

Drin Basin Multi-Stakeholders Conference
10-11 December 2013 - Tirana, Albania

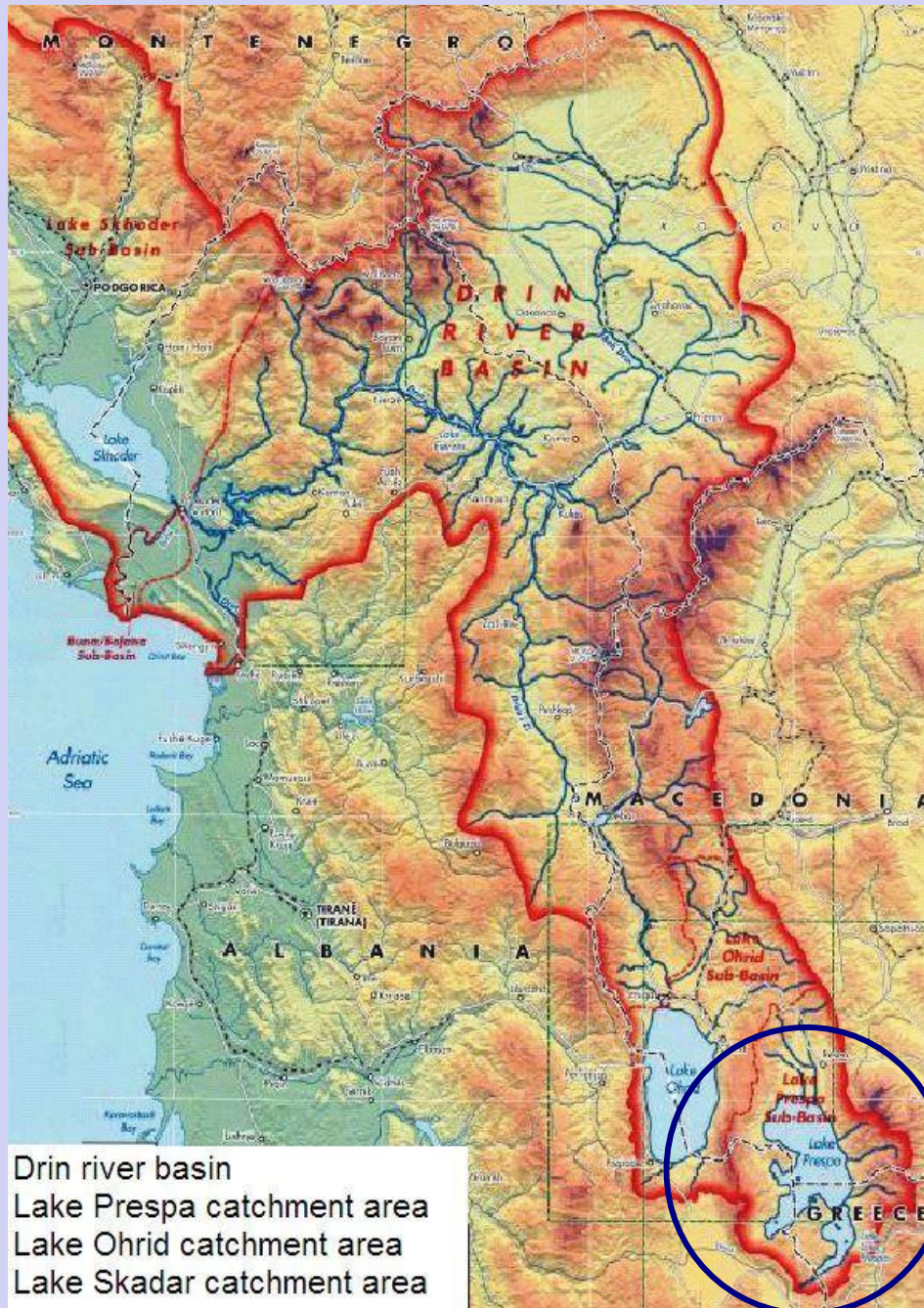
Integrated River Basin Management in the Prespa basin

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Drin river basin
Lake Prespa catchment area
Lake Ohrid catchment area
Lake Skadar catchment area



