

Current Status of Tourism and its Opportunities for Ecotourism Development in the Lakes Prespa Region

Dorina Grazhdani

Agricultural University of Tirana, Faculty of Economics and Agribusiness
Tirana-ALBANIA

Abstract

The Lakes Prespa region is situated in the Balkan Peninsula and is shared among the three neighboring countries Albania, FYR Macedonia and Greece. The Prespa region hosts unique habitats that are important from both European and global conservation perspective, and populations of numerous rare, relict, endemic, endangered or threatened species. It is also remarkable for its cultural values, including Byzantine monuments and examples of traditional architecture. In Prespa, the harmonious co-existence between Man and Nature over the centuries has shaped and preserved a wealth of natural and cultural values that account for the area's international importance. However, unsustainable agricultural, fisheries, water and forest management practices as well as unsustainable use of non-timber forest products is causing stresses on the ecosystem health of the Prespa Basin. Prespa region is considered one of the most important areas regarding the potential for tourism. However, this potential is unexploited due to the generally unfavorable economic situation and the lack of basic tourist infrastructure. Tourism in the lakes area is small-scale rural and family tourism, based on a few small hotels, private accommodation and restaurants. Domestic guests dominate the Prespa tourism market, with less than five percent of foreign tourists. In general, the quality of the lake water appears to be within the acceptable limits. The future of the tourist development in the area is sustainable ecotourism which should keep a balance among the environmental, economic, and socio-cultural aspects of tourism development in order to guarantee long-term benefits to the recipient communities. The aim of the present study is to provide information on the current situation of the tourism on the Albanian side of the lakes Macro and Micro Prespa, along with the existing practices and regulations, and to offer views from an Albanian perspective that will help resolve some of the current difficulties.

Keywords: Lakes Prespa, ecotourism, pollution, water quality, wastewater

1. Introduction

The three major natural lakes (Ohrid, Shkodra and Prespa) that lie in the territory of Albania are all shared with other countries, and all are of tectonic origin. Lakes Macro and Micro Prespa (~ 41°N, and ~ 21°E), connected between them, actually forming one wetland, are the largest water body of the Balkans (Figure 1). Lake Macro Prespa (surface area 253.6 km²) belongs to three countries: Albania, Greece and the Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia (FYR Macedonia), while Lake Micro Prespa (47 km²) is shared between Albania and Greece. They are of Tertiary origin and have only underground outlets. The lakes are at 850 metres above sea level (a.s.l.) amidst mountains rising to over 2500 m a.s.l. (Crivelli & Catsdaorakis, 1997). There has been considerable human modification of the local hydrology with the diversion of the Aghios Germanos stream from Micro Prespa to Macro Prespa on the Greek side and of the River Devoll into Micro Prespa on the Albanian side. The region is internationally recognized as one of Europe's most ecologically important areas or biodiversity "hot spots" (Albrecht *et al.*, 2008; Schultheiss *et al.*, 2008), as well as an ecosystem of global significance on account of the



Figure 1. Prespa Lakes region

concentration of many rare and important ecological values. The region hosts populations of numerous rare, relict, endemic, endangered or threatened species. The rate of endemism and sub-endemism among species in the region, which is partly due to the great habitat diversity concentrated in a small area, makes it unique and extremely important from a biodiversity conservation perspective at any scale, be that European or global. Prespa Lakes belong to the "Southeast Adriatic Drainages" freshwater ecoregion (Abell *et al.*, 2008). In addition to its natural values, the lake region is considered to be of great cultural/historic importance with high potential for tourism. The region has been inhabited for several centuries. Numerous archaeological sites prove that in ancient times an important trade route of the Western Roman Empire – the Via Egnatia – passed close to the region. The Byzantine and meta-byzantine monuments of the Prespa basin are numerous and an evidence of the rich cultural and historic heritage of the whole area.

No wonder then that the promotion of tourism seems to be essential for the economic development of the area and the preservation of its historical, cultural and ecological identity. Tourism is expected to increase over the next 20 years, calling for the development of communal and traffic infrastructure, and regional planning to encourage increased tourism. This, in turn, requires the improvement of the wastewater and solid waste treatment which currently do not suffice even for the needs of the inhabitants.

