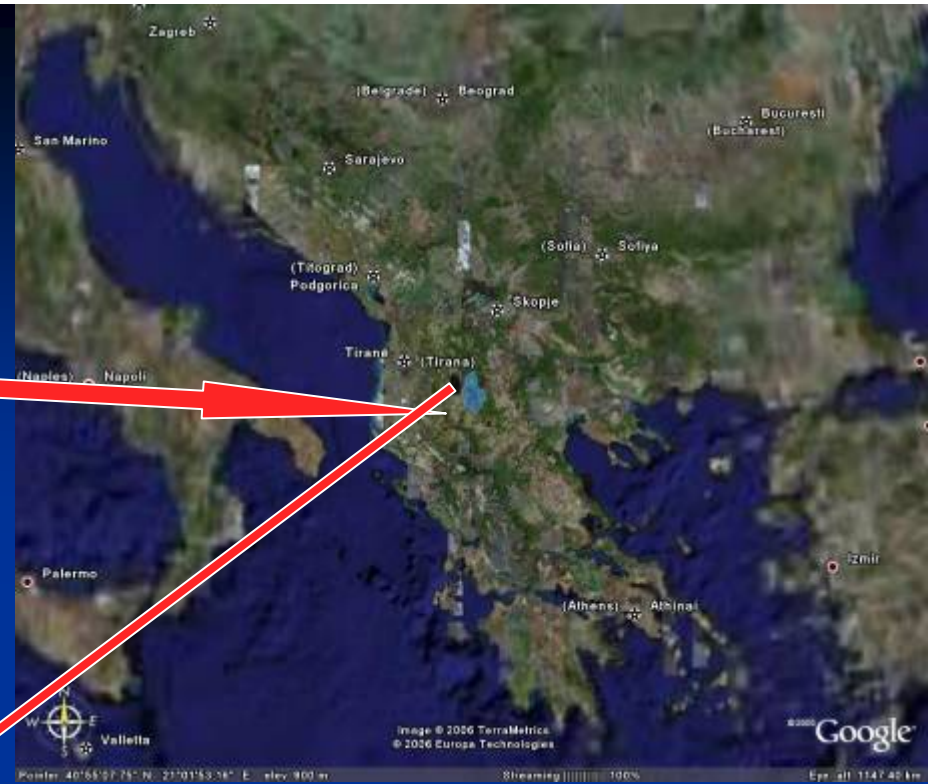
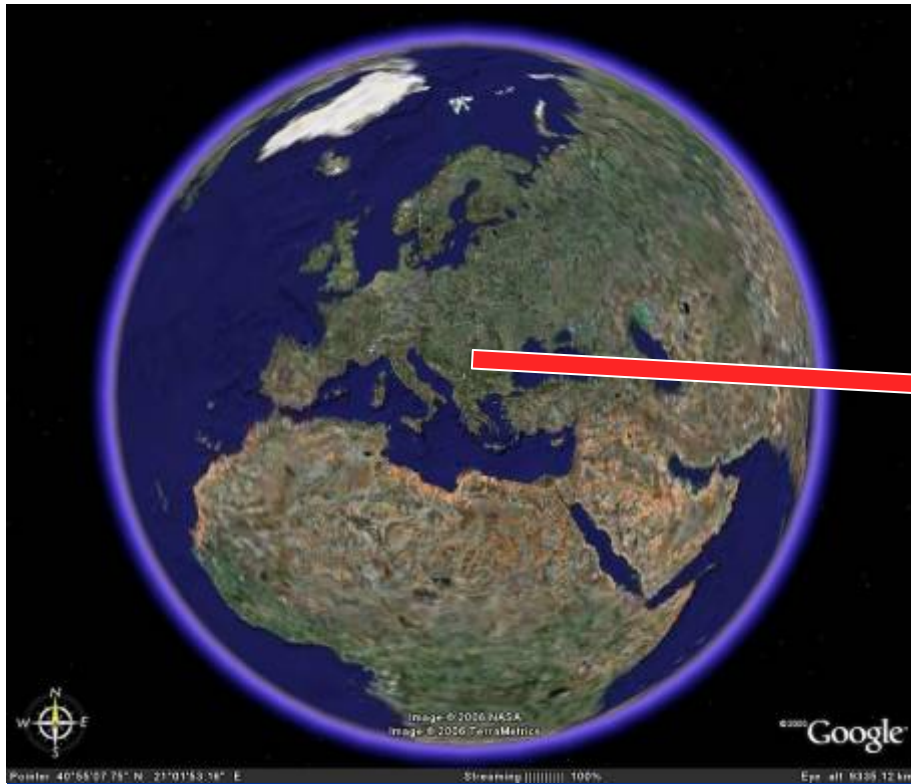


Integrated Management of the Transboundary Prespa Lake Basin

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Transboundary Prespa Lakes Basin

- Basin area of 1,600 sq km shared between the three neighboring countries (MK 62%, AL 17%, GR 21%)
- Approximately 30,000 inhabitants (MK 75%, AL 17%, GR 8%)
- Local economy based on agriculture, tourism, fishing, NTFPs, factories in MK...

