

ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT (APR)

Basic programme/project information

Programme or project number and title: **Integrated Ecosystem Management in the Prespa Lake Basin of Albania, FYR Macedonia and Greece, 00051409**

Designated institution: UNDP

Project starting date: September 2006
Originally planned:
Actual:

Project completion date: August 2011
Originally planned:
New:

Total budget (US \$): 1,474,500 \$US
Original:
Latest signed revision:

Period covered by the report: 01.01-31.12.2007

Specific gender analyses and allocation of additional financial resources.

c) Who could be the potential partners?

Local Civil Society Organizations, UNIFEM, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy.

3. What risks or unknowns can you identify in implementing a gender perspective?

Resistance from of the key players due to low level of awareness on gender related issues.

Limited financial resources.

4. Can you suggest how such risks might be minimized (within or beyond the scope of your project)?

This risk will be minimized through constant awareness-raising as to how gender responsive and inclusive policy, systems and response would improve the quality of actions taken.

TEXTUAL ASSESSMENT

1. What are the major achievements of the programme or project vis-à-vis the expected results during the year under review? To the extent possible, include an assessment of the potential impact, sustainability and contribution to capacity development.

- Training programme on implementation of Integrated Pest Management and Integrated Crop Management according to the Good Agriculture Practices developed and initial trainings conducted with selected group of agriculture producers in the Prespa Watershed. Upon completion of one year training, farmers that participate at the programme will be able to apply environmentally friendly agriculture practices according to the respective EU directives. The training curriculum could be replicated to other parts of the country.
- One pest diseases device was provided to the Union of Agriculture producers which completed the system of such monitoring devices (five) that cover the whole territory of the watershed. This activity was scaling up of a complementary projects implemented in the Prespa region.
- Needs and gap assessment of the forest management practices in the Prespa Watershed conducted, and ecosystem approach in forest management built into the management plan of the forest unit Bigla. "How to Guide" on integration of ecosystem approach in preparation of forest management plans developed. This guide could be used in preparation of other forest management plans countrywide and will facilitate the implementation of the new Forest Management Strategy that introduces modern approach in forest management.
- Feasibility Study for an alternative wastewater management plant prepared and a study tour for representatives of the village council, local governments and Ministry of Environment conducted in Novi Sad, Serbia. The aim of the study tour was to visit a wastewater treatment plant with similar characteristic as the one proposed to be constructed in Nakolec, and to learn from the experience of others on the issues related to the construction and maintenance of such wastewater treatment plants.
- Initial training for Integrated Pollution Prevention Control (IPPC) conducted for representatives of the local governments and inspectorates from Resen, Bitola, Prilep, Ohrid, Novaci, and Demir Hisar. Knowledge gained through this training will facilitate the enforcement of the Law on Environment Protection on local level.
- Small grants programme for civil society organizations (CSO) established. Local CSOs will implement small scale project that address some of the priority need for improvement of the environment in the Prespa watershed.
- Marking of the main environment protection related days. As part of the project communication plan, small scale activities were carried out in order to increase the project visibility and raise public awareness on the need to conserve the biodiversity in the watershed and to reduce the pollution of the main watercourses and the lake.
- Close relations with the main project stakeholders were established. In the course of the year the project team conducted numerous meetings with representatives of the respective ministries, local government, academia, civil society organizations, community leaders, etc. that contributed to better understanding of the project objectives and goals, and facilitated the implementation of the project activities.

ANNUAL REPORTING GENDER MAINSTREAMING TEMPLATE

United Nations Development Programme



ANNUAL REPORTING GENDER MAINSTREAMING TEMPLATE

PROJECT TITLE:	Integrated Ecosystem Management in the Prespa Lake Basin of Albania, FYR Macedonia and Greece, 00051409
PROJECT OBJECTIVE:	This project's objective is to catalyse the adoption and implementation of ecosystem management interventions in the Prespa Lakes Basin of Albania, Macedonia, and Greece that integrate ecological, economic, and social goals with the aim of conserving globally significant biodiversity and conserving and reducing pollution of the trans-boundary lakes and their contributing waters

1. Does the project incorporate a gender perspective? (e.g. inputs, outputs, outcomes, impact)?

If **YES**, please explain with reference to specific sections of the project document. Describe activities/partners/other

If **NO**, please justify:

The project was developed several years ago when no gender considerations were required for the GEF projects.

