

First Meeting of the Prespa Park Management Committee (PPMC)
pursuant to art. 10 of the Agreement
23 June 2022, Pyli Thematic Centre, Prespa Greece

Summary Minutes

At the invitation of Mr. Konstantinos Dimopoulos, Director General of Environmental Policy of the Ministry of Environment and Energy of Greece, the Prespa Park Management Committee (PPMC) held its first regular meeting in the Information Centre of the Prespes National Park in Pyli, Greece, on June 23, 2022.

Representatives of the National Agency for Protected Areas (NAPA) from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, the Regional Agency for Protected Areas (RAPA), the NGO PPNEA and the Municipality of Pusteci from Albania, representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, the Municipality of Resen and MES-Birdlife and the Municipality of Resen from North Macedonia and representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE), the Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency (NECCA), the Management Unit of the Prespa National Park and Protected Areas of Western Macedonia, the Municipality of Prespes, the NGO SPP from Greece and a representative from the European Commission, Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of North Macedonia, as well as a representative of the Ohrid Management Committee as a permanent observer to the PPMC, attended the meeting.

1. Opening session

The acting Chair, Mr. Dimopoulos, welcomed the attending representatives of the Parties to the Agreement and observers and conveyed his gratitude on chairing this long-awaited first Meeting of the PPMC, which signals the start of the implementation of the Agreement. The Chair proceeded with presenting the main provisions of the Agreement, as a basis for the upcoming discussions on the expectations of PPMC members from the Agreement's implementation. His presentation revolved around the basic obligations of the Agreement (Articles 2 & 3) that the Parties will have to fulfil by taking necessary measures and applying best available techniques, individually or in cooperation to manage the natural resources of the Prespa Lakes Area. In addition, he highlighted the means by which these obligations are expected to be met (Articles 3 and 6) through common action in a variety of sectors. The Chair acknowledged the challenges of involving and activating local communities and multi-stakeholder bodies, developing joint actions against climate change effects, particularly on water resources, reducing agrochemical input, establishing common rules for fisheries and promoting sustainable tourism. Finally, the Chair highlighted the most important outcomes of the inaugural kick-off Meeting of the High-Level Segment of the Agreement held online almost a year ago upon the invitation of the Minister of Environment and Energy of Greece, such as the need to accelerate the practical implementation of the Agreement, the prudent management of local natural environment, the promotion of mild economic activities, the strengthening of cooperation and joint action, the Parties' commitment to EU accession (for the two other parties), International Conventions and standards and a participatory, inclusive management approach. The Chair conclusively mentioned that the heavy symbolism held by the productive collaboration among the three countries is an example to be followed by other countries to overcome difficulties and build a common future.

The agenda of the meeting was then presented and approved.

2. Introductory remarks from PPMC members on their expectations from the Agreement's implementation

All participants commented on the opportunity that is presented through this first PPMC meeting for strengthening cooperation to ensure an integrated protection of the ecosystem and the sustainable development of the Prespa Park area, pursuant to the provisions of the Agreement. Representatives of the national agencies for the protection of nature in Albania and North Macedonia, responsible for the respective protected areas within the Prespa Park mentioned the efforts of their respective institutions in maintaining an operating administrative network, acknowledging the role of international observers and donors. They declared that there are high expectations for cooperation between the three states at all levels (national, regional and international) and the subsequent development of streamlined joint action in relation to the conservation of values of the area and sustainable development.

The representative of the European Union mentioned that the PPMC is expected to guide partners in implementation, but the road map should be more ambitious, including a full communication plan. He welcomed that any transboundary assessments and their coordination is carried out in accordance with important EU directives (Habitats', Birds' Water Framework Directive - WFD), while stating that the WFD and the EU Green Deal provide clear principles that can guide the PPMCs actions. The EC has secured funds to support the Prespa Park and the EU and strongly commits to work with all stakeholders for the protection of nature and to build a strong cooperation environment.

Mayors and representatives from local authorities from across the basin stressed their long-term commitment to local sustainable development, mentioned their collaborative efforts in preserving, promoting the values of the area and endorsing communication among the peoples of their jurisdiction. The local administrations are convinced that the PPMC will act as an important tool for environmental protection (e.g. waste management and pollution prevention) and local sustainable development (including initiatives for sustainable tourism and the free movement of citizens) and expressed gratitude that the EU is committed to supporting the implementation of several projects related to the enactment of the Agreement.

Representatives of civil society welcomed the commitment coming from different levels through the PPMC for the preservation and the recognition of Prespa. They expect that the PPMC and other bodies implementing the Agreement will provide an appropriate facilitating platform for cooperation at all levels for this internationally recognized transboundary protected area. In addition, acknowledging the impact that the climate crisis is having on local natural resources, it is expected that the operation of the PPMC and subsequent steps will focus on climate change impacts and provide adaptive solutions for the conservation of the natural values of Prespa and support local sustainable development.

Representatives of the Protected Area Management Bodies expect that the implementation of the Agreement, signalled by this first PPMC meeting, will support the establishment of essential local cooperation in planning and applying joint activities against known threats (e.g. fire expansion) and exchanging important knowledge, especially on water quality and quantity monitoring and climate change effects.

3. Presentation of the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Agreement's Joint Bodies

Mr. Dimopoulos mentioned that the MEE took the initiative to prepare the working texts, i.e. the ToR for the Agreement's Joint Bodies, which have already undergone a first consultation process, wherein relevant comments by the Parties have been incorporated.

Ms. V. Roumeliotou presented the draft ToR for (a) the PPMC, (b) the PPMC Secretariat and (c) the Working Group on Water Management (WGWM), as they were circulated among members of the PPMC.

Following discussion, the ToR for the Prespa Park Management Committee (PPMC) were approved with an explanatory addition at article 3 that “the PPMC commits to make decisions following European Policy (EU relevant directives and regulations, and road maps, such as the European Green Deal), as well as the relevant international UN conventions (CBD, Ramsar, CITES, etc.)”, as proposed by Mr. Trpeski, representative of the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of North Macedonia, and accepted by all PPMC members.

The ToR for the PPMC Secretariat and the Working Group on Water Management (WGWM) were approved as proposed.

The approved documents are hereby attached as Annexes I.I, I.II and I.III respectively.

4. Proposal for a road map for the implementation of the Agreement

Ms. V. Roumeliotou presented the draft road map, which had already been circulated among PPMC members.

