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# The Prespa Lakes basin: 15 years of transboundary cooperation

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SOCIETY FOR  
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*for Man and Nature*

# The Prespa Lakes basin



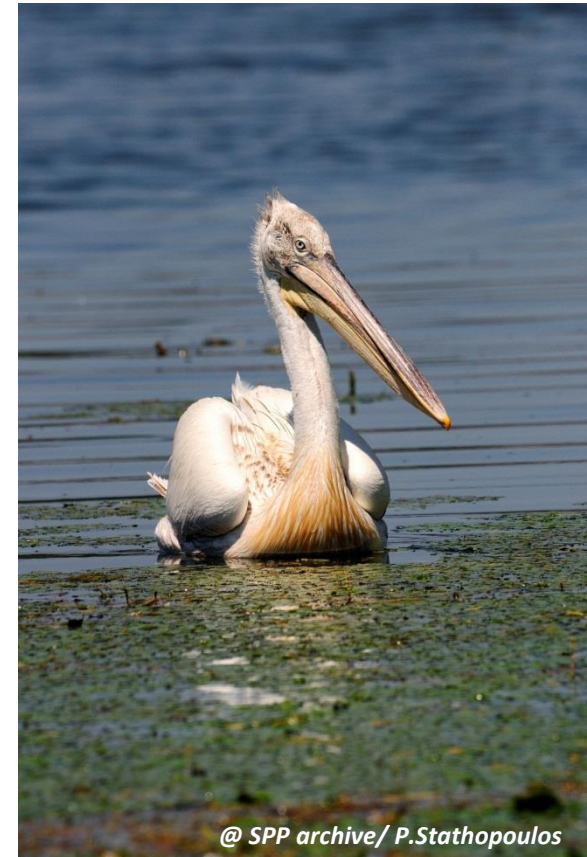








# A global biodiversity hotspot



# The outset of transboundary cooperation

The screenshot shows the Ramsar Convention website with a navigation menu including Home, About Ramsar, News, Activities, Publications, Documents, Media Galleries, and Address Book. The main content area features a news item titled "Major Transboundary Park established in Southeastern Europe" dated 03/02/2000. The sub-headline reads "Transboundary 'Prespa Park' created in innovative diplomacy". The text describes how Delmar Blasco, the Secretary General, celebrated World Wetlands Day on 2 February by participating in ceremonies near Prespa Lake, attended by the Prime Ministers of Albania, Greece, and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The purpose of the trilateral meeting was to declare the "Prespa Park" on World Wetlands Day, a new protected area including parts of all three countries. A quote from Mr. Blasco highlights the significance of the event and the commitment to biodiversity conservation. A sidebar on the right provides statistics: 168 Contracting Parties, 2,186 designated sites, and a total surface area of 208,674,247 hectares. A photo of Prespa Lake is shown at the bottom left of the article.

**Major Transboundary Park established in Southeastern Europe**  
03/02/2000

**Transboundary "Prespa Park" created in innovative diplomacy**

Delmar Blasco, the Secretary General, celebrated World Wetlands Day, 2 February, by participating in ceremonies near Prespa Lake that were attended by the Prime Ministers of Albania, Greece, and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, their excellencies I. Meta, C. Simitis, and L. Georgievski respectively. The purpose of the trilateral meeting of Prime Ministers was jointly to declare the "Prespa Park" on World Wetlands Day, a new protected area including parts of all three countries.

In his speech to the participants, Mr Blasco said that he considered the present gathering probably the most significant of all the many World Wetlands Day celebrations around the world, because the heads of three of the Convention's Contracting Parties have come together to declare their resolution to join forces across the borders of their sovereign nations to establish a protected area that should provide great benefits for the local people and at the same time should contribute to conserving the biodiversity of the planet. He noted that this ceremony represented only the beginning of a process that will require political commitment, significant investment, and a lot of work in research, innovative development projects, and training. He congratulated the three governments warmly for their initiative.