In view of the character and the particularities of the region, large-scale or intensive development initiatives in any sector (intensive agriculture, mass tourism etc.) are often incompatible with the preservation of the values of the area. On the other hand, sustainable tourism respects ecological limits within which human activities should remain, and recognizes the interdependence of economic and environmental systems to provide for long-term socio-economic benefits. It refers to a variety of activities supporting tourism, and entails ecotourism as an environmentally responsible travel to relatively undisturbed natural areas, in order to enjoy and appreciate nature (and any accompanying cultural features - both past and present). Ecotourism promotes conservation, has low negative visitor impact, and provides for beneficially active socio-economic involvement of local populations, according to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (Goldwin, 1996).

In this study, the potential for ecotourism of the lakes Prespa area was investigated and suggestions on the effective and proper use of this area in terms of sustainable tourism and natural resources were put forward.

2. Materials and Methods

Survey has been found by us to be practical means of collecting data. Our survey, which utilized qualitative and quantitative questions, was based on samples, which were taken following the strategy to meet statistical reliability objectives. For this reason, a sample of 200 farm households was randomly drawn from villages. Samples were selected using a table of random numbers. The head of each household was interviewed during September-October, 2008. However, some of selected farmers were not available and the next number in the random table was selected as a substitute. The second primary method of information collection used in this study was personal interviews. These interviews have been used to provide a complement or contest, the information collected through the written survey.

This study is built also on the collection of secondary data pertaining to the study area. This includes past research, local and international published materials, local and international reports (i.e. UNDP/GEF Reports 2004; KfW's Report 2005) and unpublished local information.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Current Status of Tourism in Lakes Prespa

This section of the study identifies the size and characteristics of available tourism markets for Prespa study area. Tourism in the lakes area is small-scale rural and family tourism, based on a few small hotels, private accommodation and restaurants. Features of the lake area appreciated by visitors are especially the lake, clean air, quite and peaceful environment and historical sights. The region is known for the traditional and high quality food and its hospitable people. Today, tourism plays an important role, as access to rural areas has improved, and more and more people are traveling.

At present, tourism to the area is mostly limited to seasonal visits by tourists. The numbers and origin of visitors indicate that the Prespa area is more demanded by domestic and in particular by regional tourists from neighbouring countries. The rate of development of this tourism potential has been slow due to the lack of proper planning and financial constraints.

According to the data collected by us in Lakes Prespa area, the capacities for overnight stays in hotels are 34 beds, for private accommodation 440 beds and there are 11 restaurants with 375 seats (Table 1). The occupancy rate for the hotels ranges from 10-20% (average 11.6%) and for

private accommodation between 0.4 and 8% (average 3%). Restaurants are reported to have about 1 000 visitors per day at the weekends during the main summer season (July and August), resulting in approximately about 11 520 visitors a year.

Table 1. Annual income of tourism in National Park Prespa

Name	No. of beds	Overmigh capacity	Overnights	Employees (permanent/seasonal)	Income (€)
a. Accomodation					
Hotels	34	12 410	1 438	10/12	14 380
Private accommodation	440	160 600	4 824		24 120
Sub-total	474	173 010	6 262	10/12	38 500
b. Food					
	Seats	Capacity	Visitors	Employees (permanent/seasonal)	Income
Restaurants	375	136 875	11 520	28/32	57 600
Total				38/44	96 100

The current state of tourist infrastructure presents an obstacle, in combination with the problems of other services in the area (telecommunications, drinking water etc.). The quality of the services offered calls for improvements too: boat trips, swimming, guided tours of historical monuments, insufficient number of nature observation points, small-scale conference facilities. The lack of public investment in the conservation and restoration of tourist attractions - archaeological, historical, cultural and ecological – is aggravated by the insufficient information and promotion. The stresses on the environmental health take their toll on tourism too, like the challenged appeal of the lakes as swimming resort due to eutrophication and increased pollution. The waste disposal problem in Prespa is important. The foreseen increase of visitors and changes in consumption patterns, request for good planning and the development of necessary infrastructure to accommodate future needs.

3.2. Social-economic Issues

In this section will examine the survey responses and results of the survey in order to determine a relationship between lake, tourism and the local economy.

The economy of the Prespa lake area also caters to the tourism industry the lake attracts. To accommodate tourists, there are a variety of lodging opportunities including: hotels and family accommodation. In addition, there are restaurants, bars, shops to entertain guests visiting the lake. There are also a variety of ways for a visitor to enjoy the lake, from fishing, swimming and boating, to relaxing on the beach with a nice sunset on the beautiful clear calm water.