Following discussion, the road map was approved by all PPMC members with the following additions:

1. The 2023 meetings of the PPMC and the HLS will be hosted in Resen, North Macedonia
2. At Activity No 4, 2nd HLS meeting, the method of implementation text was amended as follows:
Meeting of the Ministers and EU representative, at the highest level possible, in Resen, North Macedonia (in person), as proposed by Mr. Vassallo, representative of the European Commission
3. Under Article 3 Obligations – Basic, a new activity No 19 was added: Establishment of a working group on sustainable tourism of the region by March 2023, under priority 1, as proposed by Mr. Petrakos, representative of the Municipality of Prespes, Greece.

The workplan was approved with the addition of a third activity under Communication, namely The approved road map is hereby attached here as Annex II.

5. Proposal for the PPMC workplan for 2022, including operational matters and budget

Ms. V. Roumeliotou presented the draft workplan, which had already been circulated among PPMC members.

Following discussions, the workplan was approved with the addition of a third activity under Communication, namely the preparation by the PPMC Secretariat of a draft Communication Plan to be presented at the next PPMC Meeting in December 2022, as proposed by Mr. Vassallo, representative of the European Commission.

The approved workplan is hereby attached as Annex III.

6. Closure of the Meeting/ Conclusions and next steps

6.1. Conclusions and next steps

1. All participants commented on the opportunity that is presented through this first PPMC meeting for strengthening cooperation to ensure an integrated protection of the ecosystem and the sustainable development of the Prespa Park area, pursuant to the provisions of the Agreement and expressed their high expectations from the future operation of the PPMC.
2. The ToR for the Prespa Park Management Committee were approved with an explanatory addition at article 3 that “the PPMC commits to make decisions following European Policy (EU relevant directives and regulations, and road maps, such as the European Green Deal), as well as the relevant international UN conventions (CBD, Ramsar, CITES, etc.)”, as proposed by Mr. Trpeski, representative of the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of North Macedonia, and accepted by the PPMC members.
3. The ToR for the PPMC Secretariat and the Working Group on Water Management (WGWM) were approved as proposed.

4. The road map was approved with the following additions, as accepted by members:
 - a. The 2023 meetings of the PPMC and the HLS will be hosted in Resen, North Macedonia
 - b. At Activity No 4, 2nd HLS meeting, the method of implementation text was amended as follows: Meeting of the Ministers and EU representative, at the highest level possible, in Resen, North Macedonia (in person), as proposed by Mr. Vassallo, representative of the European Commission
 - c. Under Article 3 Obligations – Basic, a new activity No 19 was added: Establishment of a working group on sustainable tourism of the region by March 2023, under priority 1, as proposed by Mr. Petrakos, representative of the Municipality of Prespes, Greece.
5. The workplan was approved with the addition of a third activity under Communication, namely the preparation by the PPMC Secretariat of a draft Communication Plan to be presented at the next PPMC Meeting in December 2022, as proposed by Mr. Vassallo, representative of the European Commission.
6. Finally, it was agreed by all members that special attention should be paid to the staff, time to be dedicated and commitment of resources for the proper functioning of the PPMC Secretariat by all the Parties so that the plan of activities agreed can be implemented.

6.2. Decision on date and place/format of the next Meeting

It was unanimously decided that the next PPMC meeting will take place online, in the second half of December 2022, and it will be organized by the Ministry of Environment and Energy of Greece and NECCA in cooperation with the PPMC Secretariat, as foreseen in the road map for the implementation of the Agreement and in the workplan.

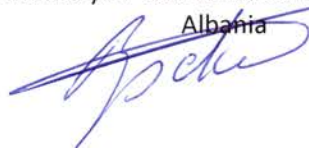
6.3. Closing remarks

Subsequently, the Chair thanked all technicians and interpreters, the staff of the Management Unit of the Prespes National Park and Protected Areas of Western Macedonia, and NECCA for their contribution to the meeting. He finally thanked all PPMC members and invited observers for their contribution to a successful first meeting that signals the start of this important process, and declared the meeting closed.

The minutes of the First Meeting of the Prespa Park Management Committee (PPMC) were finalized, agreed upon and signed by the representatives of the Parties

Adriana Petri

Director of Management, Project and Monitoring at the
National Agency of Protected Areas (NAPA)
Ministry of Tourism and Environment

Albania


Vlatko Trpeski

Head of Department for Nature
Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning
North Macedonia



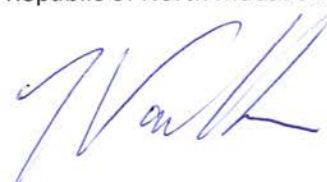
Konstantinos Dimopoulos

Director-General for Environmental Policy
Ministry of Environment and Energy
Greece



Julian Vassallo,

Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to
the Republic of North Macedonia



Annex I.I

Approved Terms of Reference for the Prespa Park Management Committee

Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area

Prespa Park Management Committee (PPMC) Rules of Organization and Procedure – Terms of Reference (ToR) as approved by the PPMC on 23.06.2022

Article 1

Functions of the PPMC

1. According to Article 11 of the Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area, the PPMC shall:

(1) monitor and coordinate the activities carried out for the protection and sustainable development of the Prespa Park Area in the implementation of this Agreement and of the Strategic Action Plan for the Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park;

(2) identify and recommend to the Parties and other interested actors next steps and necessary actions, measures and activities for the implementation of the Agreement, and invite them to cooperate, to coordinate and carry out joint projects. More specifically, the Committee shall assist the Parties in implementing and strengthening the effectiveness of this Agreement by providing recommendations and opinions on:

a. the drafting and application of standards, environmental criteria and requirements, which will serve as the basis for accomplishing integrated protection and sustainable development of the Lakes and their watershed;

b. the completion of the regulatory framework of the watershed area, including spatial plans and protected area regulations and management plans;

c. the drafting and application of strategies, integrated management plans and programmes to be implemented in the Prespa Park Area, which affect or may affect the achievement of the objectives of this Agreement;

d. the application of a programme of effective monitoring in order to observe, manage and control the state of the environment and the status of surface and ground waterbodies;

e. the definition of priority directions and programmes of scientific study and research for the protection and sustainable development of the Prespa Park Area and the promotion of publication of expert information;

f. the gathering, elaboration and publication of environmental information on the Prespa Lakes Area; g. the promotion of public, NGO and other stakeholders' participation in the protection of the Lakes and their watershed;

(3) facilitate the coordination of planning and activities with transboundary relevance by local protected area management bodies in the three States involved;

