the CC mandate for at least one year until the end of the PDF B phase; after that the relevant rules would have to be re-defined. Mr. Dedej agreed that with the beginning of the PDF B activities the CC should be in place, and noted that the whole GEF project duration would be five years and the CC mandate should be extended accordingly. As there were no further comments by CC members, the Chairman concluded that the Secretariat and himself should prepare a letter to the Ministers of the Environment on that issue.

The Chairman continued asking for an extension of the CC chair's term to one year from the current six months in order to increase efficiency but Mr. Dedej objected to that proposal. Mrs. Roumeliotou reminded the Committee that the chair is linked to general rule of rotation between the three countries, and Mr. Papayannis noted that the CC should be equitable among the three countries and the three sectors and suggested to consider this issue in detail in the framework of the PDF B. The Chairman hence concluded that his idea was still premature and accepted Mr. Papayannis' proposal.

Mr. Dedej then put forth the issue of the proclamation of a Prespa/ Ohrid Biosphere Reserve, despite the fact that Greece had no borders with Lake Ohrid. He asked that this issue be included in the agenda of the next regular meeting, with the participation of a UNESCO representative and the facilitation of MedWet.

Mr. Papayannis, on behalf of the Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, referred to the Ramsar decision to incorporate cultural values in the management of wetlands, as stated in Resolution #19 of the COP8 (Conference of the Parties), that took place in Valencia in November 2002. He stressed the importance of this resolution and proposed that the CC should consider how it could be implemented in the Prespa Park area.

The Chairman then proceeded to announce the proposed dates for the next meetings. The extraordinary meeting on the organisational aspects of the PDF B project was scheduled for the 8th March 2003, in Aghios Germanos, Greece. The next regular meeting was agreed to take place in November, but the exact date was left to be specified at the Aghios Germanos extraordinary meeting. It was also decided that one more extraordinary meeting should take place in the summer after the PDF project gets under way.

Finally, after approval of the conclusions of the meeting, the Chairman thanked the Government of Greece for the generous support of the event and all participants for their contribution and declared the meeting closed.

Conclusions

1. At its fourth meeting, the CC heard a report on activities concerning the Prespa Park in 2002 and noted the positive involvement of various actors in the Prespa Park area.
2. Regarding implementation of the Operational Plan and Programme of Activities of the Committee for the year 2002, the CC approved in principle the report submitted by the Secretariat (Annex I) and noted that several activities planned for this year had not been implemented for various reasons. In this connection, it stressed that its Secretariat should be strengthened and its capacity should be further built. The newly recruited Communication Officer is expected to greatly contribute in this direction.
3. The results of the Round 3 selection process regarding GTZ micro-projects were endorsed by the CC (Annex IV). The CC also discussed the criteria for selection of projects presented before it and decided to add the following criteria:
 - a. Priority should be given to projects contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan of the Prespa Park.
 - b. An NGO that has secured GTZ funding cannot apply for funding again before the passage of two years.
4. The Committee has concluded that, with regard to the implementation arrangements of the PDF B project (Annex II), the implementing agencies UNDP/KfW shall draft a proposal within two weeks, taking into consideration the discussion at this meeting, which will be submitted to the government representatives for further consideration. Two weeks after that, the Committee will hold an extraordinary meeting for final endorsement of the implementation agreements.
5. With regard to the Operational Plan and Programme of Activities for the year 2003, the CC asked the Secretariat to redraft the proposal in the form of an Action Plan with specific deadlines, incorporating a detailed Communication Plan and omitting paragraph 4b of the proposal (Annex III). Furthermore, the Committee has concluded that, starting from the 2004 workplan, the planning period will be expanded to three years.
6. With regard to the Financial Report for the year 2002, the Committee has endorsed it with the remark that further breakdown of costs is required, as well as a distinction between cash and in-kind contribution.
7. The Committee has concluded that the proposed budget for 2003 should be redrafted to include further breakdown of foreseen costs and a distinction between cash and in-kind contributions and to incorporate a part that will reflect activities other than the core expenses of the Committee, and in particular PDF B and GTZ micro-projects. The MedWet Coordinator will assist the Secretariat in this task. The redrafted budget will be submitted to the CC for approval at its next extraordinary meeting.
8. The Committee has decided to extend its *interim* operation until the end of 2003 or until the three Governments define a more permanent structure, form and operation of the Committee, whichever comes first. In this respect, the Committee has entrusted its Chair with the task of preparing a letter informing the environmental authorities of the three countries of this decision.
9. The Committee has decided to defer final decision on a proposal to extend the Chairperson's term of office from six to twelve months until comprehensive

examination of this issue is carried out within the PDF B context.

