



Prespa Dwarf Cattle in Albania: Conservation through use and local responsibility



Prespa cow with the commonly found deer-like facial markings

Final Report 2014

Hans-Peter Grunenfelder

The project was supported by:
Fondation de Bienfaisance Jeanne Lovioz, 4010 Basel / Switzerland

Background and goals of the project

Within the framework of the monitoring of Greek breed diversity, the experts of the SAVE Foundation's then staff unit "Monitoring Institutes for Rare Breeds and Seeds in Europe" received information about a dwarf cattle breed near the Prespa Lakes that moved across the terrain like goats. In May 2006 staff visited the area and were able to judge the animals and their status¹.

The Prespa cattle, which seems to trace back to the Neolithic "Torfrind", was able to be kept pure for a long time due to the fact that the border zone between Greece and Albania was, on both sides, a military exclusion zone where an ethnic minority of Slavic Macedonians settled. The area, which is cut off from the outside by mountain ranges (Prespa Basin, see the map on the next page) was long free of outside influences and the minority group settled there kept their traditions, as is so often the case. The livestock also belonged to these traditions. Thus there is not only the Prespa cattle but also the Liqenas goat that is only found in this region.



Adult Prespa cow to show size

This remote Prespa Lakes area, hidden behind mountains, is troubled with unemployment and migration away from the area. With this project, not only the conservation of genetic and cultural heritage is important, but also the local population was shown how the special characteristics of this locally adapted cattle under local responsibility could be of benefit.

Agriculture in Albania is barely organised and is mainly on the level of self-sufficiency. It is not surprising that the government tries, with financial means, to support the modernisation of agriculture. Thus, in the Province Korçë, which Prespa belongs to, the breeding and keeping of the French Tarentaise cattle is recommended and rewarded with subsidies. The actual Tarentaise breeding has not yet arrived in the Prespa area but the semen of this breed and of others is already in use. The conditions around the Prespa lakes are hardly suitable for performance breeding with high in-put. In fact, the opposite is true, it is in the interests of this over-grazed area to put the Prespa cattle to use in extensive grazing.

As the following report shows, with a relatively low investment the remaining population of the dwarf cattle could be recorded and the need for action assessed. With coaching of local actors, purchase of purebred animals to form a nucleus herd, the creation of a herdbook and the impetus for starting marketing of products together with the management of the national park, the project should be able to be continued by the stakeholders.

¹ Prespa-Cattle; Identification and possible conservation strategies, St.Gallen 2006



(Map produced using the Map Design Unit of the World Bank)

Conservation concept

Since the fall of the Iron Curtain in this area and the opening of Albania, there has been an influx of performance breeds near the Prespa lakes. The introgression of foreign breeds began slowly, without anyone noticing or keeping control of the situation. The veterinary service in Albania has few rules and semen from bulls from many countries of origin can be imported. Now the introgression has accumulated and the pure Prespa cattle are severely endangered. An estimated population census in 2006 showed between 400-500 pure cattle. A further estimate in 2012 only arrived at 350 animals. This shows a strong trend downwards in a short time and the level of endangerment increases yearly. An important point to consider is that a population that falls under the threshold of 200 animals and less than 10 male breeding lines can only be prevented from the dangers of inbreeding through scientifically-led breeding schemes. A rapidly increasing problem is the lack of purebred bulls. Although there were, for a long time, many purebred cows, if their offspring are crossbred, purebred bulls will no longer occur.

Together with the Albanian partner organisation AlbaGene and the local environmental organisation Sun of Liqenas, SAVE Foundation purchased three mainly pure bulls as an immediate measure and made them available to local cattle keepers for mating free of charge. For longer-term conservation, a strategy needed to be built up.

With this project, the following was strived for:

- Awareness-raising, that the Prespa cattle represent a unique piece of cultural heritage, comparable to a protected monument.
- Increasing the interest in the cattle breed on the part of the farmers. Reference to the frugal use of raw fodder and their resistance to disease. Characteristics that only remain in a continued pure-breeding strategy.
- Showing the economic advantages of the old breed, which bring their small performance practically out of nothing (little manpower, no bought-in fodder). Not only is the amount of meat produced or the selling price important but also the profits minus the in-puts. Thinking in this way shows that the old breed can hold its own with the crossbreeds.
- Creating a herdbook-based breeding strategy with a local adapted bull management.
- Promoting product marketing (the breed has a particularly tasty meat).