Lake Ohrid

Great Prespa Lake

Lesser Prespa Lake





49 Natura 2000 habitats
7 Priority habitats (GR)



9 endemic fish species



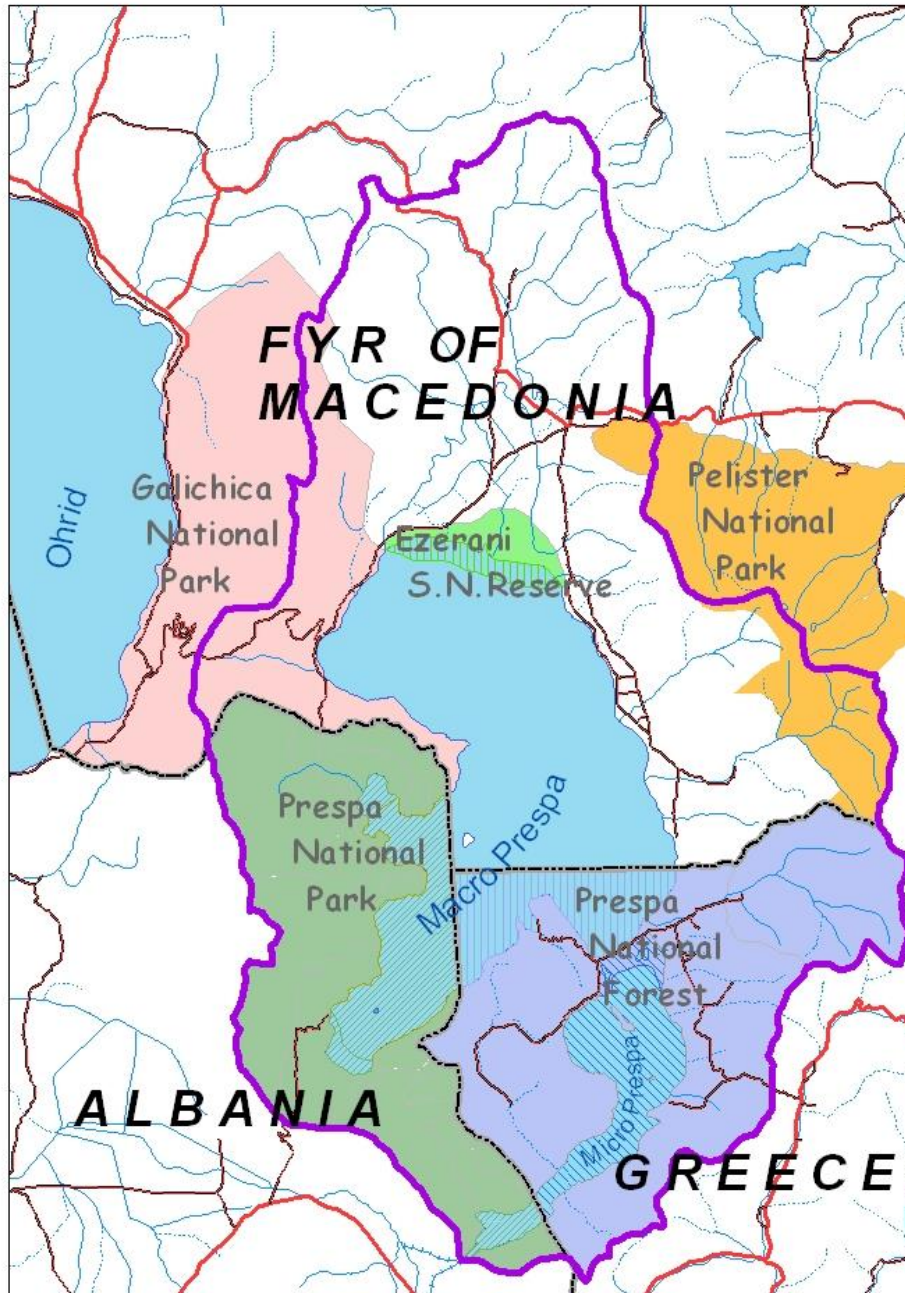
> 60 mammal
species



> 270 bird species



> 2200 plants



Catchment Basin

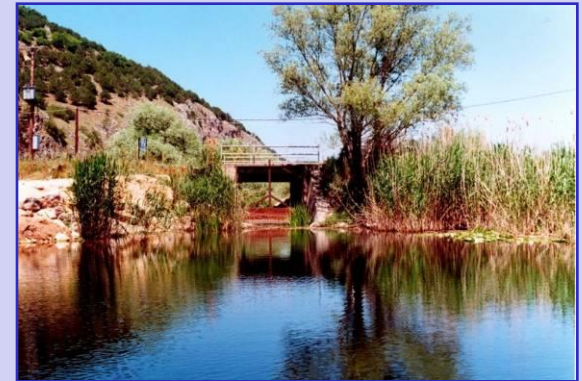
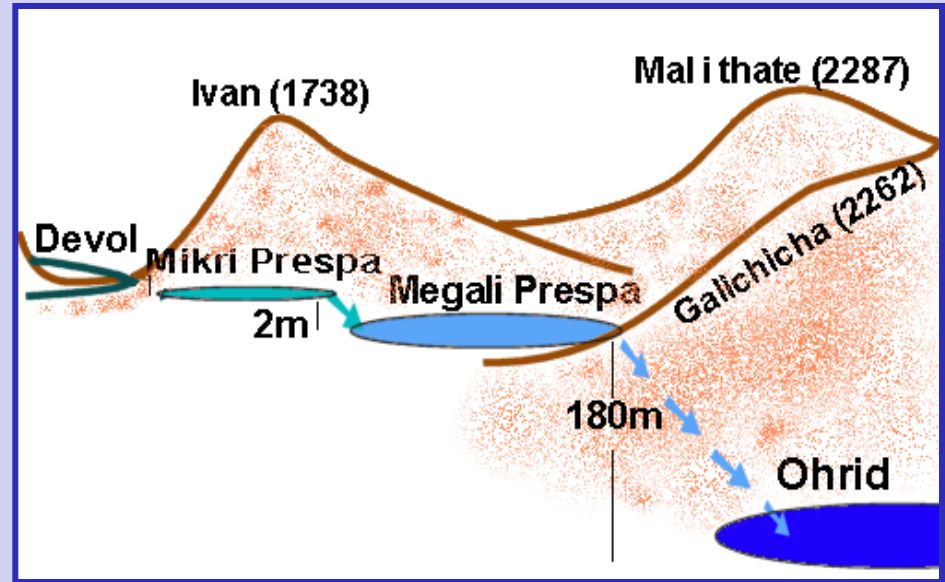
843 – 2420 m asl

Area: 1519,4km²

4 National Parks

3 Ramsar Sites

Lakes' Hydrology



Challenge: How to balance ecosystem needs and human activities?



- ❑ Protection of colonies
- ❑ Maintenance of wet meadows
- ❑ No farmland flooding
- ❑ Unobstructed water pumping for irrigation purposes
- ❑ Fish recruitment