(4) evaluate the results of ongoing actions according to the objectives of article 2 of the Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area, and disseminate its findings widely;

(5) serve as the steering body for programmes and projects concerning specifically the Prespa Park Area as a whole, and act as the body on behalf of the Agreement system to coordinate with other processes, initiatives and programmes with a geographic coverage indirectly or partially linked to the Prespa Park Area (e.g. the Drin Core Group)

(6) identify and propose possible funding sources at a national, European and international level for necessary actions, measures and projects;

(7) gather any available information related to the Lakes and their watershed, ask for and receive proposals from governmental institutions, bodies and NGOs in order to improve its work and to increase the commitment of the Parties to the implementation of the Agreement;

(8) prepare and publish an annual report on the state of the environment for the Prespa Park Area, which will include one section where the Committee's work would be described;

(9) liaise with the Ohrid Management Committee, acquire observer status at its meetings and coordinate action in order to achieve the best results in the protection and sustainable development of the wider region;

(10) contribute as appropriate to the process for the sustainable management of the extended Drin basin dialogue;

(11) contribute to the mobilisation of resources of the Parties and the international community, as appropriate, to manage the risks and mitigate the negative impacts, in case of unexpected events, such as floods, forest fires and other natural or anthropogenic catastrophes as well as to protect the vulnerable ecosystems of the Area and their functions and services from the effects of climate change.

2. To effectively exercise its functions, the Parties to the Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area shall ensure that the PPMC, through its Secretariat, can directly liaise with the competent administrative Services of each Party through the nominated representative of the Ministry of Environment of each State Party and of the European Union.

Article 2

Composition of the PPMC

As provided for in article 10 paragraph 3 of the Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area, the PPMC shall have the following composition:

(1) one representative of the Ministry of Environment of each State Party and one representative of the European Union;

(2) one representative from the local communities in the Prespa region from each State Party;

(3) one representative of the environmental non-governmental organisations (NGOs) from each State Party, with significant local activities in the Prespa area;

(4) one representative of the local protected area management authorities from each State Party;

(5) one permanent observer from the MedWet Initiative of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar);

(6) one permanent observer from the Ohrid Management Committee.

The members of the PPMC are appointed – and replaced if need arises - by the Minister for the Environment of each State Party and by the European Commission respectively.

Each member of or permanent observer to the PPMC may have an alternate, appointed

and replaced as above mentioned, and fully authorised to replace him/her in case of inability to attend meetings or follow related PPMC work.

In particular, with regard to the permanent observer from the Ohrid Management Committee and his/her alternate, they should be nominated from both State Parties (North Macedonia and Albania) of the Ohrid Management Committee. 3

The representative of the Ministry of Environment from each State Party acts as Head of Delegation for each State Party and may be assisted by national experts.

The representatives of the permanent observers participate fully in the work of the Committee, but their assent is not required to reach consensus.

Article 3

Organisation of work of the PPMC

1. The PPMC shall meet on a regular basis, twice a year.

2. *Regular meetings:* Each calendar year the venue of the regular meetings will rotate among the three State Parties. Therefore, two consecutive regular meetings will be held in each State every 3 years. Preferably, regular meetings should be held in the Prespa region. It is further specified that the rotation rule can be curbed, as an exemption, by a common agreement of all the Parties to the Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area for one meeting, in case of justified inability to host a meeting, communicated well in advance to the Parties.

3. *Dates of regular meetings:* Unless otherwise agreed, the first regular meeting of the year will be held in the Spring and the second in the Autumn (or summer and winter) of each year. Their exact dates will be agreed at the end of the previous meeting or through diplomatic channels.

4. *Meetings via teleconference:* It is further provided that one of the two annual regular meetings of the PPMC under the same chair might be organized via teleconference for reasons of saving funds and time for travel. This will be decided on the initiative and proposal of the Chair at the end of the previous meeting. It is self-evident that meetings via teleconference might also be agreed upon by the Parties to the Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area for reasons of public health and safety.

5. *Chair:* The meetings shall be chaired by the representative of the Ministry of Environment of the State Party in which they are held. The term of the chair follows the annual rotation of the preceding paragraph 2 of this Article. It is further specified that the chair continues to serve as the chair of the PPMC for the duration of the year i.e. not only during meetings but also in between and until the next State Party takes over. In case of absence of the State Party representative, the meeting will be chaired by his alternate.

6. *Extraordinary meetings:* An extraordinary Committee meeting shall be called at the request of any of the Parties to the Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area. Members should be consulted by the Secretariat as to their availability at least 2 weeks before the proposed date of such meeting.

7. *Agenda and working documents:* The agenda of each meeting, as well as any working documents required, will be prepared by the Secretariat under the guidance of the Chair. The Secretariat will take care that such documents are circulated to the members of the PPMC well in advance of the meeting, preferably at least one month before, for the PPMC members' adequate preparation for the meeting and the possibility to comment on working documents in advance of the meeting.

8. *Annual workplan and budget*: The PPMC will adopt an annual workplan with the corresponding budget starting from its first regular meeting. This workplan will coincide with the annual chair of each State Party, and will include at least the planning of Committee meetings as well as of the meetings of other joint bodies operating under the PPMC, and the main tasks and activities that should be carried out by the PPMC Secretariat, including communication and public outreach activities.

9. *Working language*: The work of the Committee will be carried out in English. 4

10. *Communication*: Communication among members of the PPMC and with the Secretariat may be carried out through electronic means (email, web meetings etc.) and supported also over the period between meetings. The Secretariat should facilitate communication between PPMC members.

11. *Invitations*: The Committee may invite experts to participate at its meetings, depending on the theme of the meeting. The Committee may also invite members of the local societies and representatives of local stakeholders (e.g. local producer groups, as appropriate), to participate at its meetings with a view to provide information on issues of relevance to the work of the Committee. Such invitations shall be extended by the Chair of the Committee, following consent by all Parties to the Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area. Relevant proposals shall be put forth to the Parties well in advance of the meeting on the initiative of the Chair and taking into consideration related proposals by the Secretariat. Persons invited to the meetings of the Committee will have to cover their own travel and accommodation costs, except otherwise decided by the Committee on an *ad hoc* basis.

12. *Working groups*: The PPMC may form working groups on specific issues. The first working group is established under article 14 of the Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area on water management issues.

13. *Amendments*: The present Rules may be amended by mutual consent of the Parties to the Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area at any session of the PPMC, taking also into account any relevant modifications that might be suggested by the High-Level Segment under article 10 par. 10) of the Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area. Any proposal for amendment of the present Rules should be forwarded to the representative of the Ministry of Environment of each State Party and the representative of the European Union at least three weeks before the session.