Breeding situation 2011 and first measures

The breeding area in Albania can be geographically roughly divided into three parts. The centre with four villages around Liqenas, the north of the Diella pass towards Macedonia northern part, also with four villages and the easterly, bordering on Greece in the hill areas between the large and small Prespa lakes, with a further four villages. The immediate measures taken from before the beginning of the project and the subsequent marking and registering of 50 purebred cows, financed through GEF funds², took place in the central part of the project area.

In autumn 2011 the measures used were controlled and the breeding situation evaluated. The mandated local partner Sun of Liqenas proved to be very motivated and managed to expand the breeding register from 54 to 92 animals. However, the simple and well-managed register only passively showed the developments. The available bulls were only used randomly. The persons responsible were, therefore, coached in the concept of breeding in small populations. So that breeding could take place on a wide genetic basis the bulls, and especially the least related mothers, need to be chosen and very carefully used. Only in this way can the regulated mating take place that will keep inbreeding at the lowest possible level.

Through the collaboration with the nature protection organisation „Society for the Protection of Prespa“ (SPP) based on the Greek side of the border the possibility arose to place a nucleus group of Prespa cattle with an innovative, Albanian farmer. The location in Shuec at the small Prespa lake is perfect for the use of the animals in the grazing in the vast areas of reeds. The most positive aspect of the area is, however, that it is otherwise “cattle free”. In the larger area of Shuec there have been no cattle for many years as sheep and goats have been kept here. Thus, the nucleus group is not in danger of introgression from wandering bulls.



The immense reed beds in the Albanian southern part of the small Prespa lake. Due to its shallows, a perfect place for the grazing of Prespa cattle.

(Photo: Sofian Kotorri)

² General Environment Facilities of the World Bank



During the creation of the nucleus group, the opportunity was taken to include animals from the as yet uninvestigated northern part of the community of Liqenas. Buying stock from there not only brought fresh bloodlines into the breeding but also allowed for a better estimate of the numbers of purebred animals in the area and, not least, to raise awareness of owners of the value of their purebred animals. It was the first time that someone – and even from outside the area – took an interest in the “dwarves”. The purchased animals were given to the new owners within the framework of the SAVE animal loan system. In this system the animals are not given as presents, rather one must later give up one breeding animal for every animal received. With these another breeding group can be created in another place and the breeding line can be genetically secured through decentralisation.

(Photo: buying a pregnant cow, Kallamas village)

Estimation of the stock numbers and planning a breeding strategy

In autumn 2012 a coaching session about simple breed registers took place for locals responsible for breeding planning. The already in use breed register could be extended and now includes degrees of relationship and other important information about individual animals. Thus, an important foundation for a successful breeding strategy has been laid.

Furthermore, an exact census of the stock numbers was started, in order to count the numbers of (mainly) purebred Prespa cattle a procedure of exclusion was used. In each village in the three parts of the project area the animals with a clear “foreign” influence were counted. This gave, subtracted from the total stock numbers, the number of animals with Prespa blood.



A further division of the whole population into “pure” animals (A) “almost pure” (B) and animals with some Prespa blood (C) needs to be done, with both phenotypical and genotypic investigations (see the chapter Genotyping and annex 1). In order to conserve as wide a genetic basis as possible, the breeding should not only take place with the best type A animals. The breeding strategy has the goal, therefore, of taking the breeding basis step by step to a higher level. Offspring from C animals will only be taken into the breeding programme if they (from a pairing with A) reach at least a B classification.

Estimation of the numbers of animals that are Type A. (Nov. 2012):
(Surveyed by Vasil Kolefski, from local NGO Sun of Liqenas/Dielli)

Village	Total cattle numbers	Cattle clearly from imported breeds	Cattle of Prespa type	Estimation purebred Prespa
Liqenas	520	200	320	~ 120
Zaroshkë	170	100	70	20-30
Lajthizë	95	63	32	15-20
Diellas	295	155	140	~ 50
Gollomboç	140	90	50	15-20
Goricë e vogël	165	100	65	~ 25
Goricë e madhe	330	170	160	50-60
Kallamas	385	215	170	~ 60
Çerje	32	22	10	?
Total	2'132	1'115	1'017	c. 370

Collaboration with the Prespa National Park

The first talks with the then director of the Albanian Prespa National Park, Niko Xega took place in 2010. He showed interest in conserving the autochthonous livestock breed of the area as a piece of national heritage and to promote the breed as a “flagship”. At the beginning of 2012, the administration of the park was changed and the collaboration had to be re-negotiated during 2012-13. The new leadership wanted to prevent the exploitation of the area (timber, pollarding for fodder, overgrazing etc.) and had no interest to start within a project to conserve a local livestock breed.



