

Key Documents of the Ramsar Convention

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties

Note: It is important that you read the accompanying **Explanatory Note and Guidelines** document before completing this form.

1. Date this sheet was completed/updated: *December 1997 - January 1998*

2. Country: *Macedonia*

3. Name of wetland: *Prespa Lake*

4. Geographical coordinates: *21° 01' 30" E; 40° 55' 45" N;*

5. Altitude (average and/or maximum and minimum) :
average -853,76 m; max: 856.45 -1914/17; min: 844 (1995)

6. Area (in hectares): *18 920 ha (for 853 m.a.s.l.)*

7. **Overview:** *(general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)*
Pliocene (2-3 million years old) Prespa Lake is second bigger lake from the Dessaret group of the Aegean Lake zone. It is situated in the deepest part of the Prespa basin on the SW part of the Republic of Macedonia. The lake flow into the Ohrid Lake (World heritage) which is 158 m beneath Prespa lake through the limestone caves of the mountain!. On the East it is surrounded with the granite mountain Pelister (National Park from 1948) from the west with lime Galichica (National Park) and from 1996 northern part of the Lake is promoted like a strictly protected nature reserve -EZERANI. It is important trophic resource for large amount of the Pelicans which breed on the Small Prespa Lake in Greece.

8. **Wetland Type** please circle the applicable codes for wetland types as listed in Annex I of the Explanatory Note and Guidelines document

marine-coastal	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
inland	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	Sp	Ss	Tp	Ts
	U	Va	Vt	W	Xf	Xp	Y	Zg	Zk		
man-made:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		

Please now rank these wetland types by listing them from the most to the least dominant:

O ; Ts ; Tp; Xf

9. Ramsar Criteria : (please circle the applicable criteria; see point 12 below)

1a 1b 1c 1d 2a 2b 2c 2d 3a 3b 3c 4a 4b

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to this site:

10. Map of site included ? Please tick YES (will be send as a scan attachment 1:100 000 also satellite picture is available ! --or-- NO

(Please refer to the Explanatory Note and Guidelines document for information regarding desirable map traits.)

It is done when we have applied for proposing Prespa lake on a Ramsar list

11. Name and address of the compiler of this form :

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Please provide additional information on each of the following categories by attaching extra pages (please limit extra pages to no more than 10) :

- Additional informations would be send after a time !

12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page . (Please refer to Annex II in the Explanatory Note and Guidelines document) .

13. General location : (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

Prespa Lake is in the frame of the Resen Municipality

14. Physical features : (e.g. geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; catchment area; downstream area; climate)

15. Hydrological values : (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.)

16. Ecological features : (main habitats and vegetation types)

17. Noteworthy flora : (indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc.)

18. Noteworthy fauna : (indicating, e.g., which species are unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important; include count data, etc.)

19. Social and cultural values : (e.g., fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site, etc.)

20. Land tenure/ownership of : (a) site (b) surrounding area
a) state
b) Private, state and not known .

21. Current land use : (a) site (b) surroundings/catchment
a) only fishery (commercial and illegal)

b) On the Prespa region there are 6500 ha cultivated land, 1320 ha are meadows, 1160 ha pastures, reed- 253 ha and forests- private 293 ha. From the 6500 ha cultivated land 2650 ha are orchards, 1520 cereals, not cultivated (abandoned) 1900 ha and vegetables -400 ha.

22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects : (a) at the site (b) around the site

Fortunately there are not some bigger adversely affecting activities in this region. Prespa Lake could be happy that in the vicinity is located famous Ohrid Lake (world heritage) where are concentrated bigger investments in the last period. Any way in the last period some people notice that Prespa Lake is less visited, with natural lake shore, small inhabitants density with nearly absence of motor boats, yachts and another 20 centuries innovations of the humans etc. and on another hand vicinity of the National Parks and Ornithological reserve EZERANI with possibilities any time to be close to the pelicans attracts nature lovers .