14. *Observance of international legal standards*: The PPMC commits to make decisions following European policy (relevant EU directives and regulations, and road maps such as the European Green Deal), as well as the relevant international UN conventions (Convention on Biodiversity, Ramsar Convention, CITES etc.).

Article 4

Decisions of the PPMC

1. The Committee shall decide by consensus. In case consensus is not reached, the issue shall be referred for settlement to the High-level Segment. It is further specified that decisions taken at each PPMC meeting will be clearly identified and reviewed before the closure of the meeting by the PPMC members, under the responsibility of the Chair. Such decisions may include, if relevant, implementation details, including the indication of a time frame and related financial implications.

2. *Minutes*: Each meeting of the PPMC will approve the Minutes of the meeting,

summarizing the main conclusions and outcomes of the meeting, prepared in the English language by the Secretariat, reviewed by PPMC members and signed by the representative of the Ministry of Environment of each State Party and the representative of the European Union, at the end of each meeting. The Secretariat will keep an archive of all signed Minutes and will circulate certified copies of the signed document to the representative of the Ministry of Environment of each State Party and the representative of the European Union. For meetings taking place virtually, draft Minutes will be elaborated by the Secretariat and circulated to PPMC members for comments no later than 2 weeks after the end of each meeting, following review by the Chair. They will be then officially approved through diplomatic channels. 5

3. The Committee shall keep, under the responsibility of the Secretariat, a register of the decisions taken, also attached to the Minutes of the related meeting. It is further specified that, as a matter of principle, these Minutes will be available to the public, unless otherwise specified on an *ad hoc* basis.

4. The Committee shall address its recommendations to the Parties.

Article 5

Expenses of the PPMC

1. The implementation of the work plan of the PPMC shall be financed by regular annual predictable contributions of the Parties and from other sources, as provided for in article 15 paragraph 1 of the Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area. It is further specified that the funds of the PPMC will be managed by its Secretariat, according to rules and standards that will be agreed within the PPMC.

2. Each Party shall in principle bear the expenses associated with the participation of its members (i.e. travel and accommodation expenses) in the meetings of the Committee, the Secretariat and working groups, with the exception of Article 14(5) of the Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area.

3. The seat of the Secretariat of the PPMC shall be located in Aghios Germanos, Greece, for a period of 4 years, on rotating basis, or until it is otherwise decided by the Committee. It is further specified that the seat will be located at the headquarters of the Management Unit of the Prespa National Park or of any successor Body of the Hellenic Republic for the first four years of its operation, which will place at the disposal of the Secretariat, through state funding, adequate facilities, will assist in administrative and accounting matters and will provide any other necessary support, thus facilitating the operation of the Secretariat.

4. The Party in whose territory a Committee meeting will be organised shall bear the cost of organizing the meeting.

5. It is further specified that the PPMC, through its Secretariat and under the guidance of its Chair, will approach international donors, including international and national aid agencies and private foundations, with a view to complement the core funding to be provided by regular predictable contributions from the Parties in order to enable implementation of its workplan.

Annex I.II

Approved Terms of Reference for the Prespa Park Management Committee Secretariat

Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area

Secretariat of the Prespa Park Management Committee

Rules of Organization – Terms of Reference (ToR)

as approved by the PPMC on 23.06.2022

Article 1

Functions of the Secretariat of the Prespa Park Management Committee (PPMC)

1. As per article 13(4) of the Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area, the PPMC Secretariat shall have the following specific tasks and mandate by the PPMC to be performed with the limits of budget availability:

(a) preparation of the yearly work plan of the PPMC with detailed budget, and of issue-related work plans (e.g. a communication plan) with detailed budgets and follow-up of their implementation;

(b) preparation or assistance in the preparation of meetings held in the framework of the Prespa Park Agreement;

(c) facilitation of consultations on policy and other relevant matters related to the Agreement between stakeholders, and consultations at the policy-making and technical level by working groups and/or expert groups;

(d) collection, assessment and dissemination of data and information on legislation, measures and activities that have or may have significant effects on the achievement of the objectives of Article 2 of the Prespa Park Agreement;

(e) follow-up of joint projects;

(f) compilation, evaluation, publication and promotion of scientific research and cooperation in the Prespa Park Area;

(g) contacts and meetings with donors, preparation or assistance in the preparation of project documents;

(h) translation of key documents; technical and secretarial support to the local community representatives;

(i) representation of the Committee in international fora;

(j) any other duty assigned to it by the Committee.

2. As per article 13(3) of the Prespa Park Agreement, the work of the Secretariat shall be guided by the decisions of the PPMC and shall be supervised by the Chairperson of this Committee.

Article 2

Composition of the Secretariat

1. As per article 13(2) of the Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area, the Secretariat will consist of three persons, one from each State Party, appointed by the Ministry of Environment. It is also specified that during the appointment of representatives by the Parties to the Joint Bodies, in 2020, the European Commission also appointed a representative to the PPMC Secretariat.

2. Moreover, as per article 13(2) of the Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area, the Secretariat will be headed by an expert in transboundary co-operation on protected areas and river basin management to be chosen by the Committee through an international call for applications.

3. To ensure continuity and effectiveness, each member of the Secretariat should have an alternate fully authorised to replace her/him in case of inability to attend meetings or follow related work.

4. It is further specified that the persons appointed as members of the Secretariat must have an adequate educational and professional background appropriate to their tasks, be fluent in English and with adequate computer skills, as well as be able to devote adequate time to the work of the Secretariat.

5. It is also further specified that at a subsequent phase, the Secretariat members may be assisted by auxiliary experts and technical staff, depending on needs and availability of funds, after a decision of the PPMC.

Article 3

Organisation of work of the Secretariat

1. As a general rule, the workload and responsibilities are equally shared among the members of the Secretariat. It is acknowledged that the annual rotating Chair of the PPMC might imply a respective increased responsibility and workload for the Secretariat member from the chairing country.

2. *Communication and meetings:* Appropriate internal arrangements ensure that all information obtained and initiatives and actions undertaken by one member are communicated to the others, so as to ensure co-ordination and effectiveness. Furthermore, the members of the Secretariat jointly agree on a regular basis on a schedule of meetings and discussions. These are held via teleconference using appropriate platforms and in person, as physical meetings, at the seat of the Secretariat.

3. *Working language:* The working language of the Secretariat is English both for internal and external communication as well as for the preparation of documents for circulation to the PPMC members.