**The Convention today**  
Number of » Contracting Parties:  
**168**  
Sites designated for the » List of Wetlands of International Importance:  
**2,186**  
Total surface area of designated sites (hectares):  
**208,674,247**

**Prespa Park Declaration, Feb. 2000**

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# Prespa Park institutions



- ☐ 10- member Coordination Committee
- ☐ 3-member Secretariat (NGOs)
- ☐ 11 regular & 2 extraordinary meetings
- ☐ International community support

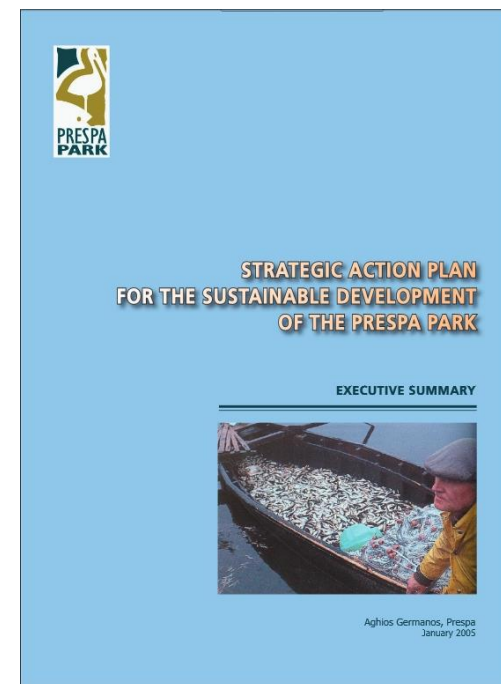
# Water cooperation in the spotlight



Intergovernmental water  
cooperation on the basis of  
WFD/ IWRM principles

## Prespa Park Strategic Action Plan

- ❑ Prespa lakes basin management plan
- ❑ Transboundary monitoring system

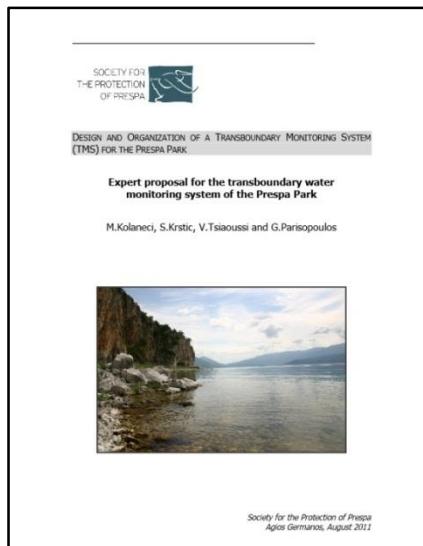




# Water cooperation milestones




- ❑ trilateral water authorities' meetings – water management working group
- ❑ consolidation of municipal cross-border cooperation
- ❑ setting up of NGO networks
- ❑ joint water-related studies
- ❑ transboundary water monitoring system scheme



Discrete national Prespa  
sub-basin management plans

# Inter-state cooperation upgrade



## Treaties Office Database

Important legal notice  
English (en) ▼

EUROPA > European External Action Service > Treaties Office Database

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### Summary of Treaty

GENERAL DATA	
Official Title	Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area
Type of Agreement	Multilateral
Place of Signature	
Date of Signature	
Date of Entry Into Force	
Duration	
Objective of Agreement	
Remarks	
OJ Reference	
Nature of Agreement	Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA)
Contracting Parties	European Union, Albania, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece

### Article 14 - Working Group on Water Management

1. The Prespa Park Management Committee will establish a Working Group on Water Management, according to the provisions of Article 10.
2. The State Parties, after consultation, shall nominate authorities and bodies competent for water management in the part of the Prespa Park within their territories as members of this Working Group and inform on such nomination the chairperson of the Prespa Park Management Committee.
3. 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 of the Management Committee.
4. The specific tasks and mandate of the Working Group will be defined through consultations between the State Parties.
5. The operational costs of the Working Group on Water Management (participation in and organisation of meetings) shall be covered for a period of four years after the entry into force of this Agreement, by the Hellenic Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change.

#### Search

Search by words on title

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#### Actions

Export Treaty Summary

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# At this juncture

Inter-state cooperation in suspension

Water cooperation still active by  
local actors and the NGO sector





More information:

W: [www.spp.gr](http://www.spp.gr)

E: [spp@line.gr](mailto:spp@line.gr)

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