A study on tolerability and grazing in the area shows that i.a. the head of livestock needs to be reduced. The overuse of the land is plain to see and a need for reduction in numbers was never questioned in our project. Together with the new administration it could be agreed that the conditions around the Prespa lakes were not suitable for performance animals and that an extensive grazing by the small and adapted Prespa cattle would be better. However, this is not the case in the conservation of the Liqenas goat.



The Prespa national park in Albania is partly an individual entity but also a part of a tri-national national park association together with the Galichica national park in FYR Macedonia and the Prespa national park in Greece.

Clarifications show that Prespa cattle were once more widespread. In Macedonia, they could be found at least in the southern part of the Galichica national park, today, however, there are no more to be found. In Trpejca there was a small, crossbred herd that lived in semi-feral conditions in the mountains. In the framework of the genotyping (described below) these animals were included and DNA samples were taken. In the Greek Prespa national park, the dwarf cattle have only survived in the village Psarades and have nearly disappeared due to crossbreeding. In a parallel conservation project at the small Prespa lake, two nucleus groups have been created which are developing nicely. The administration of the Albanian park has, therefore, during the important negotiations in November 2013 decided that they are interested in collaborating in a transnational conservation of Prespa cattle together with Greece.



The Greek Institute for Animal Genetic Development in Nea Mesimvria near Thessaloniki has also agreed to join the project (without a request for funds!) At a workshop in February 2015, a crossborder strategic collaboration for the long-term conservation and support of Prespa cattle will be secured. The leadership of this programme is from the Greek Society for the Protection of Prespa (SPP). SPP has already been the locally responsible project partner for the parallel Greek Prespa project.

Workshop and coaching

The long planned workshop to set up a regulated breeding of the Prespa cattle was finally realised on the 14th November 2013. As it had become clear that the locals themselves no longer really knew what a purebred animal looks like, the first part of the meeting was spent on the identification of pure animals. Size, head-shape and markings, the dark colour of the mucous membranes, and the body colour were all explained. Finally, the clear exclusion criteria, which show introgression, were also explained. A two page summary in Albanian was given to the participants for them to use in future when choosing animals or making breeding decisions (an English version of this flyer can be found as Annex 1 of this report).

In the second part of the workshop the problems of breeding in small populations were discussed (see Annex 2). The stumbling blocks in the breeding to avoid inbreeding problems in the population when there is only a small genetic basis were named

- not only the best-looking animals should be used, at the beginning a wide basis should be utilised and improved on
- A good bull-management is vital. There should be at least 10 male-lines built up. Also good, unrelated, bull-mothers should be chosen.
- The animals should be recorded in the breeding register and the breeding lines as far as possible kept decentralised with security doubles.
- A breeding stock of at least 200 animals should be built up. After a few generations, the breeding lines become less important, then suitable herdbooks should be established that work out the degree of inbreeding



Relaxing after the workshop with members of Sun of Liqenas

In the third part of the workshop the questions around marketing of produce were addressed (see the chapter on Marketing in this report), also awareness-raising in the local populations (the help of local schools and the high school in Liqenas was offered). Questions about the possibilities to collaborate with nature protection as well as local political questions were discussed.

A very great help with the workshop came from Dr. Stamatina Trivizaki from the already mentioned Animal Genetic Institute in Thessaloniki. She was able to sensitively approach the concerns of the Albanian participants and show that the breeding standards were not about Western maximum values.

Since the workshop, “Mata” Trivizaki has taken on the coaching of the project participants and is in regular contact with the Society for the Protection of Prespa and the Sun of Liqenas. She regularly visits the area on both the Greek and Albanian side of the border, gives advice and monitors the activities.