4. *Guidance and supervision:* As the work of the Secretariat will be guided by the decisions of the PPMC and will be supervised by the Chair of this Committee, the Secretariat will submit to the PPMC at each meeting a brief report on its activities since the previous meeting, including a de-tailed financial analysis where necessary.

Article 4

Seat of the Secretariat

1. The seat of the Secretariat shall be located in Aghios Germanos, Greece, for a period of 4 years, on rotating basis, or until it is otherwise decided by the Committee. It is further specified that the seat will be located at the headquarters of the Management Unit of the Prespa National Park or of any successor Body of the Hellenic Republic for the first four years of its operation, which will place at the disposal of the Secretariat, through state funding, adequate facilities, will assist in administrative and accounting matters and will provide any other necessary support, thus facilitating the operation of the Secretariat.

2. *Archives:* It is further specified that for the first four years, the central archives of the Secretariat shall be kept in printed and electronic form at the headquarters in Aghios Germanos. Any member of the PPMC may have access to these archives and request copies of documents. To enable maintenance of complete archives, all members of the

Secretariat have the obligation to communicate all documents and correspondence related to their function to the seat of the Secretariat.

3. Seat Agreement: As per article 13(6) of the Agreement, the PPMC is authorised to conclude a Seat Agreement with the host country of the Secretariat seat on the exercise of its functions, if this is deemed beneficial and necessary.

Article 5

Expenses of the Secretariat

1. The implementation of the work plan of the PPMC shall be financed by regular annual predictable contributions of the Parties and from other sources, as provided for in article 15 paragraph 1 of the Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area. It is further specified that the funds of the PPMC will be managed by its Secretariat, according to rules and standards that will be agreed within the PPMC.

2. The Secretariat will prepare an annual budget covering its costs and submitted for approval to the Committee, which shall be financed by regular annual predictable contributions of the Parties and from other sources. Office facilities will be provided by the Party where the Secretariat is located, normally outside the budget (art.15(4)).

3. Each Party shall in principle bear the expenses associated with the participation of its members (i.e. travel and accommodation expenses) in the Meetings of the Secretariat.

Annex I.III

Approved Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Water Management

Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area

Working Group on Water Management (WGWM) of the Prespa Park Management Committee

Rules of Organization and Procedure – Terms of Reference (ToR) as approved by the PPMC on 23.06.2022

Article 1

Functions of the WGWM

1. The WGWM is a standing expert group of the PPMC and operates under the auspices of the latter. More specifically, the WGWM will assist the PPMC in identifying and obtaining the water management information required for policy-making purposes and will provide expert technical support to the PPMC, primarily by ensuring that all available water management information is presented to the PPMC in an agreed and accessible manner.

2. The overall objective of the WGWM is to facilitate coordination of efforts for development and implementation of an integrated transboundary Prespa River Basin Management Plan as envisaged by the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC). This objective will be pursued by providing technical expert support to the PPMC and by issuing recommendations based on the principles of integrated river basin management. In this context, the WGWM will facilitate cooperation and exchange of water-related information and will pursue the harmonisation of the water management plans among the three countries based on the principles of integrated river basin management and the relevant EU and international legislation.

Article 2

Tasks of the WGWM

1. Pursuant to article 14(4) and taking into account article 5 of the Prespa Park Agreement, the specific tasks and mandate of the WGWM are defined as follows. The WGWM will:

(i) Support the work of the PPMC in the preparation of discussion / decision papers on issues related to water protection and management.

(ii) Prepare a four-year workplan for the prioritization of the tasks and activities to be pursued, in accordance to the PPMC requests.

(iii) Facilitate the establishment of data-sharing mechanisms and agreements for the regular and ongoing exchange and assessment of available water management information, including: a) data on monitoring and quantification of water resources; b) data on current water use and discharge and impacts on water quality and quantity; and c) data on surface water status (ecological and chemical) and on groundwater status (chemical and quantitative) as specified in the EU Water Framework Directive.

(iv) Facilitate the development of a transboundary water monitoring scheme with the collaboration of all national institutes responsible for the national water monitoring programmes applicable in the basin.

(v) Exchange information on existing or planned water uses that could affect the ecological character of the Prespa Lakes Basin and discuss possible remedial actions and alternative solutions.

(vi) Inform and update on the development in any part of the basin of technical works

which might cause impacts in the Prespa Lakes basin; evaluate relevant environmental impact assessments, in accordance with appropriate international standards.

(vii) Facilitate the coordination of activities in order to ensure consistency and harmonisation of the water management plans in the Prespa Lakes Basin based on the principles of integrated river basin management and the relevant EU and international legislation. In specific, facilitate the coordination of activities towards the following objectives:

- a. Set environmental targets and adapt to these the water uses in the river basin
- b. Development of consistent reference conditions and water quality elements for the surface and groundwater resources
- c. Adoption of appropriate joint emission limits for wastewater and threshold values for groundwater according to EU legislation
- d. Identification of Significant Water Management Issues which can directly or indirectly affect the quality of the surface and groundwater resources
- e. Elaboration of an inventory of Protected Areas according to the EU Water Framework Directive requirements
- f. Coordination of programmes of measures among the three countries

(viii) Recommend to the Prespa Park Management Committee the establishment of mechanisms and procedures to facilitate transboundary cooperation and exchange knowledge among the water management authorities and interested stakeholders at the river basin level.

(ix) Recommend to the Prespa Park Management Committee the establishment of mechanisms to facilitate cooperation in scientific research programmes.

(x) Facilitate the coordination of activities and make related recommendations towards the establishment of early warning systems and procedures and facilitate related preparatory work towards the development of risk management and contingency plans for extreme events of floods and droughts.

(xi) Facilitate better understanding of the law and policy context for water management activities, including analysis and exchange of information on relevant EU legislation, national law, international law and standards on transboundary waters and protected areas.

(xii) Liaise in respect of technical matters with the Lake Ohrid Watershed Committee.

Article 3

Composition of the WGWM

The WGWM will consist of a total of 7 members, including:

- a. one representative of the national water services (or equivalent administrative entity) of each of the three State Parties who may be assisted by national experts,
- b. one representative of the regional water services (or equivalent administrative entity) of each of the three State Parties,
- c. one representative from the European Commission, DG ENV, Water Unit (or relevant regional Commission official)

The members of the WGWM are appointed – and replaced if need arises - by the Minister for the Environment of each State Party and by the European Commission, respectively.