10. The Committee took note of a statement by the Greek Government representative to the effect that final decisions on the delayed infrastructure project will be announced at the next regular meeting of the CC.
11. The Committee took note of a proposal of the Albanian Government to include the issue of establishing a Prespa/Ohrid Biosphere Reserve in the agenda of the next regular meeting.
12. The CC took note of the intervention of the Ramsar Bureau representative regarding Resolution 19 on taking into account cultural values in the management of wetlands adopted at COP8 of the Ramsar Convention.
13. The CC decided to hold its next extraordinary meeting on 8 March 2003 in Ag.Germanos accepting the kind offer of the Municipality of Prespa. At this meeting, the CC will decide on the exact date and place of its fifth regular meeting, to be held in November 2003 in Greece, as well as of another extraordinary meeting, if necessary.
14. Finally, the CC expressed its gratitude to all participants for their contribution, to the donor community for their continuous interest in the Prespa Park, to the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs for their generous support for this meeting and to the Municipality of Resen for the organisation of the meeting and its warm hospitality.

Report on the implementation of the Operational Plan and Programme of Activities – 2002 of the Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee

According to the Psarades meeting decisions, the work of the Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee during its second year of operation continued along the same axes as in the first year and focussed on Communication, Sustainable Development and Research, Monitoring and Conservation activities. Some of the elements of the 2002 work plan progressed at a satisfactory pace, whereas others have been delayed:

1. With regard to **Communication**, the CC agreed to 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. As instructed, the Secretariat continued 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 (see annex in Working Document 1).
 - b. The Secretariat also continued 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, which is however far from complete.
 - c. The Secretariat, prompted from the meeting of Ministers of Culture of the three countries, informed the respective bodies on what the CC is doing in the area. Getting the synergies and working together was the main idea in the letter sent to the three Ministers of Culture.
 - d. The Secretariat worked for the implementation of the comprehensive Communication Plan, as approved by the Committee at the Psarades meeting. More specifically, it concentrated on the recruitment of a Prespa Park Communication Officer (all relevant activities are described in Working Document 1, paragraph 4) and on the production of a general fact sheet on the Prespa Park initiative. The latter was printed in four languages by the Ministry of Environment of the FYR of Macedonia at their own expense and distributed to all three countries in May 2002. Because of the delay noted in the recruitment of the Communication Officer, no other element of the Communication Plan was realised during the reported year.
 - e. According to the 2002 workplan, the protected area authorities in the three countries were to 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 co-operation. In this respect, with the support of GTZ, a micro-project focussing on dendroflora of Galichitsa/Prespa was implemented. Several activities aiming at biodiversity conservation and herbarium were prepared as well. Finally, sharing experiences between the two National Parks was also the main goal of a project implemented by Macmontana Ohrid.
 - f. The Secretariat was further instructed to assist the competent authorities in the three countries to develop a joint environmental education and youth exchange programme. It, however, failed to do so for reasons of excessive workload.
 - g. Pursuant to the 2002 workplan, the local authorities were encouraged to take joint initiatives for the organisation of social and cultural events, such as festivals, and sports events. Unfortunately, no such co-operation took place in 2002.