Genotyping

The first DNA investigations of the Prespa cattle took place in 2007. 50 animals from the village of Liqenas were tested. Already then, Dr. Ivica Medugorac from the veterinary university in Munich came to the conclusion³ that Prespa cattle must be related to the Busha cattle of the Balkans, but were of their own specific group, worthy of conservation. Some of the samples were tested by the Institute for Prehistoric and Scientific Archaeology in Berne University (Dr. A. Schlumbaum), they found genes that do not exist in any other European cattle breed.



Within the framework of the project funded through the UN-FAO Funding Strategy for the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources “BushaLive”, Busha cattle in the whole of the Balkan region were investigated. Samples from Prespa cattle were a part of the investigations. The goal of the project is to create a basis for a crossborder conservation strategy with the necessary data-management system. The preliminary results show that the Prespa cattle are a separate type within the shorthorn cattle and that no introgression is present. Final results of the project are expected in 2015.

Marketing

Alongside the use as grazers within nature protection, especially in extensive reedbeds, the marketing of products plays a central role in the conservation of Prespa cattle. Only if farmers can live on the output of the cattle, will they be interested to breed them in the long-term. For this it is necessary to promote the products as a “premium-product” and to ascertain that farmers understand that the animals do not need supplementary fodder or much veterinary attention. Profits, in cash, can be arrived at with very little out-goings



required. The national park is well situated to generate income for the locals through marketing. For this purpose it has created a park “label”, has organised a pilot market stand in the nearby town of Korçë (active since 2013) and helps to finance start-ups for production processing equipment. Attempts to promote apiary and fishing have been successful, more are planned. These start-up funds are made possible through a park development project that is supported by the German Reconstruction Loan Corporation (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau).

Photo NP

³ Conservation priorities of genetic diversity in domesticated metapopulations: a study in taurine cattle breeds. Munich 2011

Due to the fact that Prespa cattle rarely give more than 4-6l milk per day, milk products are not ideal for marketing. Together with farmers and local experts, the production of different qualities of cured meats was explored. This type of meat is known locally as Pasturma. The Prespa area lies at 850m above sea-level and has a good air quality (no emissions from industry as it is protected by the mountain chain).



Thus the conditions for producing cured meat and sausage is ideal. The national park has launched, with the ministry for environment in Tirana, a call for experts and has extended the investigations into how to support the promotion of product marketing for Prespa cattle. The feasibility study should be finished in April 2015 (see Annex 3). Then supporting funds should be made available for this sector also.

Nature protection and tourism

The Prespa cattle are already successfully in use in the grazing of rushes. Here these locally adapted, robust and frugal cattle can show off their advantageous characteristics. No performance breeds and also no crossbred cattle are able to graze the rushes. Rushes have become a problem, especially in the Albanian part of the small Prespa lake. They are covering the whole area of this shallow and relatively eutrophic part of the lake. (See the photo on page 5). This grazing is not yet supported through



subsidies but for the keepers of purebred Prespa cattle it is a fodder stuff that is free and available in large quantities. In the mid-term the adjustments to Albanian ecological regulations to meet EU standards should mean that this grazing can be financially supported.



Also the marketing of Prespa cattle as a tourist attraction has begun. In new model farms (Didactic Farms) tourists and school classes can experience the dwarf cattle from close up. A farm in both the northern and central part will be opened. Other endangered livestock breeds will also be shown, such as the Liqenas goat. In Shuec (eastern part) the model farm is already open.

Evaluation of the achievements

The planned duration of the project could not be kept to. It was too optimistically estimated. On the one hand, far more coaching was required and, on the other, the change of administration in the national park meant that negotiations had to begin again. With hindsight, it can be seen that these negotiations led to the project gaining more depth and political acceptance. The product marketing and thus the local population profited very much from the international funding that was available to the national park. The acceptance of the national park is now stronger. With the approval of the national park administration for the promotion of Prespa cattle, the conservation project and the awareness-raising of the local people has been made easier.



The biggest success was certainly gaining the acceptance and support of the national park. But the coaching of the members of the local NGO „Sun of Liqenas“ was also very important and means that they are capable of continuing the project themselves – with SAVE Foundation providing advice when necessary.

No success has been found yet with the state-level bodies in Korçë or Tirana. That one of the poorest countries in Europe has other priorities is, of course, perfectly understandable.