Each member may have an alternate, appointed and replaced as above mentioned, and fully authorised to replace her/him in case of inability to attend meetings or follow related

WGWM work.

Article 4

Organisation of work of the WGWM

1. *Meetings:* The WGWM will convene twice a year, in the same country. The venue of the WGWM meetings will rotate among the three State Parties. It is specified that during the first four years of operation, the WGWM meetings will be convened in Greece since according to article 14 (5) of the Agreement for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area, the operational costs of the WGWM shall be covered for the first four years of its operation by the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy. Their dates will be agreed at the end of the previous meeting. Extraordinary meetings may also be held upon request of the PPMC and whenever deemed necessary by any of the three State Parties or the European Commission. It is further provided that one of the two annual meetings of the WGWM under the same chair might be organized via teleconference following the relevant decision of the PPMC.

2. *Decisions and recommendations:* The Working Group on Water Management will propose recommendations based on the principles of integrated river basin management, as reflected in the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), for the adoption by the PPMC.

Recommendations of the WGWM to the Prespa Park Management Committee will be based on consensus and shall be included in the Minutes of the WGWM.

3. *Chair:* The WGWM will be chaired on a rotational basis for a period of one year by each of the national water authority representative. The annual rotation of the Chair of the WGWM follows the rotating Chair of the PPMC even if the WGWM meetings convene in Greece during the first four years of the WGWM operation. It is further specified that the chair continues to serve as the chair of the WGWM for the duration of the year i.e. not only during meetings but also in between and until the next country takes over. In case of absence of the state representative, the meeting will be chaired by his alternate. The powers and duties of the Chair shall be to:

a. Convene the regular meetings of the WGWM.

b. Prepare the draft agenda for the meeting in consultation with the members. Any member may propose agenda items.

c. Preside over each meeting of the WGWM.

d. Review the Minutes summarizing the main conclusions and outcomes of the meeting, prepared in the English language by the PPMC Secretariat; ensure their review by all members of the WGWM at the end of the meeting; incorporate feedback; ensure signing of the final Minutes by all representatives of the national water services / Ministries of Environment of the three State Parties and the European Commission; ensure that Minutes are sent to the PPMC through the Secretariat; and that copies of the signed Minutes are circulated to representatives of the national water services of the three State Parties and the European Commission.

e. Ensure the observance of the present Terms of Reference.

The PPMC Secretariat will assist the chair in performing the above duties.

4. *Working language:* The working language of the WGWM is English.

5. *Communication:* Internal communication among members of the WGWM between meetings will be conducted through electronic means (preferably e-mail, web meetings etc).

6. *Technical expertise:* In the event that the WGWM lacks sufficient technical expertise on a relevant issue or specific thematic area on an agenda item: f. Relevant expert(s) (from the Parties or international experts) may be invited to participate in the meeting(s) on an ad hoc basis ; and/or

g. Ad hoc Task Groups may be established to contribute to the work of the WGWM, upon guidance by the latter.

7. *Attendance of meetings:* The WGWM meetings will be open to the PPMC and Secretariat members. Interested parties and stakeholders may be invited to participate in the meetings on an ad hoc basis upon mutual prior consent by all the WGWM members.

Article 5

Expenses of the WGWM

1. The operational costs of the WGWM (i.e. accommodation expenses and meals of all WGWM members during meetings taking place in Greece and organisation of meetings thereof) shall be covered for the first four years of its operation through funding provided by the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy.

2. After the end of this period, the PPMC will cover the costs of operation of the WGWM by its core budget, the Party in whose territory a WGWM meeting will be organised shall bear the cost of organizing the meeting, and each Party shall in principle bear the expenses associated with the participation of its members (i.e. travel and accommodation expenses) in the WGWM meetings.

Annex II

2-year Operational Road Map for the Implementation of the 2010 Prespa Park Agreement

**2-YEAR OPERATIONAL ROAD MAP – (June 2022-December 2024)
for the IMPLEMENTATION of the 2010 PRESPA PARK AGREEMENT
(ALBANIA, GREECE, NORTH MACEDONIA, EUROPEAN UNION)**

Urgency/ priority: 1 – utmost priority due to the importance/ urgency of the issue and/ or its maturity and/ or the fact that it is a prerequisite for subsequent actions; 2, 3 etc. – lower priority according to the afore-mentioned criteria.

TBD: to be determined

MILESTONES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT					
Entry into force (art.18) - effected on 29 May 2019					
Nomination of members of the Prespa Park Management Committee (PPMC, art.10), of the PPMC Secretariat (art.13), and of the Working Group on Water Management (WGWM, art.14) by the Parties; nomination of observers by their respective institutions – completed February 2021					
1st High-level segment meeting (HLS, art.9) – 29 June 2021					

ACTIVITY	Responsible party	Method of implementation	Timeframe	Estimated cost in €/ possible source of funding	Urgency/ priority
INSTITUTIONAL STEPS – ORGANISATION OF COOPERATION (Part three of the Agreement)					
1. 1 st regular meeting of the PPMC and the WGWM; adoption of ToR for the PPMC, PPMC Secretariat and WGWM; adoption of road map 2022-2024 for the implementation of the Agreement; adoption of annual workplan and tentative budget for the PPMC and its Secretariat	Ministry of Env. and Energy of Greece/ Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency, Greece (NECCA)	In person meeting in Greece	June 2022	approx. 19.000/ Green Fund, Greece, and Municipality of Prespes	1
2. 2 nd regular meeting of the PPMC and WGWM; adoption of updated workplan and budget for 2023	Ministry of Env. and Energy of Greece/ NECCA with PPMC	Online meeting	December 2022	approx. 7.500/ Green Fund, Greece	1

ACTIVITY	Responsible party	Method of implementation	Timeframe	Estimated cost in €/ possible source of funding	Urgency/ priority
	Secretariat				
3. Regular operation of PPMC Secretariat	Ministries of Environment and European Commission (EC)	Operation of quadrilateral Secretariat	Throughout the year	estim. at 100.000 annually without an international head; 200.000 with an international head (see p.7 below) - TBD at the 1st PPMC meeting	1
4. 2 nd High-level segment (art.9) meeting	Office of the Minister of Environment and Physical Planning of North Macedonia	Meeting of the Ministers' and EU representative, at the highest level possible, in Resen, North Macedonia (in person)	June 2023	TBD by Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of North Macedonia	1
5. 3 rd meeting of the WGWM	Ministry of Env. and Energy of Greece/ NECCA with PPMC Secretariat	In person meeting in Greece	June 2023	approx. 4.500/ Green Fund, Greece	1
6. 3 rd regular meeting of the PPMC; possible establishment of more working groups (art.10(9))	Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of North Macedonia with PPMC Secretariat	In person meeting in North Macedonia	June 2023	Interpretation, organisation and hospitality costs: Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of North Macedonia; travel and accommodation of PPMC members and observers: costs to be borne by respective institutions	1
7. Recruitment of expert to head the PPMC Secretariat by international announcement to be prepared by the national members of the Secretariat (art.13(2))	Ministries of environment and EC with PPMC	International competitive selection procedure	Second half of 2023	<i>Costs of expert to be covered by the regular budget of the system/ annual contributions of states. This means that, <u>as a</u></i>	2