UNDP/ KfW Proposal on the PDF B Implementation Structure

Trans-Boundary Prespa Park Project

-Envisaged Results of Joint PDF B / KfW-funded Project Preparation Phase-

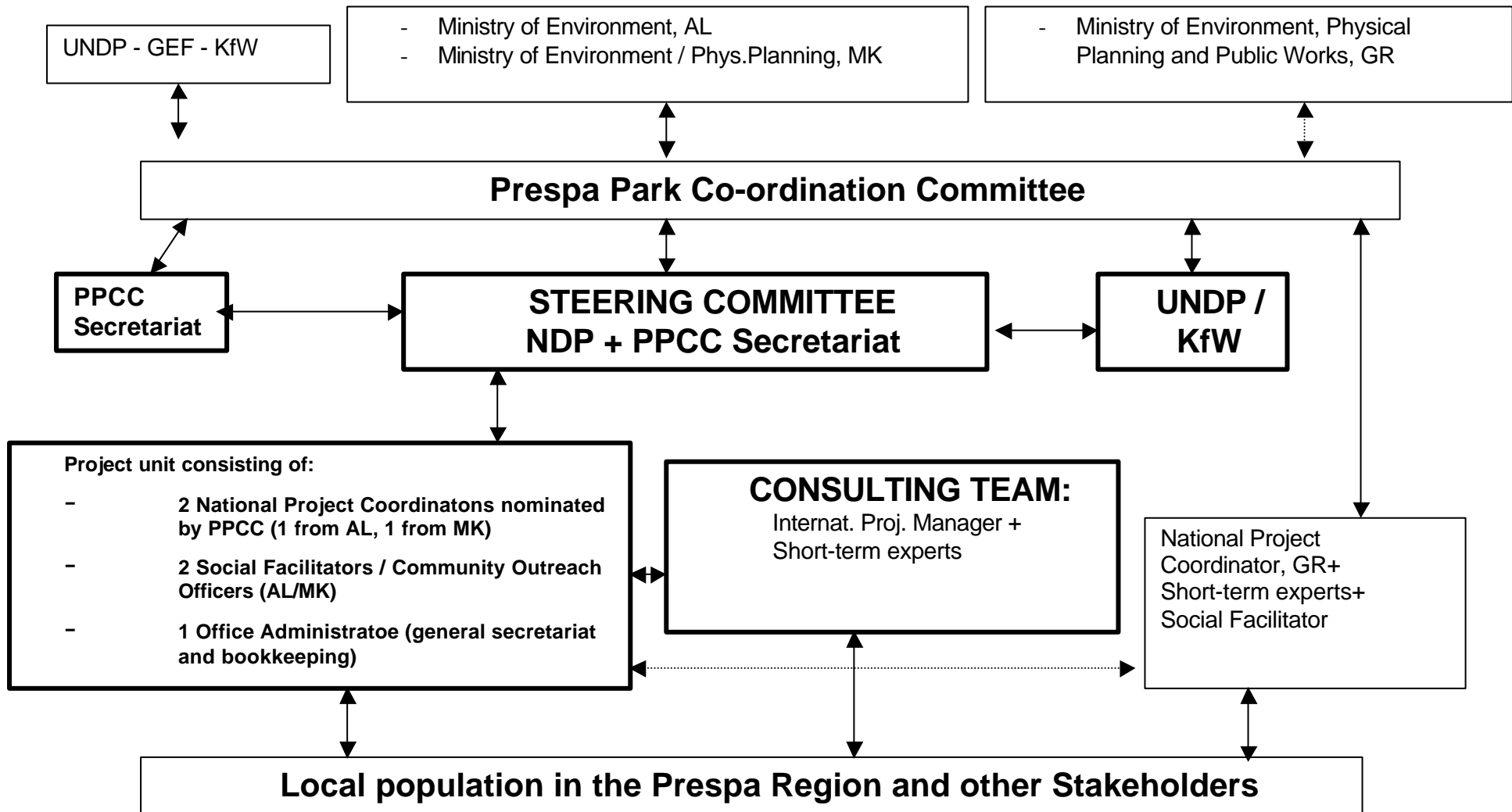
- Result 1:** Trans-boundary co-ordination mechanisms for Prespa Park are strengthened
- Result 2:** Workable organisational arrangements are agreed upon and designed for ecologically sustainable trans-boundary management of the Prespa lakes as international waters
- Result 3:** Relevant legal and regulatory framework at national level is analysed, with proposal for remedial action agreed upon
- Result 4:** Analysis of threats to the Prespa region's bio-diversity conducted and remedial action agreed upon among stakeholders
- Result 5:** Analysis of the main hydrological and hydro-geological determinants affecting the Prespa water bodies is conducted and remedial action agreed among stakeholders
- Result 6:** Analysis of socio-economic factors and trends relevant to the Prespa Park reviewed and supporting activities agreed upon among stakeholders
- Result 7:** Approaches and plans to conservation management, esp. in existing and potential designated areas in the Prespa Park reviewed, supporting activities and funding mechanisms agreed upon among stakeholders
- Result 8:** Community outreach programmes as well as conservation awareness initiatives esp. for stakeholders are strengthened and consolidated