Also, no gender specific analyses were done in the preparation phase of the project and consequently no outputs or specific activities were included in the project document.

2. If YES or NO:

a) In what (other, additional) potential areas could gender be incorporated in your project?

Agriculture related activities, "Ezerani" management plan, watershed management plan.

b) What would be required to incorporate gender in such a way?

2. What major issues and problems are affecting the achievement of programme or project results?

- Changes of the project personnel (Project Manager, Project Specialist and Project Assistant). In the second half of the year the Project Specialist and the Project Assistant resigned their position, and the contract of the Project Manager was not extended. Due to the complexity of the project, such personnel changes caused delays in the implementation of some of the activities. Also, a lot of time has been spent on recruitment procedures and identification of appropriate candidates. The first announcement for the position of the Project Manager was not successful and the position is still vacant. Several announcements for the position of a Project Specialist in Resen were unsuccessful and an appropriate candidate has not been identified yet.
- Unsatisfactorily performance of the Project Manager. Some of the annual targets were missed as a result of a lack of timely coordination and cooperation with responsible institution on local and national level, inadequate Terms of Reference for the main tasks, poor understanding of the overall objective and specific goals of the project. Weak performance of the project manager was also affecting the coordination of the activities with the trans-boundary component.
- Delays in procurement procedures and low delivery. There were delays in providing comments on the draft TORs and nomination of representatives of the Ministry in the recruitment panels and evaluation commissions. Also, comments were not received on the draft reports prepared by individual consultants. In the procurement case for consulting services for preparation of the feasibility study for the Strict Nature Reserve "Ezerani", delays by Ministry official in the signing of evaluation meeting minutes were experienced, resulting in the postponement of the activities and under-spending of the project budget.
- Delays in adoption of some of the key laws (Law on Water, Law on Fishery). Some of the project targets could be only achieved if the new laws are adopted by the Parliament. This is especially the case with the Law on Waters and the Law on Fishery because the project should facilitate the implementation of the new principles that will be introduced by these laws.

3. How should these issues or problems be resolved? Please explain in detail the action(s) recommended. Specify who should be responsible for such actions. Also indicate a tentative time-frame and the resources required.

- Due to the problems in identification of qualified candidates for the position Project Specialist based in Resen, UNDP and the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning agreed to place one Project Specialist in Skopje. Among the other, his role would be to facilitate the coordination of the activities between the project units in Resen and the national institutions based in Skopje. An assessment of the needs for a second Project Specialist in Resen will be made after the first quarter of 2008, and afterwards UNDP and the Ministry will agree whether an announcement will be published or the project will operate with one Project Specialist and national consultant engaged for specific tasks.
- In June, the Project Manager was given three months period to improve his performance which didn't result in expected improvement of his performance and therefore his contract was not extended. The first announcement for the post was not successful because very limited numbers of adequate applications were received. Therefore a new announcement was published with the deadline for submission of applications by 26th December. The main

<p>Output 4.3 Communication activities catalyze stakeholder involvement and create new standard for transparency and openness for project implementation</p>	<p>Numerous meeting with the main stakeholders conducted Small grants programme for NGOs implemented</p>	<p>Finalization of the projects within the small grants programme and evaluation of the achievements Communication/education/information sharing plan developed</p>
<p>Output 5.1 Monitoring and evaluation enables lessons to be elaborated, learned and shared worldwide</p>	<p>No target for 2007</p>	<p>Monitoring plan developed Risk log and Issue Log established and operational</p>
<p>Output 5.2 Lessons learned are shared and replicated nationally and internationally</p>	<p>No target for 2007</p>	<p>Lessons learned log established and regularly updated</p>

difficulty in identifying an adequate candidate is the fact that the project office is based in Resen. There is limited number of candidates that comply with the required profile that live outside the capital and most of them are not willing to move out of the capital. If the second announcement fails than UNDP and the Ministry should look for an option to place the Project Manager in Skopje instead in Resen.