ACTIVITY	Responsible party	Method of implementation	Timeframe	Estimated cost in €/possible source of funding	Urgency/priority
	Secretariat			<i>prerequisite, the system of annual contributions/ regular budget of the PPMC and Secretariat should be in place and functioning from the beginning of 2023 and for the years to come.</i>	
8. 1 st meetings of new Working Groups, if established by the PPMC	PPMC Chairperson with PPMC Secretariat	In person meetings	September 2023 – May 2024	Organisation and hospitality costs to be covered by the Secretariat, if PPMC budget is in place; travel and accommodation of national and EU members to be covered by their respective services.	2
9. 4 th meeting of the WGWM	Ministry of Env. and Energy of Greece/ NECCA	Online meeting	December 2023	approx. 3.500/ Green Fund, Greece	1
10. 4 th regular meeting of the PPMC	Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of North Macedonia with PPMC Secretariat	Online meeting	December 2023	Interpretation costs: Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of North Macedonia	1
ARTICLE 3 OBLIGATIONS – BASIC					
SAP (art.3(2)(a) and art.11(1)) 11. Review implementation of the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for the sustainable development of the Prespa Park (2002) and revision/updating thereof 11 a. Review implementation of the SAP	Overall responsibility: Ministries of environment and EC with PPMC Secretariat 11 a: PPMC	Review of implementation by the PPMC Secretariat (11 a.); preparation of draft ToR for the revision by the PPMC	11 a: September- November 2022 11 b: November- December 2022 11 c: September 2023 – August 2024	100.000 for revision of the plan (task 11 c.)/ EU for Prespa programme	1

ACTIVITY	Responsible party	Method of implementation	Timeframe	Estimated cost in €/possible source of funding	Urgency/priority
11 b. Prepare ToR for the revision of the SAP 11 c. Carry out revision of the SAP by external consultants 11 d. Carry out consultations on the proposed revision internally at the Parties' and at the PPMC	Secretariat 11 b: PPMC Secretariat and approval by the PPMC 11 c: EC and UNDP 11 d: Ministries of Environment and EC with PPMC Secretariat	Secretariat after review of implementation (11 b.); revision of the plan by means of an external consultancy (11 c.); national and transboundary consultations (11 d.)	11 d: September-December 2024		
Protected area management plans (art.3(2)(b)) 12. Transboundary assessment and coordination/harmonisation of the national protected area management plans throughout the Area	Protected area authorities and MCWG (see below)	Trilateral working meetings and long-distance communication	Autumn 2022 - May 2024	No direct new cost: First stage discussions to be done among protected area staff with own resources; working meetings to be covered by protected areas' operational budgets	2
Conservation (art.3(1)(c)) 13. Establishment and operation of a Monitoring and Conservation Working Group (MCWG)	PPMC with PPMC Secretariat	Quadrilateral working meetings and long-distance communication	July 2023 onwards	Organisation and hospitality costs to be covered by the Secretariat, if PPMC budget is in place; travel and accommodation of national and EU members to be covered by their respective services.	1
14. Definition of priority directions and programmes of scientific study and research on issues of transboundary concern	MCWG Assisted by the PPMC Secretariat	Proposals to be prepared by MCWG members and discussed at regular meetings	September – December 2023	No new direct costs	1
15. Development and adoption of Action Plans for key	Protected area authorities and	Trilateral working meetings and long-	To be decided by	Consultations and discussions at no new direct	2

ACTIVITY	Responsible party	Method of implementation	Timeframe	Estimated cost in €/possible source of funding	Urgency/priority
species and habitats of transboundary concern	MCWG	distance communication Consultancies, if needed	December 2023	cost; Consultancies, if needed, at a cost and donor TBD	
Monitoring (art.3(2)(g)) 16. Implementation of a project for the design and pilot implementation of coordinated water monitoring and status assessment in the Prespa Park Area	National institutes responsible for water monitoring	Project to be implemented by EKBY and HCMR from Greece, NEA from Albania and HIO from North Macedonia	3 years	est. at approx. 450.000/ various international donors	1
Contingencies (art.3(2)(h)) 17. Development of joint contingency plans and early warning system – preparatory stage	Ministries of environment with PPMC Secretariat	Exploratory discussions of the PPMC Secretariat members in each country with competent authorities: Fire-fighting authorities, Forestry Services, Veterinary Services, Water authorities and Municipalities	January 2023 – May 2024	No new direct cost	2
Fish and fisheries 18. Adoption of common basin-wide fishing regulations and licensing system starting from a common closed season	Ministries of environment/rural development with PPMC Secretariat	2 Trilateral working meetings and subsequently revise planning depending on results achieved	October 2022 and March 2023	No new direct cost	1
Sustainable Tourism 19. Establishment and operation of a Working Group on Sustainable Tourism	TBD	TBD	Establishment by March 2023	TBD	1