Trans-Boundary Prespa Park Project

- Proposed Next Steps for PDF B // KfW-funded Project Preparation Phase-

- Step 1:** Nomination of Steering Committee members / national Project Directors – communicated to UNDP/KfW by February 28
- Step 2:** Steering Committee's approval to joint Terms of Reference (cf. "results") – communicated to UNDP/KfW by March 17
- Step 3:** Approval by GEF Secretariat ("GEFsec") on PDF B proposal
- Step 4:** Initiation of tender process for consultancy services – pre-qualification (upon completion of steps 1-3)
- Step 5:** Compilation of shortlist of suitable consulting firms by KfW & UNDP
- Step 6:** Submission of bids by short-listed consulting firms
- Step 7:** Evaluation (technical and financial) of bids received from consulting firms by KfW & UNDP with approval by the Steering Committee
-time required for steps 4-7 –approximately 4/5 months
- Step 8:** Award of consultancy contract to selected firm
- Step 9:** Mobilisation of consultancy team and PIU

PROPOSED PRESPA PARK PDF-B IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURE
 (Positions in Bold Boxes are Project Funded or Supported)



Operational Plan and Programme of Activities – 2003 of the Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee

As was seen under agenda item 2, Implementation of Operational Plan and Programme of Activities – 2002 (Annex II), some of the elements of the 2002 work plan progressed at a satisfactory pace, whereas others have been delayed. It is decided that, during 2003, the work of the Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee will continue to focus on three main axes, Communication, Sustainable Development and Research, Monitoring and Conservation.

However, in view of the fact that the workload is expected to increase considerably with the PDF B activities and the Secretariat of the Co-ordination Committee has rather limited capabilities and a number of restrictions at the moment, the programme of activities for 2003 should be more focussed and less diverse. Therefore, some of the activities included in the previous workplan of the Committee, namely the development of a joint environmental education and youth exchange programme and the third scientific symposium on the Prespa basin, will not be carried into the present Programme of Activities of the Prespa Park Co-ordination Committee, although it is still hoped that other competent bodies will undertake the organisation of these essential actions.

It is also important that the other stakeholders, namely the Governments and the local municipalities, become more active, since the NGOs cannot and should not substitute for the involvement of other actors and levels of society.

Lastly, specific activities, other than the core ones, that are included in the workplan should be organised as separate projects with a specific project proposal and guaranteed funding, on the pattern of the Communication Plan as developed in 2002, in order to enable the Secretariat to carry them out effectively.

With regard to funding, it is also decided that:

- a. The Secretariat will continue collecting information on possible funding sources at a national, European and international level to enable implementation of the current workplan, as well as future activities in the framework of the Prespa Park. For this purpose, it will be greatly assisted by the activities for identification and mobilisation of co-financing sources that is envisaged to take place in the PDF context.
- b. The three Governments will 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.

Taking these considerations into account, it is thus decided that the following workplan be adopted:

A. Communication

Aim: 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 and the wider public.

Activities:

Activity	Tools	Responsible	Funding	Timeframe
1. Provision of information to local, regional, national, and international authorities and organisations of the establishment and operation of the PP and the CC	Meetings Contacts	Secretariat	Secretariat core funding	January - December 2003
2. Gathering of information on activities that may have a direct or indirect effect on the natural or socio-economic status of the PP area	Update inventory	Secretariat	Secretariat core funding	January - December 2003
3. Implementation of Communication Plan	1. Website 2. Newsletter 3. Logo 4. Other activities	Communication Officer	€46,900 GTZ micro-project	January - December 2003
4. Co-operation of Prespa Municipalities in order to build closer ties and identify possible fields of joint action	Working meeting of the three Mayors	SPP - PPNEA	€7,500 Greek MFA	July 2003
5. Co-operation between protected area authorities in the three countries	Exchanges of experience in nature protection, forest and wildlife management	Protected area authorities	Not secured Possible source: GTZ micro-projects	January – December 2003

B. Sustainable Development

Aim: To promote sustainable development programmes and projects in the Prespa basin on the basis of the Strategic Action Plan for the Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park.

Activities:

After the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) is endorsed, the first priority actions identified therein must be further elaborated and implemented. This needs to be done separately in each country and at the Co-ordination Committee level with regard to purely transboundary projects and programmes.

