Ohrid Lake and Prespa Lake, Sub basin’s on Crn Drim river basin

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Ohrid Lake & Prespa Lake
Lake Ohrid Conservation Project

First experience of cross-border protection and management of natural recourses in the region.

From 1998 to 2004 year, Lake Ohrid Conservation Project
Conservation of Ohrid lake

• By Project initiative, in June 2004 Government of two countries signed Agreement for joint protection and sustainable development of Lake Ohrid Watershed

• Joint Protocols for sampling and analysis and Joint Quality Assurance Protocol.

• State of Environment Report for Lake Ohrid and its watershed,
LOCP 2

- Monitoring Program, National programs from both sides are in the phase of joint harmonization and new established Monitoring Teams

- Investments in non-governmental sector and establishing of Green centers contribute in public awareness in the watershed

- program of small investments in pilot projects.
Joint Institutions & Document
since 2004

Joint Institutions

- Lake Ohrid Bilateral Watershed Committee
- Bilateral Secretariat

Joint Action Plan for the watershed

- part the governmental policy
- measures regarding future actions,
- basis for future projects,
- short-term measures on the field of reduction of pollution,
- measures for protection of habitats,
- bilateral cooperation.
Natural and Cultural Heritage of Ohrid Region

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE since 1979 as NATURAL / 1980 as Cultural

- National Committee established
- Small Modification of the borders-proposed to UNESCO
- First workshop on preparation of Management Plan – October 2008
- Draft Low on WH Ohrid site
- Prespa basin`s water bodies:
  - Micri Prespa (littoral states: Albania, Greece)
  - Prespa Lake (littoral states: Albania, Greece, Macedonia)
Environmental context and global significance

- Characteristic positioning
- Unique geological formation - 12 million years old
- Moderate continental climate
- Underground hydrological connection
- Endemic and relict flora
- Diverse fauna
Prespa Lake – Birds Paradise
Macedonia

• “Pelister National Park” established in 1948 for the protection of a globally unique mountain ecosystem forming the eastern boundary of the Prespa Lake Basin.

• “Galicica National Park” established in 1958 due to the unique terrestrial ecosystems straddling the Galicica Mountain on the western boundary of Prespa Lakes Basin.

• Ezerani Nature Reserve established in 1996 as Ramsar site on the northern shoreline of Macro Prespa Lake for migratory waterfowl and other water bird species.
International Conservational Effort
Trans-boundary Cooperation
“Simple Reasons For…”

• In February 2000, the Prime Ministers of Albania, Macedonia, in Aghios Germanos signed joint declaration declaring the Prespa Lakes and their surround catchment as “Prespa Park” the first trans-boundary protected are in South Eastern Europe with significant international importance…..

• The conservation and protection of an ecosystem of such importance as it is Prespa not only renders a service to Nature, but it also creates opportunities for the economic development of the adjacent areas that belong to the three countries.
PRESPA Initiative & Transboundary Cooperation

Prespa Park INSTITUTIONS:

- PPCC since 2001
- PPCC Secretariat
- 10, PPCC Regular meetings, 2001 to 2008
- Two side meetings: water authorities and spatial planning contact group, 2006 and 2008

JOINT PROJECT DOCUMENT

- Strategic Action Plan, First joint document
- PDF A Project Document Integrate ecosystem management of the Prespa Lakes basin, Macedonia, Albania and Greece
PPCC`s Biggest Accomplishment in Trans-boundary Cooperation

• Development of “Strategic Action Plan for Sustainable development of Prespa Park” in 2002
• First step in development of common vision for the conservation and sustainable development of Prespa Park
UNDP GEF-Prespa Project
(Integrated Ecosystem Management in the Prespa Lakes Basin of Albania, Macedonia and Greece)
Overall project goal is....

Conservation and sustainable use of globally significant biological diversity and trans-boundary water resources of the Prespa lakes Basin
Project outcomes are...

- **Strengthening legal and regulatory frameworks** and establishing land and water use management basis for maintaining and restoring ecosystem health in the Prespa Lakes Basin.

- **Modifying productive sector resource management practices** to reduce pesticide inputs, increase habitat heterogeneity, and improve the status of target species and communities within the national sectors of the Prespa Basin.

- **Strengthening the trans-boundary coordination mechanism** and piloting trans-boundary conservation and water management.

- **Increasing public awareness and knowledge**
**Project Outputs**

- Under supervision of the Watershed Management Council for MK-Prespa, development of Integrated watershed management plan for the MK Prespa basin according to the provisions of the recently adopted Law on Waters which fully incorporates the EU Water Framework Directive and its associated directives (nitrates, bathing…)
  - GEF funds help country to fulfill EU Directives obligations…
  - First plan of such kind in the country…
  - Possibility to replicate the gained experience in additional plan development processes for the remaining (sub) basins
  - Could this GEF facilitated experience contribute to the overall implementation of the WFD (contribution to Drin Basin)
  - Moreover, towards UNECE request for second assessment of the trans-boundary waters
Project Outputs

- Development of a Trans-boundary Monitoring System in the Prespa Park area. Development of expert study on various thematic issues: fish and fisheries, habitats and aquatic vegetation, birds and other biodiversity, water (quality/quantity), socio-economic, forest and terrestrial habitats, land use.
  - Strengthening capacity of the relevant institutions
  - Strengthening the “spiritual” capacity and entrusting littoral states on cooperation!!!
  - Possibility for “limited” but ensured data sharing on relevant and sufficient information according to each littoral state institutions` capacity (recalling from yesterday-WFD to much data demanding for trans-boundary-cooperation)
Strict Nature Reserve Ezerani
Country`s Step Forward As National Effort Towards Achieving Ramsar Convention`s Obligation

• Strict Nature Reserve-First category protected area under country`s national legislation on environment

• Aim!!!
  – protection and improvement of the high diversity
  – Conservation of important habitats and species
  – Maintaining good biodiversity and landscape features
UNDP/GEF Prespa Project could be....

- Case study in producing useful experience on both national and trans-boundary level....
- With possibility to be efficiently replicated...
- To play catalytic role in implementations of obligations from various EU Directives, International Conventions, etc...

UNDP/GEF/MoEPP Project stuff are willing to share this experience and Macedonian songs as well!!!!!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!!!

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