- Although there is an Agreement for Provision of Support Services between UNDP and the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning by which UNDP is delegated to perform the recruitment and the procurement procedures, representatives of the Ministry are always invited to participate in the selection and evaluation panels/commissions. However, the Ministry should provide timely input and respect for UNDP rules in order to ensure timely completion of required procedures. Low delivery seriously affects the timely and effective achievement of the project objectives and therefore if further delays are encountered in the first half of 2008, it is suggested that UNDP undertakes the recruitment and procurement procedures on Ministry's behalf according to its procedures.
- Law delivery is jeopardizing the achievement of the project objectives and therefore if further delays are encountered in the first half of 2008, UNDP should undertake the performance of the recruitment and procurement procedures according to its procedures.
- The adoption of the Law on Waters and Fishery is expected in the first half of 2008 since both laws are already in the parliamentary procedure. The project staff should intensify the contacts with representatives of the respective ministries and keep themselves updated with the new developments regarding the new laws and regulations.

4. What new developments (if any) are likely to affect the achievement of programme or project results? What do you recommend to respond to these developments?

The country is going through intensive process of approximation of the national legislation to the EU legislation which is resulting in significant changes in the legal and institutional frameworks for environmental management. These processes are affecting the initial project baseline and in some cases require changes or modification of the project outputs and activities.

Also, Prespa region is becoming more and more attractive for the donors that are interested to fund various activities especially ones related to tourism development, establishment of monitoring systems, etc. Given that some of these activities are also of interest for the project, there is potential risk of overlap and ineffective use of available funds.

As a response to the above mentioned developments the project staff has to ensure that they have the latest information on the thematic areas that are targeted by the project and keep the baseline updated. In order to do this, they have to maintain close working relations with the respective institutions on national and local level, continuously assess the needs and develop measures that will respond to the identified needs within the objectives of the project.

Moreover, the project staff has to establish and maintain a database of all projects/activities that are implemented or are planned to be implemented in the Prespa region, and ensure efficient flow and exchange of information with the donors present in the region, as well as with the local government, Ministries, NGOs, and academic institutions.

<p>Output 2.4 Appropriate small-scale wastewater treatment facilities measurably reduce atrophying inputs to the Prespa Lakes</p>	<p>Feasibility study for alternative wastewater treatment plant in Nakolec prepared, and a study tour to similar wastewater treatment plant in Serbia conducted</p>	<p>Construction of an alternative wastewater treatment plant in the village Nakolec</p>
<p>Output 2.5 Strengthened civil society partners for ecosystem-oriented fishery management</p>	<p>No target for 2007</p>	<p>Initial needs assessment of the local fisherman carried out and appropriate programme for strengthening of their capacities developed</p>
<p>Output 2.6 A marketplace to foster the knowledge, goods and services of a conservation economy</p>	<p>No targets for 2007</p>	<p>Concept Paper for establishment of Natural Capital Resource Centre/Information Centre prepared</p>
<p>Output 3.1 Monitoring of ecosystem health (biotic and abiotic) parameters strengthens information baseline for adaptive management in all three littoral states</p>	<p>No target for 2007</p>	<p>Geographic Information System (GIS) for the watershed upgraded Targeted research of at least two priority species conducted</p>
<p>Output 3.3 Restoration of the Golema Reka</p>	<p>Targeted assessments/studies completed and the project design for restoration of the river completed (Golema reka project)</p>	<p>Priority measures for a follow up from Golema reka assessments agreed and implemented</p>
<p>Output 3.5 Ezerani Nature Reserve (ENR) is strengthened and fully operational</p>	<p>TORs for feasibility study prepared and procurement procedure for selection of a consulting company prepared</p>	<p>Feasibility Study for Ezerani completed</p>

5. What are the views of the target groups with regard to the programme or project? Please note any significant gender-based differences in those views.

The project is very well accepted in the Municipality of Resen, and the local government and the local populations have great expectations in regards to the integration of the ecosystem management intervention in the economic and social activities within the region, and conservation of the biodiversity and reduction of the pollution in the watershed.

The project staff should continue to provide explanation on the objectives of the project, the scope and the rationale of the activities, and to perform a reality check with the main stakeholders.

6. To date, what lessons (both positive and negative) can be drawn from the experience of the programme or project?

Given that this project is one of the components of a trans-boundary project much better coordination and collaboration is needed among all components of the project in order to achieve better results. This requires additional efforts from the project staff in the three participating countries, as well as stronger commitment from the respective stakeholders. The Trans-boundary Adviser already undertook some measures to improve the coordination by introducing annual work planning meetings and harmonizing the work plan and reporting templates, as well as organizing more frequent meetings among the project staff, and with the respective national institutions.