Activity	Tools	Responsible	Funding	Timeframe
1. Endorsement of the SAP by the PP CC	Not required	Chairman	Not required	Fifth regular meeting of the PP CC (November 2003)
2. Further elaboration of specific sustainable development activities proposed in the SAP	PDF studies (Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis, Socio-Economic Analysis, Actual and Alternative Livelihoods Analysis, Infrastructure Investment Analysis etc.)	PP CC	PDF B project (UNDP/ KfW)	Undefined, depending on approval of the PDF B request
3. Prioritisation of SAP proposals in each country - Identification of funding sources and implementation of these projects and programmes that are not likely to be included in GEF (e.g. those relating to hard infrastructure or wider economic and social issues)	National consultations – meetings	PP CC national members	Not required	January – December 2003
4. Identification of transboundary activities/ projects proposed by the SAP that are either unlikely to be included in the full GEF project or that are simple, mature and urgent and could be implemented before or in parallel with the full GEF project.	Discussion at the fifth regular CC meeting	Chairman - Secretariat	Not required	November 2003

Research, Monitoring and Conservation

Aim: To follow and co-ordinate environmental scientific research, monitoring and conservation activities in the Prespa Park area and undertake relevant initiatives/ projects of a transboundary nature.

Activities:

Activity	Tools	Responsible	Funding	Timeframe
1. Further elaboration of specific research, monitoring and conservation activities proposed in the SAP	PDF studies (Biodiversity and Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis, Studies on the Protected Areas needs and management plans, on the legal, regulatory and institutional arrangements needed at the national and trilateral level etc.)	PP CC	PDF B project (UNDP/ KfW)	Undefined, depending on approval of the PDF B request
2. Implementation of the Prespa catchment hydrogeological study	PDF activity	PP CC	KfW	Undefined, depending on approval of the PDF B request
3. Establishment of infrastructure in AL and MK, including the preparation of a joint monitoring scheme on basic biotic and abiotic parameters	Implementation of infrastructure project	SPP	Greek Government	Undefined, depending on commencement of the project
4. Gathering of information on scientists/ experts on Prespa and relevant publications	Update database	Secretariat	Secretariat core funding	January – December 2003
5. Organisation of trilateral contingency co-operation ¹	Preparatory activities for the organisation of fire-fighting co-operation; working meeting of fire-fighting services; final report	SPP	€9,500 Greek MFA	May – October 2003

¹ As in the past two years, the Secretariat should continue to study and consult with the competent authorities in the three countries in order to prepare joint contingency plans.

In view of the fact that summer forest fires are the major threat with a transboundary dimension in the Prespa basin, the SPP has secured Greek development assistance funds that are going to be used for the organisation of co-operation among the competent fire-fighting authorities in the three countries. More specifically, in the period from May-October 2003, it is proposed to compile information on the fire-fighting procedures and available equipment, as well as on the institutional and practical arrangements necessary to exchange information, to draw up and implement joint contingency plans and to provide emergency assistance. A working meeting of the heads of the competent fire-fighting services is also going to be organised. The minimum output of these activities would be the establishment of an information-exchange network concerning fire emergencies in Prespa, while the maximum output would be the elaboration of a joint contingency plan and the establishment of mutual assistance mechanism in case of a serious forest fire.

It goes without saying that until the said project produces some specific results, the existing arrangement should continue, i.e. the direct communication network among the three government representatives in the CC should be maintained in order to mobilise transboundary assistance if the need arises.

Criteria for Selection of GTZ Micro-projects and Results of Round 3 Project Selection

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF PROJECTS BY THE CC OF THE PRESPA PARK

1. Priority should be given to projects contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan of the Prespa Park.
2. Proposals should, if possible, combine different areas of activities such as environment protection, support of SME's, social activities, recreation and sport etc. (For example: Agro tourism combines environmental protection with income generating possibilities as well as promotion of the cultural heritage of the region).
3. Reference should be given to projects that establish a genuine co-operation between three bordering countries. (e.g., the proposal of CIBC to establish a pilot project for the cooperation of three cities in the area (Kozani, Bitola, Korcha) aims at exchange of experiences in providing communal services like water supply, sewage system and treatment of solid waste. This combines aims of environment protection with the improvement of communal services and transborder co-operation.
4. Applying /implementing agencies should give substantial own contribution in kind (for instance in men power). This particularly applies to Municipalities/ Local Self/Governments.
5. There should be a good ratio between invested finances and final benefits.
6. Attention should be paid to the size of the target group in the actual involvement in the project implementation as well as final beneficiaries.
7. Applying/implementing agencies should have the capacity for implementation of the project (shown by reference to past project).
8. Prove of support of the project proposal i.e. by relevant bodies such as Local self-governments, National Park Management Bodies etc should be given.
9. An NGO that has secured GTZ funding cannot apply for funding again before the passage of two years.

