



PROJECT INFO

United Nations Development Programme



Photo by: UNDP/Zivko Spirovski

CHALLENGE

Prespa is one of the oldest lakes on earth. Scientists say that it is more than 5 million years old. Its basin is home to more than 2,000 species of animals, plants and birds, and the largest breeding colony of Dalmatian pelicans in the world.

Unfortunately, it has been facing with serious environmental challenges over the past 40 years, such as pollution, pesticides, poor waste management, ineffective planning for land and water use, poor preservation of the rare and threatened species.

In the year 2000, the prime ministers of the three countries sharing the basin signed a landmark agreement and vowed to make the region a model for cooperative conservation and habitat protection. In 2006, UNDP and GEF began providing technical and financial support and since then, a variety of projects in the areas of agriculture, infrastructure development, nature conservation, solid waste management, river restoration, and forest regeneration have been successfully implemented.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

This is a complex project, which in the long run aims to help the region's people with long term economic and social development, conserve the rich biodiversity and protect the waters of the Prespa Lakes Basin.

Upon completion, it is expected that stakeholders will be applying new tools and processes to better manage key national sectors and trans-boundary resources in a way that generates national, trans-boundary and global benefits.

RESULTS

A Strategic Action Programme has been developed, in cooperation with the stakeholders from all three countries, identifying key issues that need to be addressed in order to further improve the status and overall ecosystem health of the Basin.

Good agricultural practices have been introduced to reduce the pesticide inputs. Over 120 men and women, farmers, fishermen and foresters were trained in modifying management practices. This has helped them increase habitat diversity, while also making their products more attractive for national and international markets, thus ensuring higher and sustainable income generation for all people leaving in the area.

There is a 30% reduction in frequency and quantity of pesticides applied each season.

An industry pollution prevention and control system has been established for the whole Prespa region.

More than 500 citizens benefited from the wastewater management system put in place.

At least 2,000 hectares of priority habitat for birds, fish, rare plants and mammals are now under improved conservation management.

6,000 hectares of forests are under better biodiversity oriented management.

UNDP has been continuously working together with the relevant ministries and stakeholders of all three countries on the establishment of joint processes, such as for example water quality and fish monitoring and supporting the work of joint bodies such as the Prespa Coordination Committee, the Water Management Working Group and others.

A joint tourism strategy and an action plan for the Basin were developed, incorporating environmental priorities in tourism policies and products, guiding investments and further reinforcing cooperation amongst the stakeholders in all three countries.

The first ever joint action plans are currently being developed to ensure better fisheries and species and habitats conservation.

The country is now working on the development of the first ever watershed management plan in the region, fully in line with the EU Water Framework Directive, which will allow more informed decision making and better water resources management.

PROJECT TITLE:

Integrated Ecosystem Management in the Prespa Lakes Basin of Albania, FYR Macedonia and Greece.

PARTNERS:

Ministries of Environment of all three countries, other relevant ministries, Municipalities of Resen, Lichenas and Prespa, expert community and relevant institutes.

FINANCED BY:

Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), Governments of all three countries

BUDGET: US\$ 4,3 million (GEF) + US\$ 3,4 million (SDC)

IMPLEMENTING PERIOD: 2006 – 20112

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Anita Kodzoman
 Head of Environment and Energy Unit
 Tel/Fax: +389 2 3249 560; +389 2 3249 505
 E-mail: anita.kodzoman@undp.org
 Website: www.undp.org.mk