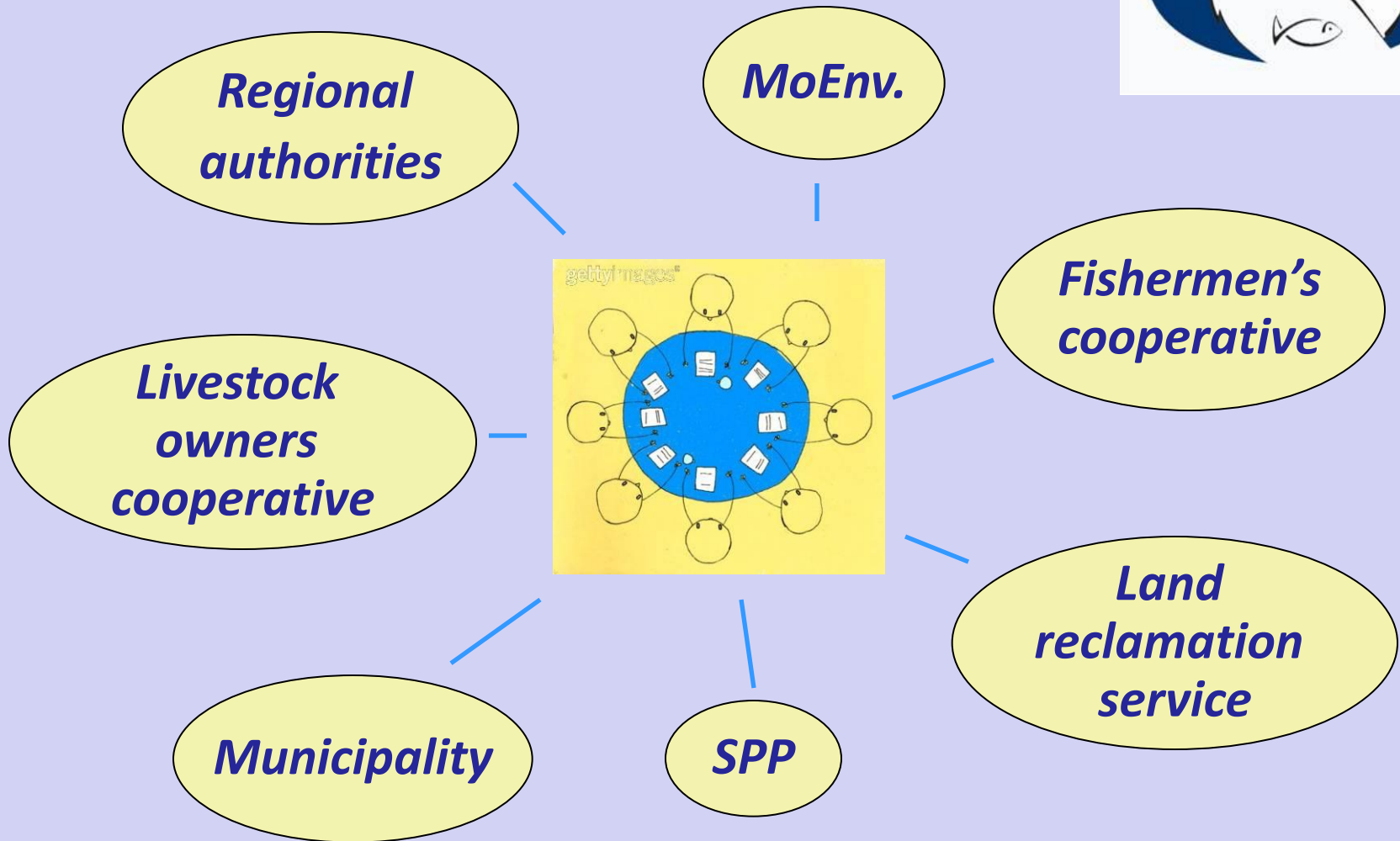
The process

- ❑ Multi-stakeholder agreement on the optimum water level fluctuation
- ❑ Wetland Management Plan





Wetland Management Committee



Regional authorities

MoEnv.