23. Conservation measures taken : (national category and legal status of protected areas - including any boundary changes which have been made: management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it has been implemented)

Prespa and Ohrid Lake with the low from are promoted like a natural monuments of Macedonia . But mainly its real protection is only on a paper but not in practice. Only for the reserve EZERANI (northern and shallowest shore of the Prespa Lake will be very soon implemented officially approved protection zoning system)

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented : (e.g. management plan in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area, etc.)

In 1996 was proposed a Project for preparation of the Management plan for Prespa lake. Unfortunately Macedonian project was not approved for the Small Ramsar Grand . Only for the reserve EZERANI (northern and shallowest shore of the Prespa Lake will be very soon implemented officially approved protection zoning system). This region which cover 2080 ha from 17. November 1997 is under the jurisdiction of the BSPSM . Whether BSPSM will succeed successfully to manage this reserve depend from international help which would be received.

25. Current scientific research and facilities : (e.g., details of current projects; existence of field station, etc.)

Filed station existed up to 1990 near the entrance of the tourist place Carina (northern part of the Lake). After that period the whole hotel complex become accommodation place for the refugees (refugees centre) form Albania and the station was used from the state police.

BSPSM is trying to find financial for equipping of one information centre in the village Asamati , as they got one building from the local municipality (20 years free of charge) . As this centre is quite large it could be also used for accommodation of people who would like to study different groups of plants and animals. In the reserve there is another building which is excellent for filed station but it also need reconstruction.

Prof. Micevski is currently studying birds of the Prespa Lake.

26. Current conservation education : (e.g., visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits, etc.)

It is in process of equipping of the first information centre (visitor centre) in the village Asamati (southern part of the reserve EZERANI). Hides for bird watching are planned also for the reserve.

There are not information booklet for Prespa Lake.

In the village Asamati is one excellent “children hotel” which is regularly and organised visited by the scholars (together with their teachers). This is a great opportunity not only for the reserve EZERANI but also for the whole Prespa Lake .

27. Current recreation and tourism : (state if wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type and frequency/intensity)

Up to 1990 on Prespa region came 45 678 guests with 330145 night. After water level decreasing or especially in 1995 came 27767 tourists with 159 960 overnights.

28. Jurisdiction : (territorial, e.g., state/region and functional, e.g., Dept. of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment etc.)

Republic of Macedonia, Resen Municipality.

Ministry of environment and Ministry of agriculture, forestry and water economy.

29. Management authority : (name and address of local body directly responsible for managing the wetland)

For the ornithological reserve EZERANI (2080 ha) responsible for managing is Bird Study and Protection Society of Macedonia . For the rest of the Lake responsible is “Prespansko Ezero” which are mainly fishery organisation.

30. Bibliographical references : (scientific/technical only)

- 1. International symposium: Through integral protection and sustainable development of the transborder Big and small Prespa Lake. Korcha, Albania 24-26 October 1997. Macedonian papers. (in Macedonian). pp:139.**
- 2. Micevski, B., 1992. Structural and faunistical characteristics of the Prespa lake Winter ornithofauna. God. Zb., Biol.45: 51-55. (in Macedonian, Summary, tables and figures in English).**
- 3. Micevski, B., 1997. Ornithofauna of the Prespa Lake. Mak-west. Skopje. (in Macedonian but Summary, tables and figures in English) .pp.60.**
- 4. Micevski, B. & M. Schneider-Jacoby, 1997. Winter census of the waterfowl on the Macedonian part of Prespa Lake in January 1997 (with structural, dietary and evaluation analyses). International symposium: Through integral protection and sustainable development of the transborder Big and Small Prespa Lake. Korcha, Albania, 24-26 October 1997 : 52-57. (in Macedonian but available also in English)**
- 4. Sibinovich, M., 1987. Lakes Prespa and Ohrid. Institute for water economy. Skopje, pp.160**

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