Average yearly income is estimated at €700. Unemployment is high, approximately 23%. Agriculture is by far the most important sector for employment. Agriculture engages 70% of the labour force. The scale of farming is small and farmers use old and poorly maintained farming equipments. Irrigated agriculture is limited. The profitability of agriculture remains low because of poor quality products, lack of capital to modernize agriculture and difficulties in marketing. The low profitability of farming is the main cause of migration of family members abroad. Many household reports that as much as 30% of their income is dependent upon remittances. Fishing is another main activity in the coastal area of Lake Prespa. There are no industries that pollute directly into Lake Prespa.

Economic activities influence the surrounding environment. Increased economic activity increases pressure on the environment through increasing migration of people, increasing pollution and increasing consumption of natural resources. However, the resulting economic growth potentially ensures the opportunities to finance environmental protection and introduction of less polluting and more efficient technologies.

The first category survey questions helped to establish a relationship between tourism and the local economy was *“Is tourism benefiting the local economy/livelihoods?”* - 97% responded “yes”. The conclusion that can be made from the response above establishes that the local economy is, or is at least perceived to be intimately connected to tourism. For that reason, it is practical to ask question: *“Do you think tourism should be allowed to expand/grow in the region?”* This question and the perceptions it elicits, is an important piece of the economic puzzle. About 90% of respondents answered “yes”, compared to only 10% “no”, claiming that the businesses in Prespa area are

dependent on the local economy. It can be concluded that health of the local economy is dependent to the health of the local tourism. As it is, not only is the economy dependent on tourism, but so are the local people, their livelihood and their way of live.

Some questions explored this section, ask respondents to answer about the role of tourism on household income and employment (Table 1). The average household income in the area ranges from €2,200 to €3,000. Hotels and restaurants have to deduct their costs and pay salaries. It is estimated that restaurants generate a turnover of €2,000 - €7,000 per year. It is estimated that the tourism sector in the lake area employs approximately 38 permanent staff and 44 seasonal staff. It is assumed that most labor is family labor, except for the seasonal labor. Assuming that 50% of the turnover is regarded as direct income, the income of restaurants and hotels corresponds to the average household income in the area or is even higher. This especially applies to hotels that function well and have a restaurant.

In the above discussions we have established direct connection between the local economy and the lake.

3.3. Impact of Tourism on Lake Water Quality

Now that it has been established that the local economy and the businesses it supports are dependent on tourism it is only reasonable to ask: *“What is the tourism dependent on?”* This question, however, was not asked in the survey because it has long been understood that the lake is what draws people up here.

This section will be used to explore the community’s awareness of the impact on lake of water quality problems and its implications on the tourism industry. There is no single feature of lake which affects people’s enjoyment of the resource more than water quality.

For residents, the reason for choosing the location to live included water clarity (87%), quality of swimming (76%) and scenic beauty (83%). Over 80% of residents had specifically considered water clarity prior to constructing or buying their property. This illustrates the importance of water quality to the long term investment in a property.

Visitors and residents were asked if they would be more or less likely to chose the lake if water clarity was increased or reduced significantly (i.e. by one half). Respondents indicated that changes in water quality would substantially affect their choice, with 60 – 70 % indicating they would have been less likely to chose the lake if water clarity was degraded.

As was discussed previously, the water quality problem facing the lake is a matter of great concern to the community. This is a problem that not only affected those who lived on the lake, but also those visitors who came to enjoy the lake. So, water quality not only affects tourism but has the potential for significant economic impact throughout the local economy.

According the data collected by us may draw the following conclusions (Table 2). The concentration of dissolved oxygen was relatively high, an indication that the water is good for supporting aquatic life. The concentration of nutrients – nitrates, nitrites and phosphates are within the requirements of EC Directive for Cyprinid waters. The trace elements and metals in the Albanian side of the lake show that their concentrations are lower than the EC standard.