Livestock owners cooperative

Fishermen's cooperative

Municipality

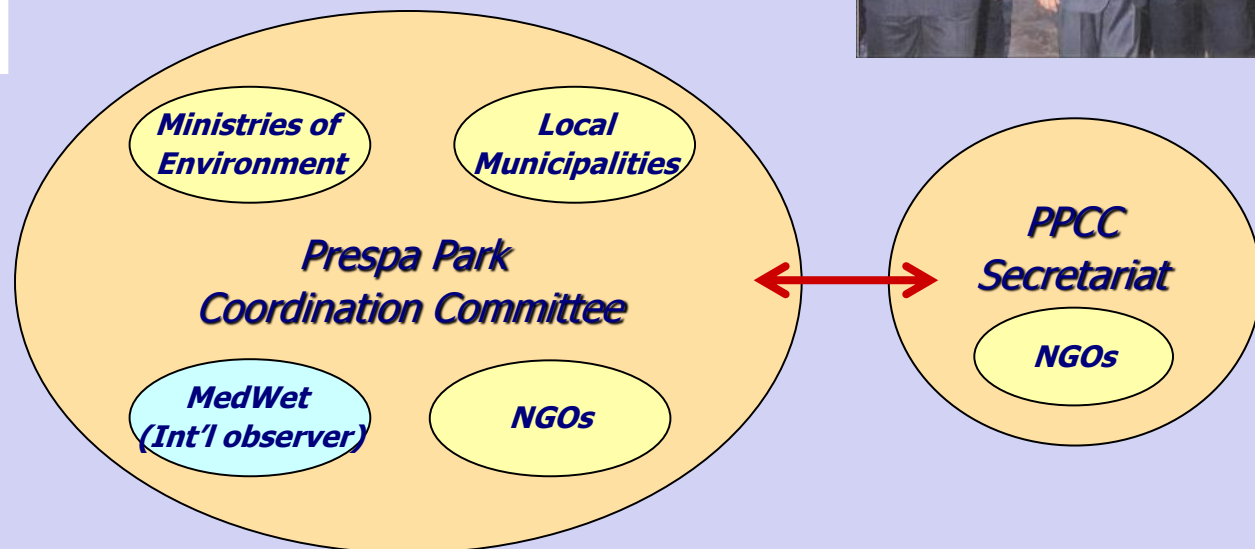
SPP

Land reclamation service

Trilateral Institutional Cooperation



- ❑ Prespa Park Declaration, 2000
- ❑ Prespa Park Institutions



Landmarks in water cooperation

- ❑ Strategic action plan
- ❑ Mayors' Joint position for the need to cooperate for water management
- ❑ Initial hydrological study for the whole basin
- ❑ Joint GR-AL study for the impacts of Devolli diversion on Lesser Prespa
- ❑ Trilateral meetings of water management authorities



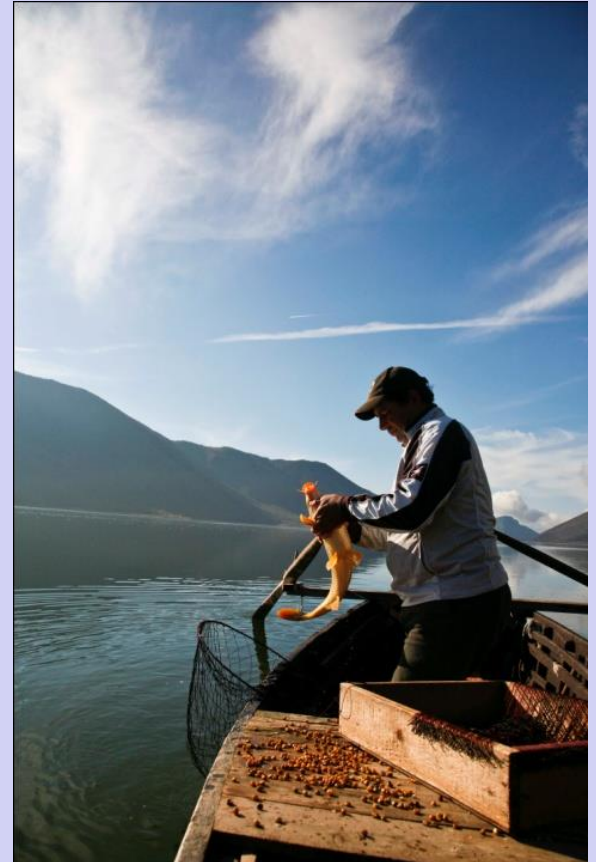
Landmarks in water cooperation

- ❑ Transboundary water monitoring system
- ❑ Water Management Working Group – ToR developed & contact persons nominated by the 3 countries
- ❑ International Prespa Park Agreement (2010) providing for a permanent water management working group (+EC)
- ❑ National water management plans specific for Prespa (FYR MK, GR)



The future

- ❑ **Water management working group activation**
- ❑ **TB consultation of national water management plans – Harmonisation - Integration into a single basin-wide plan**
- ❑ **Scientific research and data gathering - Formal information exchange across borders**
- ❑ **Agreed measures gradually adopted and implemented**



Lessons Learnt

- ✓ Integrated water management requires a **holistic, strategic approach**, addressing degradation of **ecosystems** and the reality of **human needs**
- ✓ **EU Water Directive** provides a good **framework** for collaboration organisation
- ✓ **Strong science base** is necessary to overcome national divisions and preconceptions
- ✓ Water management concerns **local stakeholders** and authorities but long-term management requires institutional measures and **high-level mandate**.
- ✓ A “**three-way partnership**” between the community, government/authority structures and NGOs/researchers is a successfully tested scheme.

Thank you



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