- **Prespa region: unique values of the ecosystem under continuous stress**
- **Underlying causes for stress on ecosystem health:**
 - Serious decline of the water level of the Prespa Lake
 - Inappropriate scale for land-use and water use planning
 - Ecosystem objectives not sufficiently incorporated into the sectoral law and regulatory instruments
 - Pollution from pesticides, fertilizers and industrial compounds
 - Waste management practices (agricultural, industrial, domestic)
 - Fisheries and forestry management practices
 - Protected areas management
 - Wastewater management
 - Unilateral and piecemeal approach to managing shared resources (primarily water)

Supporting the trilateral initiative

- History
 - Trilateral Declaration – signed 02 February 2000
 - Trilateral Prespa Park Coordination Committee
 - Strategic Action Plan for the Sustainable Development of the Prespa region adopted in 2003
 - Resource mobilization efforts
- National Governments and municipalities supported by donors: GTZ, KfW, GEF, UNDP, SDC, REC, SIDA, NATO, WWF, MedWet...
- Projects in agriculture, infrastructure development, nature conservation and protected areas management, water and wastewater and solid waste management, river restoration, forest regeneration etc)
- **UNDP/GEF role:** to **coordinate** and **integrate** the support by all donors (in cooperation with the ministries, municipalities and other key stakeholders)

Project Goals and Objectives

- To catalyse the adoption and implementation of ecosystem management interventions that integrate ecological, economic, and social goals whilst conserving globally significant biodiversity and reducing pollution of the trans-boundary lakes
- The project's strategy aims to mainstream ecosystem management objectives and priorities into productive sector practices and policies.
- To strengthen capacity for restoring ecosystem health and conserving biodiversity **first at the national level** by piloting ecosystem-oriented approaches to spatial planning, water use management, agriculture, forest and fishery management, and conservation and protected area management.
- To strengthen ongoing **trans-boundary cooperation** by empowering the existing trans-boundary institution and piloting trans-boundary management and conservation activities.

National level activities

- Development of Watershed Management Plan for MK Prespa and building Watershed Management capacity (Watershed Management Council) – in accordance to the new Law on Water (WFD and IRBM principles)
- Mainstreaming ecosystem management priorities into sectoral legal & regulatory instruments, policies, plans and etc. (fisheries, forestry, agriculture, river restoration...)
- Support in establishing integrated pollution prevention and control system at local level
- Introduction of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)
- Establishment of agricultural waste management system
- Support in development of ecosystem oriented forest management plans
- Demonstration of decentralized wastewater treatment for small communities (natural treatment systems)
- Strengthening the national protected areas system

Trans-boundary level activities

- Support to the maturation of the Prespa Park Coordination Committee (PPCC)
 - Steps toward formalizing the existing trilateral cooperation + ensuring future financing of the transboundary cooperation
- Conservation Action Planning for the Priority Trans-boundary Habitats and Species in the Prespa Lakes basin
 - Identification of the transboundary conservation landscape, development and pilot implementation of priority habitats and species conservation action plans (following various international mechanisms and protocols – NATURA 2000, EU Birds and habitats directive, biodiversity conventions, national red lists and etc.)
 - Process coordinated by the trilateral Monitoring and Conservation Working Group (MCWG) – plays main steering role for the overall process

Transboundary level activities

- Development of trans-boundary monitoring system
 - Establishment of trans-boundary monitoring of ecosystem health parameters to strengthen information baseline for adaptive management in all littoral states
 - Consensus driven process in designing and establishing participatory field protocols and field survey data
 - Highly participatory process overseen by the MCWG (representatives from Ministries, scientific/research institutions, NGOs...)

- Enhancement of the transboundary cooperation in fisheries management and promotion of ecosystem oriented fisheries management
 - Agreement amongst littoral states on trans-boundary fish conservation priorities that reflect ecological management objectives for sustainable use and conservation of native and endemic species

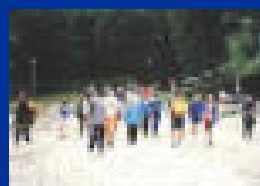
Trans-boundary level activities

- Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and development of Strategic Action Programme
 - In-depth analysis of the key environmental stresses, pressures and impacts in the basin
 - Identification of ecological quality objectives (EQO) for the basin, development of mitigation measures
 - Strengthening and fill in the weaknesses of the previous Strategic Action Plan (SAP) endorsed by the PPCC

- Enhancing transboundary cooperation in water management in the Prespa lakes basin
 - Establishment of Prespa Water Management Working Group (PMMWG) to operate under auspices of PPCC (professional body; guidance role on shared water resources management – EU WFD, support in decision making processes, forum for sharing information/experience, support to the relevant sectors...)

Key future challenges

- Formalizing the trilateral cooperation and ensuring permanent financing (PPCC, MCWG, PWGWM...)
 - Is it feasible/possible on short term? / political, socio – economic barriers
 - Is it the only way leading toward adequate management of the shared resources (water and land resources, fish, biodiversity...)
- **Alternative:** Enhancing the cooperation at technical/expert level (plan developers, managers, concessionaires and etc.), Municipalities, NGOs = Reflecting regional/transboundary concerns into development and implementation of national level plans, policies and etc. (for example fisheries, water management, land-use and etc.)



THANK YOU!!!