

PROJECT INFO

United Nations Development Programme



Photo by: UNDP

CHALLENGE

Agriculture plays a significant role in the Prespa region in terms of employment and economic sustainability. Over 60% of the local population in Resen depends on agricultural activities, mainly apple production. The annual apple production ranges from 80,000 to 110,000 tons, but in some years, due to low market demands, more than 10,000 tons are discarded as waste. This waste is being dumped along the shorelines and into the Golema Reka River and Prespa Lake.

There are two main reasons for this, one being the non-existence of an organized system for collection and disposal of biodegradable waste and the other, low environmental awareness among the local population. This poses a serious threat to the environment and to the overall ecosystem of the Prespa Lake watershed.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of this project is to support the establishment of an efficient system for biodegradable waste management in the Prespa region. This will help improve the lives of the local population and ensure better environmental protection.

To achieve this, new technologies will be introduced for waste treatment and recycling. This will help reduce the massive quantities of waste which are currently discarded and also, transform the biodegradable waste into products of intrinsic value, such as natural fertilizers or compost. The use of compost instead of artificial fertilizers will lead to improved composition of soil and waters. Since compost is less expensive than artificial fertilizers, it will also enable farmers to make additional budget savings.

RESULTS

An Environmental Impact Assessment Study (EIA) was prepared, concluding that the establishment of a biodegradable waste management system would have enormous positive effects on the environment and would lead to significant improvement of the natural resources in the Prespa region.

The construction of a central composting plant and a number of biodegradable waste collecting stations has already begun. Once completed, the whole system will be introduced to the farmers and the public communal enterprise.

A series of trainings and an extensive public awareness campaign will follow. Their objective will be to ensure that everyone understands the many benefits that can be generated by good management of biodegradable waste.

Comprehensive and viable management solutions will be provided for the treatment of biodegradable waste generated in the area of Resen and the village of Jankovec. This will represent a solid platform for implementing a full-size management solution for biodegradable waste in the entire Prespa region. It will also serve as a model for possible replication in other regions throughout the country that are facing similar challenges.

It is expected that overall, this project will contribute to the principles of sustainable development by improving the lives and agricultural practices of the local population and ensuring better environmental protection.

PROJECT TITLE:

Pilot Project for Biodegradable Waste Management in Prespa

PARTNERS:

Municipality of Resen, NGOs, Farmers, local communities

FINANCED BY: SDC

BUDGET: \$ 750,000

IMPLEMENTING PERIOD: 2010- 2012

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