Macedonia

INTEGRATION OF ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS INTO SPATIAL PLANNING FOR THE PRESPA REGION

For the United Nations Development Programme, 2008-2009

Mike Sharrocks was appointed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to undertake spatial planning work as part of a UNDP/GEF trans-boundary environmental protection project. This project aimed to implement ecosystem management measures in the Prespa Lakes' basin that included parts of Albania, FYR-Macedonia and Greece. It would integrate ecological, economic and social goals together with conservation of the area's globally significant biodiversity, and would reduce pollution in the trans-boundary lakes and their contributing waters.



As part of this broad-based project, Mike Sharrocks was required to address the spatial planning and land use aspects in the Macedonia area (for the south west of the country). This would lead to work on a new spatial plan for the Municipality of Resen that encompassed the Macedonian watershed area of Prespa Lake. The municipality spatial plan would be the first of its type since the country's independence and would need to incorporate the necessary ecological protection measures emerging from the UNDP/GEF project so as to support the Prespa trans-boundary environment.



The spatial planning work was split into three main components. Firstly, a review was undertaken of all relevant planning and environmental material at the national, regional and municipality level for Macedonia, together with recommendations for any changes. Secondly, research was carried out into local planning models in three other European countries: the United Kingdom; the Netherlands; and, in Montenegro (as an example of another part of the former Yugoslavia). Those examples that could usefully be adopted for municipality spatial plans in Macedonia were highlighted. The third component of the work required the preparation of the Terms of Reference for a new spatial plan for the Municipality of Resen. All of this work was accompanied by workshop presentations.



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