7. If the programme or project has been evaluated, what is the implementation status of the recommendations made by the evaluators?

N/A


8. Do you propose any substantive revision to the programme or project document? If yes, what are they? State justification.

The issue of the substantive revision will be addressed in the PIR (Project Implementation Report) that will be submitted to the GEF in June 2008 as per the GEF requirements.

9. Provide any other information that may further support or clarify your assessment of the programme or project. You may include annexes as you deem necessary.

Programme Officer:

Anita Kodzoman



<p>Output 1.2 Ecosystem health priorities mainstreamed into productive sector laws and regulatory instruments</p>	<p>No target for 2007</p>	<p>At least three regional training workshops for staff from relevant national and local institutions organized</p>
<p>Output 1.3 Pilot ecosystem oriented water management at local scale</p>	<p>No target for 2007</p>	<p>Assessment of current water use and discharge carried out Quantification of water resources Monitoring of water quality in the main water courses in the watershed established</p>
<p>Output 1.4 Capacity for water and watershed management built at municipal level</p>	<p>No target for 2007</p>	<p>Prespa Watershed Council established as an advisory body and a stakeholders forum</p>
<p>Output 1.5 Piloting flexible, phased pollution reduction techniques and the use of incentives strengthens enforcement of and compliance with environmental laws protecting ecosystem health.</p>	<p>Initial training on Integrated Pollution Prevention Control conducted</p>	<p>Enforcement capacities on local level strengthened through trainings provided to local inspectors and provision of basic equipment. At least one installation supported for preparation of the permitting documents (IPPC)</p>
<p>Output 2.1 Reduced environmental impacts of agriculture in the MK Prespa</p>	<p>Pilot group of farmers that participate at comprehensive GAP (Good Agriculture Practices) training programme established and initial trainings conducted</p>	<p>Series of targeted trainings for the selected group of farmers conducted</p>
<p>Output 2.2 Forest managed for native species composition and forest stand heterogeneity</p>	<p>Forest management plan for the Forest Unit "Bigla" prepared, including new ecosystem approach in forest management</p>	<p>Ecosystem forest management demonstrated at two forest units in the watershed</p>

Programme or project summary table

Programme/project title and number:	Integrated Ecosystem Management in the Prespa Lake Basin of Albania, FYR Macedonia and Greece, 00051409	Management arrangement:	NEX
Designated institution:	Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning	Period covered:	1.01.-31.12.2007
OVERALL ASSESSMENT			
Brief analysis of progress achieved in the contribution of the programme or project to the expected results.			
FINANCIAL SUMMARY			
Source of funds	Annual budget (\$ '000)	Estimated annual expenditure (\$ '000)	Delivery rate (%)
TRAC (1 and 2) TRAC 3 Other	\$415,741.21	\$116,195.88	27.94%
Cost-sharing: Government Financial institution Third party Trust funds AOS (where applicable)	GEF		

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Programme support objectives (PSOS) or immediate objectives	Indicators	Achievements
<p>Obj. 1</p> <p>To catalyze the adoption of integrated ecosystem management in the trans-boundary Prespa Lakes Basin of FYR Macedonia, Albania and Greece to conserve globally significant biodiversity, mitigate pollution of the trans-boundary lakes, and provide a sustainable basis for the Basin's further social and economic development</p>	<p>Financial resources for integrated ecosystem management made available</p> <p>Human resources for integrated ecosystem management approach available</p> <p>Management tools for integrated ecosystem management approach available</p> <p>Demonstration of integrated ecosystem management approach successful</p>	<p>Given that this is a five years project the main achievement in the first year of the project implementation is establishment of the basis for introduction of an integrated ecosystem management in the Prespa Lake Basin.</p>
<p>Annual output targets</p> <p>Output 1.1 Integrated land use 'spatial plan" for MK Prespa developed</p>	<p>Achievement of outputs</p> <p>The draft spatial plan has been developed by the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning</p>	<p>Proposed output targets for the next year</p> <p>Integration of the ecosystem health maintenance objectives and practices into the spatial planning process;</p> <p>Strengthening the participatory process within the Municipality of Resen</p> <p>Sharing the lessons learnt through development of a "How to" handbook</p>