Table 2. Data on water quality for Lakes Prespa (June – September 2008)

Lake	Disolved O ₂ (mg/l)	Oxygen (%)	BOD ₅ (mgO ₂ /l)	N-total (µg/l)	N-NO ₂ (µg/l)	N-NO ₃ (µg/l)	N-NH ₄ (µg/l)	P-total (µg/l)
Micro Prespa	7.05	74.15	3.48	258.4	6.2	174.3	49.5	27.0
Macro Prespa	7.66	91.91	3.45	265.3	8.91	181.1	46.6	26.8

Source: Hydrometeorologic Institute of Tirana

To determine the reasons for the lake pollution and means for its clearing, the survey included a few questions. The first of such questions was: *“What are the reasons for the lake pollution in your opinion? Which is the most important reason?”* 66% of the total respondents rated their answer at “urban wastewater”, 18% “agricultural runoff”, 12% “hotels and restaurants”, and 4% “others”. However, in looking at the response to this question it is important to keep in mind a number of factors.

The second question intended to gauge the community’s opinion on who should take the responsibility of lake cleaning was: *“In your opinion, who should pay for the cleaning of the lake? Who should pay the most?”* This is an important question to ask, because the respondents represent a large portion of the funding provided for the treatment, and therefore has a vested interest in the

success of lake clearing. 93% of them said “central and local government”, 5% “local people” and only 2% “tourists”. These responses were not surprising considering the experience of many of local residents and business owners.

Next question closely relates to the last, and again asks respondents to offer their perception was: *“How do you think they should pay (fee/tax) that could be used for cleaning the lake?”* Majority of those surveyed (61%) felt the pay should be in form of an annual fixed fee/tax, 39% in form of a variable fee/tax depending for people living in Park Prespa on how much they pollute and for tourist on days they stay there.

In preparing the survey to explore the tourism impact on lake water quality, it was necessary to ask a variety of question in an effort to determine the perceptions of the local community concerning to the level of sewage treatment. The first of two questions regarding the sewage treatment was: *“Are you connected to the sewage treatment system?”* The reply of the respondents was “no” with over 75% and no one pay for sewage treatment. To determine how satisfied the local people community was with their investment in the lake water quality, survey included the question regarding: *“What is the maximum you/your household would be willing to pay “in a one-time fee” if it guarantees better water quality in the lake Prespa?”* The response was fairly mixed, yet the majority answered positively with 86% of respondents answering “yes”, stating that they felt a special fee of € (15 – 40) per year is a reasonable price to pay for maintenance of the lake. In light of the potential losses that lakefront property owners faced, the cost of € 40 appears to be a reasonable price to pay for them.

The survey also was addressed to effective actions which will be taken to control lake quality. To touch upon this matter those surveyed were asked: *“Do you think the following action would be effective in controlling the lake quality? Which is more effective?”* The response to this question was undoubtedly mixed with 73% of respondents answering “development and implementation of strict environmental laws and regulations”, 13% “stakeholder participation/awareness campaigns”, 8% “intersectors and transboundary cooperation” and 6% “a fixed environmental fee/tax”.

3.4. SWOT Analysis in Prespa National Park

Finding the appropriate balance between the conservation and preservation of the area's natural and historic resources, and the promotion of tourism and economic development, continue to be a dominant issue. The steps that were undertaken by us in assessment of ecotourism development in Prespa region were the following: needs identification and community assessment and the ranking of priority issues for development of ecotourism. For the performance of needs identification and community assessment for development of ecotourism in Lakes Prespa region, is used the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis method, results of which are given below.

a. Strengths:

Two lakes, a number of mountains and one island, rich fauna and flora, and all natural ecosystems represent the richness of the region; Being a National Park; There is a culture in handcrafting products; The region has attracted the attention of international bodies; Possibility for establishing a sound rural tourism; No industry in the region; Clean area and traditional food; High cultural and historical values; Number of NGOs in the area.

b. Weaknesses:

Changes in species composition due to reduction of wet meadows (reduced fish spawning grounds, reduced bird-feeding areas) due to lakes water level reduction; Reduction of certain plant species due to forestry being directed solely to wood for fuel and timber production; Lack of sustainable energy and drinking water resources; Reduction of fish stocks; Pollution from point and non-point sources; Lack of infrastructure (water, roads, telecommunication etc.); Low level cooperation between local stakeholders; Lack of tourist agencies; Low cooperation between three countries for identifying new ways of collaboration for the development of the region; Fiscal/budgetary dependence on central government (no own account for park administration); Lack of clarity concerning land ownership in the park; Difficulty in prosecution and conviction for illegal activities (absence of incentives for enforcing laws and regulations is a consequence); Absence of urban plans for communities; Lack of organization at community level (fishing, solid waste collection etc.); Low capacity in all aspects of management and operations; Lack of linkage between park and communes; Administrative structure inappropriate for expanded functions required by Law on Protected Areas; Low awareness of status of biodiversity, its importance to sustainable development and socio-economic welfare, and effects of activities on it among stakeholders; Lack of known alternatives to

livelihood sources; Market limitations; Absence of mechanisms for undertaking alternative economic activities.

c. Opportunities:

Development of tourism; Possibilities for selling regional products by creating new initiatives and promoting the values of Prespa resources; Lack of industries in the area; Good air quality; Good opportunities for fund raising from international bodies; The lake is shared between three countries that can create good opportunities for better management; Offers the opportunities for good collaboration between the populations of the three countries.

d. Threats:

Degradation and destruction of terrestrial and aquatic habitats, by way of:

- **Inappropriate agricultural practices along shorelines:** improper cultivation practices including the use of land up to lakeshore resulting in increased soil loss, nutrient inputs (particularly N) to water bodies and decreased water quality;
- **Inappropriate grazing:** A considerable area of the Park is severely affected by livestock practices, grazing in strictly protected zones, overgrazing near communities, and access of livestock to shoreline resulting in removal of vegetative cover contributing to soil loss and increased runoff; if in forests, changes in community composition; access by livestock to shoreline resulting in additional input of nutrients into water bodies; grazing in strictly protected zones;
- **Collecting of firewood:** Lack of alternative heating resources sets high pressure on forests that are used for firewood production for communities living within and around the NPP;
- **Tree lopping** for provision of fodder by communities in park which lead to constant degradation of regenerating forest and not well managed;
- **Siltation:** Deforestation and overgrazing have contribute to erosion and accelerated sedimentation, to loss of spawning and breeding habitats resulting in decreased populations of certain fish species (carp, *Barbus prespensis* (Prespa barbel), Prespa chub (*Chondrostoma nasus prespensis*); loss of habitat for mollusks, resulting in decreased populations and lowered food supply affecting other species dependent on them; near extirpation of trout in Micro Prespa; Treni Cave habitat impoverishment for bat species; loss of pelican breeding sites due to profusion of reeds in Micro Prespa and disturbance by fishermen; change in wetland vegetation structure with decrease of significant species;
- **Inadequate management of solid waste and uncontrolled wastewater discharge:** Solid waste accumulation near villages and along shorelines resulting in aesthetic impact and habitat degradation.

Stresses on particular species:

- **Poaching:** decrease of populations of targeted bird species (*Anser*, *Anas*, *Felicia*, *Podiceps*), boar (*Sus scrofa*), roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*), rabbit;
- **Wildlife/human conflicts:** wolf shot if enter village and damages increase to livestock and decrease of wildlife populations including wolf and bear; wildlife management absent;
- **Fishing pressure:** changes in populations and fish community structure and low numbered species' populations, which are usually endemics, may be decreasing; reduction of populations of certain species (carp (*Leuciscus cephalus albus*), Prespa barbell, *Chondrostoma*) and changes in community and possibly trophic structures; all compounded by declined water quality, loss of habitat;
- **Introduced species:** aggressive competitors (*Silurus glands*, *Lepomis gibosa*, *Carasius*) and predation of eggs of *Prespa barbell* and *Chondrostoma*.

3.5. Priority Issues for Development of Ecotourism in Prespa National Park

This section of the study describes the priority issues for development of ecotourism in PNP area. Needs identification and community assessment was prepared in order to present trends that can have impact on the development of ecotourism, to identify resources and people available to support the development of ecotourism, as well as level of community support or opposition likely to encounter, and preferred actions people already favor.

After the needs identification and community assessment was finalized, the issues assessed to be the most important for the development of ecotourism in Lakes Prespa area were set by us. The ranking of priority issues for development of ecotourism in Prespa National Park is as follows:

- Undeveloped waste management system;
- High level of unemployment;
- Organic or protected area products;

- Lack of renewable/alternative energy resources;
- Insufficient tourist services;
- Lack of accommodation capacities;
- Lack of water supply systems in the villages;
- Lack of infrastructure for sustainable transport;
- Promoting tourism and natural, historic and cultural heritages of the Lakes area;
- Degradation of the lakes.