RESULTS OF ROUND 3 PROJECT SELECTION
GTZ Cross-border cooperation in the region of Prespa and Ohrid Lakes

January 2003

ALBANIAN PROPOSALS

#	Project Title	Executing Agency	Type of organis.	Subject	Request from GTZ	Total Budget	Recommendation - by PP CC body nominated for review of proposals
1	Promotion of the Sustainable development by habitats-Medicinal plants	ALBAFLOR-Korcha	NGO	Economic	11,150	12,450	To be supported Recommended to cooperate with Municipality of Prespa-Greece
2	Literature at the cross border area	Cultural center Pogradec	LSG	Cultural	5, 200	5,590	NOT TO BE SUPPORTED
3	Strengthening the cooperation of the LSG	Municipality of Kocha	LSG	Cultural	4850	5,300	Mr. Karayannis to redraft the project.
4	Forest Ecosystem rehabilitation	Center for Sustainable Development of Prespa	NGO	Environ.	23,550	25,480	To be supported To involve the Greek partner in the project
5	Increase the role of women at the Prespa cross border are	"Mother, Children-the future	NGO	Cultural.	12,760	14,490	Not to be supported To be joint with the following project
6	Capacity building of the women NGOs and economical improvement	Refleksione Pohgradec	NGO	Cultural.	13,314	16,064	TO BE SUPPORTED
7	Environmental Code of Conduct of Tourism development in Prespa	Water resource and ecodevelopment-Tirana	NGO	Economic	15,860	17, 160	NOT TO BE SUPPORTED

8	Reconstruction of the Fishing and touristic boat in Gollomoç Prespa	Fishing Association Zaveri-Prespa Albania	NGO	Economic	2, 300	3,500	TO BE SUPPORTED
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MACEDONIAN PROPOSALS

#	Project Title	Executing Agency	Type of organis.	Subject	Reques. from GTZ	Total Budget	Recommendation - by PP CC body nominated for review of proposals
1	Living Museum of the traditional Culture and food	Resen Ceramics Colony-Resen	NGO	Cultural	29,870	32,870	Not to be supported
2	“Perikle” Lets learn the Greek language	Ministry of Science and Education of Macedonia Republic-Skopje	GO-LSG	Cultural	28,000	34,500	NOT TO BE SUPPORTED
3	CONNECTION	Cultural center Media arêtes-Ohrid	LSG	Cultural	9,630	16,380	Not to be supported
4	Regional youth ecological camp	Union of Ecologys Natura-Struga	NGO	Environ.	9,630	16,380	NOT TO BE SUPPORTED
5	Minimization of phosphorous in Prespa lake	Civil Environmental Forum Skopje	NGO	Environment.	29,680	38,010	NOT TO BE SUPPORTED
6	Sustainable solid waste management in Prespa	Civil Environmental Forum Skopje	NGO	Environment.	29,650	38,680	TO BE SUPPOTED Have to reduce the budget
7	Publication “Prespa International Park” Kiril Jonovski	General Impex I.t.d. Skopje	Other	Cultural	33,570	37, 300	Not to be supported

REPORT OF THE FOURTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRESPA PARK CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE – ANNEX IV

8	Screening for cervical cancer in the rural areas of Lake Prespa	GP and Gynaecological Surgery "Zaharievski" Ohrid	Other	Medicine	31, 200	33,600	To be supported To involve some other NGO-s, Organizations, Municipalities
9	The Lake Ohrid Connector of towns and peoples	Super Radio Ohrid	Other	Cultural		27,000	NOT TO BE SUPPORTED To apply for the next round
10	Grafting our future into the old roots	ALKOP Ohrid	NGO	Environment	29, 778	35,103	To be supported To reduce the budget to be half of the existing amount

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