ACTIVITY	Responsible party	Method of implementation	Timeframe	Estimated cost in €/possible source of funding	Urgency/priority
ARTICLE 5 OBLIGATIONS – SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT					
20. Operation of the WGWM	Water authorities in the 3 countries and EC; special responsibility of the GR Ministry of Env. and Energy of Greece for the first 4 years of operation	Multilateral working group (meetings, long-distance communication and other depending on work plan and decisions to be taken by the group)	Continuous	Cost of operation, covering at least meetings at appr. 3.500-4.500 each, to be covered by the Ministry of Env. and Energy of Greece for the first 4 years	1
ARTICLE 6 OBLIGATIONS – EXCHANGE OF DATA AND INFO					
21. Creation of a web-based tool for storing and sharing transboundary environmental monitoring data, application of best available techniques and results of research and development in the fields of wetland protection, water management, and measures for prevention, reduction and control of pollution. 21 a. Development of the concept of the tool 21 b. Draft ToR for the development of the tool 21 c. Development of the tool	Overall responsibility: Ministries of environment and EC with PPMC Secretariat 21 a: PPMC Secretariat 21 b: PPMC Secretariat with EC and UNDP * 21 c: EC and UNDP *	Proposal on the structure and format of the tool to be prepared by the Secretariat with the assistance of an IT consultant Preparation of ToR for the development of the tool Development of the tool by an external consultant	Preparation phase: Autumn 2022 Draft ToR for the consultancy in the first half of 2023 Development of the tool: second half of 2023	Preparation phase: est. at 5.000/ Green Fund, Greece Development phase: Cost and source of funding TBD/ possibility for EU for Prespa programme *	1
ARTICLE 8 OBLIGATIONS – COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND DONORS					
22. Meetings with main partner organisations and donors of the Prespa Park Area	Ministries of Environment and EC with PPMC Secretariat	In person or online meetings	January 2023 – May 2024	No new direct cost	2

Annex III

PPMC Workplan 2022

Prespa Park Management Committee (PPMC) - Workplan 2022

According to art.13(4)(a) of the quadrilateral Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area and art.3(8) of the PPMC Terms of Reference (ToR), the PPMC has to adopt an annual workplan with the corresponding budget starting from its first regular meeting. This workplan will coincide with the annual chair of each State Party, and will include at least the planning of Committee meetings as well as of the meetings of other joint bodies operating under the PPMC, and the main tasks and activities that should be carried out by the PPMC Secretariat, including communication and public outreach activities. The proposals for annual workplans, as well as any specific, issue-related work plans, are to be prepared by the PPMC Secretariat in consultation with the chair of the PPMC.

In the first year of its operation, i.e. 2022, the PPMC has to lay solid foundations for its future work. Its role is laid down in the Agreement, and its mode of operation further specified in the respective ToR proposed by the Ministry of Environment and Energy of Greece and agreed by the Parties and the PPMC. However, a very important element necessary for any operational planning of activities is still missing, namely dedicated annual, regular contributions by the Parties, according to art.15(1) of the Agreement and art. 5(1) of the PPMC ToR. Before this issue is settled, it is difficult to plan activities that would entail new direct costs, incremental to the in-kind contributions offered by the work of the PPMC Secretariat members, of the PPMC Chair and of the other PPMC members. Therefore, it is proposed to plan for a limited amount of activities to be undertaken by the PPMC Secretariat, under the guidance of the PPMC Chair, for the duration of 2022 only, with main emphasis laid on the establishment of good and effective working relations and procedures for transboundary consultation between PPMC Secretariat members, the Ministries of Environment of the three State Parties and the European Commission, as well as the other stakeholders from the three countries sitting in the PPMC and its Working Group on water Management (WGWM).

More specifically, it is proposed to focus the work of the PPMC and its Secretariat on four main axes for the remaining months of 2022: *Regular operation of the PPMC Secretariat, Organisation of transboundary meetings, Communication, and Assessment and Revision of the Strategic Action Plan (SAP)* for the sustainable development of the Prespa Park.

Regular Operation of the PPMC Secretariat

The PPMC Secretariat has to hold meetings in person and via teleconference in order to organize its work and discuss the best ways to implement its ToR, as well as carry out the tasks assigned to it by the PPMC. For the first four years of the PPMC Secretariat's operation, Greece is hosting the seat of the PPMC Secretariat (art.13(5)) at the Agios Germanos office of the Management Unit of the Prespes National Park and Protected Areas of Western Macedonia (MU-PNPPWM) of the Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency (NECCA)

Organisation of meetings

1. Organisation of the 2nd regular PPMC meeting back-to-back with the 2nd WGWM meeting, according to art.13(4)(b) of the Agreement. It is proposed that these meetings are held via teleconference in December 2022. It is also proposed that in preparation for the 2nd regular PPMC meeting, the PPMC Secretariat under the guidance of the PPMC Chair and in consultation with the Ministries of Environment of the Parties and the European Commission, will prepare a proposal on a work plan for the PPMC for 2023 (according to art.13(4)(a) of the Agreement), including a detailed budget with income composed by the regular contributions the State Parties will determine (according to art.15(1) of the Agreement and art. 5(1) of the PPMC ToR) and EC funds and any other funding made available to the PPMC from other sources and donors.
2. Organisation of the first meeting of the fisheries authorities of the three littoral states by teleconference in October 2022, as per Road Map, point 18.

Communication

A major first challenge for the PPMC and its Secretariat is to organise their "clearing-house" function, i.e. collection and dissemination of information on activities of any kind that may have a direct or indirect effect on the natural or socio-economic status of the Prespa Park area (as required by arts.11 and 13 of the Agreement and the respective ToR). The PPMC Secretariat, moreover, has to establish and maintain a communication channel with all bodies and organisations that have an interest in the Prespa Park, including national authorities and services, NGOs, universities, international organisations etc. To this effect, the PPMC Secretariat has to:

1. Inform all local, regional, national, and international authorities and organisations concerned with Prespa of the establishment of the PPMC and ask for their collaboration.

2. Undertake preparatory work for the creation of a web-based tool for storing and sharing transboundary environmental monitoring data, application of best available techniques and results of research and development in the fields of wetland protection, water management, and measures for prevention, reduction and control of pollution, as per Road Map point 20. This web-based tool for the sharing of data and information could be combined with a Prespa Park website for public outreach of quadrilateral cooperation in the Prespa Park Area and its results. The proposal on the structure and format of the tool is to be prepared by the Secretariat with the assistance of an IT consultant in autumn 2022.

3. Prepare a draft Communication Plan to be presented by the PPMC Secretariat at the next PPMC meeting in December 2022.

Assessment and Revision of the Strategic Action Plan (SAP - 2002)

Preparatory work, namely an assessment of the implementation of the SAP and drafting of ToR for its revision should be undertaken by the PPMC Secretariat in autumn 2022 in order to have a relevant detailed proposal ready to be submitted for approval at the 2nd regular meeting of the PPMC in December 2022.

Incremental costs for the implementation of the PPMC workplan 2022

Hosting of the PPMC Secretariat in Agios Germanos, Greece	2.000euro/ Green Fund, Greece
2 nd regular meeting of the PPMC and WGWM	7.500euro/ Green Fund, Greece
IT consultancy for the preparation of a web-based communication tool	5.000euro/ Green Fund, Greece