In conclusion, there are a number of obstacles to development of ecotourism in the Prespa National Park. Some of these obstacles operate at higher levels (national laws, poor economic performance of the country and region as a whole, low influx of foreign tourists due to the decade-long conflicts and political instability in the region etc.). Some of them originate directly from the established management practices in the PNP that resist the deep paradigmatic shift in understanding the nature conservation and the notion of sustainable development. On the other hand, the very concept of ecotourism is relatively recent and there are still serious differences among the practitioners and academics over the basic concepts of ecotourism. In Albania this exacerbated by the absence of national strategy for tourism development in general and for ecotourism in particular, as well as the inexistence of management plan for the PNP.

4. Conclusions

Tourism is now limited to mainly local people, but the area has the potential to become an international destination. Economic growth will allow in time the development of a tourism infrastructure and the rehabilitation of historic sites and buildings. If the tourist facilities and attractions are set up in an ecologically sustainable way, negative impacts on flora and fauna may be limited. Impacts can even be positive if tourism earnings are invested in nature protection and development.

Yearly visitor numbers in the lake region are relatively small and occupancy rates in hotels and especially in private accommodation are low. The estimated income of restaurants and hotels corresponds to the average household income in the area or is even higher.

In general, the quality of the lake water appears to be within the acceptable limits. Prespa lake areas face problems in wastewater treatment and solid waste management facilities. Presently, tourism does not have a particularly severe impact on resources/biodiversity except for the inadequate management of solid waste and uncontrolled wastewater discharge.

The tourism development in the future require, among others: protection of the waterbodies against pollution; restoration of historical monuments and traditional architecture; increase in the accommodation facilities; adequate road and transport facilities, reliable power and drinking water supply; cleaner environment & infrastructure (solid waste, waste water treatment); provision and management of beaches (cleaning).

For the Lakes Prespa, for the future of the tourism, a major goal is to promote development of a balanced and diverse regional economy that wisely uses the region's natural, man-made and human resources, while respecting the limitations of the environment.

References

- Abell R., Thieme, M. L., Revenga C., Bryer M., Kottelat M., Bogutskaya N., Coad B., Mandrak N., Balderas S. C., Bussing W., Stiassny M. L. J., Skelton P., Allen G. R., Unmack P., Naseka A., Ng R., Sindorf N., Robertson J., Armijo J. E., Higgins J. V., Heibel T. J., Wikramanayake E., Olson D., López H. L., Reis R. E., Lundberg G., Pérez M. H. S. , and Petry P. (2008).** Freshwater ecoregions of the world: a new map of biogeographic units for freshwater biodiversity conservation. *BioScience*, **58**, 403-414.
- Albrecht C., Wolff C., Glöer P., Wilke T. (2008).** Concurrent evolution of ancient sister lakes and sister species: the freshwater gastropod genus *Radix* in lakes Ohrid and Prespa. *Hydrobiologia*, **615**, 157-167.
- Crivelli, A. J. & Catsadorakis, G. (1997).** Lake Prespa, north-western Greece, a unique Balkan wetland. *Hydrobiologia*, **351**, 1-196.
- Goldwin, H. (1996).** In Pursuit of Ecotourism. *Biodiversity and conservation* 5 (3): 277 – 291.
- Grazhdani D. (2008).** Analyze of socio economic status and market trends in Prespa National Park. BALWOIS 2008, 5 pp.
- KfW. (2005).** KfW Feasibility Study: Project Preparation & Development of the Transboundry Prespa Park Project.

- Schultheiss R., Albrecht C., Bössneck U., Wilke T. (2008).** The neglected side of speciation in ancient lakes: phylogeography of an inconspicuous mollusc taxon in lakes Ohrid and Prespa. *Hydrobiologia*, **615**, 141-156.
- UNDP/GEF. (2004 a).** Assessment of Globally Significant Biological Biodiversity within Micro and Macro Prespa Lake Watershed. PDF- B Biodiversity Report.
- UNDP/GEF. (2004 b).** Integrated Ecosystem Management in the Prespa Lakes Basin of Albania, FYR-Macedonia and Greece. PDF-B Project Document.