Final thoughts and a look to the future

With this project the conservation of Prespa cattle could be advanced. The local people and the decision makers have been made aware of the situation and the national park is taking part in the project. The technical and organisational knowledge about conservation has been largely passed on to the local actors. Now they are able to continue the project. Naturally, SAVE will be involved in the future as a coach. This especially within the framework of the national parks transnational project with Greece, which still needs to be formulated.

The long-term cooperation with the neighbouring Greek side of the lake is important for both remnant populations. Most important for Albanian at the moment is the logistical support from Dr. Stamatina Trivizaki of the Animal Genetics Institute in Thessaloniki and the coaching from the Society for the Protection of Prespa. On the Greek side, the tiny remnant population will be in need of fresh bloodlines from Albania. For veterinary reasons, it will be a while before a possible transfer of animals can take place.

It is a pleasure to see the cooperation with the nature protection on many levels. From initial hostility to the recognition of a Win-Win-Situation for both sides did not take too long. SAVE Foundation hopes that such a pragmatic collaboration between partners can exist in other projects, not just here at the Prespa lakes.



Still missing from the picture are the latest genetic investigations from the DNA samples from both subpopulations in Albania and Greece as well the comparison with the crossbred, small group in Trpejca, Macedonia. It will be interesting to see what the investigations will show about the Prespa cattle in the context of shorthorn cattle in the Balkans. Earlier studies already brought many interesting results.

The project was not without risk and the Prespa cattle are not yet out of the woods. However, the conservation is moving in the right direction. Thanks must go to all the people and organisations that have taken part for their open attitude and their valuable engagement. We wish the national park, the Society for the Protection of Prespa and the NGO Sun of Liqenas much success in their future efforts for the Prespa cattle. They deserve this support as an important cultural-historical treasure not only of the area but of the whole of Europe. Many thanks go also to the national partners AlbaGene and Amaltheia.

Special thanks go also to the institutions who have made the work possible through their financial support. These go especially to the “Fondation de Bienfaisance Jeanne Lovioz” in Basel, who supported the work in Albania, but also to the MAVA Foundation and the Grovni Foundation for setting off the whole project and supporting the work in Greece.



The author with a Prespa dwarf near the village of Kallamas (Photo Ulrich Bosch)

The photos in this report – unless otherwise indicated – are from the author.

Translation from the original German report: Elli Broxham

Annexes:

1. Appearance of Prespa cattle for the exclusion of crossbreeds
2. Workshop paper “conservation of rare breeds in small populations”
3. Call for experts from the Albanian Environmental ministry.

Prespa cattle (Mistrece)

Prespa cattle are distinguishable from other breeds visually.
The appearance is shortly described:

Size of the cows: 95-105 cm

The body of the animals is sometimes slightly higher at the croup than at withers. As often found in original animals, the breed shows a distinct sexual dimorphism (bulls are much larger than cows).



Head: - long and narrow nose,
- white muzzle (white ring around the nose),
- relatively large eyes



Horns: - short and bent front-inwards or up-inwards,
- colour: pale grey to black or white with black tips

Mucous membranes:

(anus, vulva, nose, etc.) should be grey-black!
(behind pink when crossbred with Illyrian cattle)



Colour of coat:

- grey (from very pale to very dark) – greyish blue – brown – reddish brown – ochre, sometimes dark; newborn calves often reddish, evolving then to grey or dark grey.
- hair coat of original type often coarse and sometimes shaggy.
- no white marks beside muzzle!



No white or other markings!



Annex 2



Conservation of rare breeds *in small populations*

Hans-Peter Grunenfelder MSc
SAVE - Foundation, St. Gallen



1

SAVE - Foundation, St.Gallen



You find some extraordinary relicts!



=> and then the problem begins!

2



You have two choices:

- Take **only the best looking** animals and breed them for some generations. You will have fun, but for the breed it is over, due to inbreeding (=> *bad choice*).
- Look **for the whole** of the relict population and start a sustainable breeding programme. Then re-establishing the breed is possible (=> *good choice*).

3



What needs to be considered?

- Target: long-term live conservation of a pure population
- Problems: loss of the original animals
Inbreeding
Crossing at community alps
- Possibilities: Breeder network
Rescue stations
Seperate transhumance

4



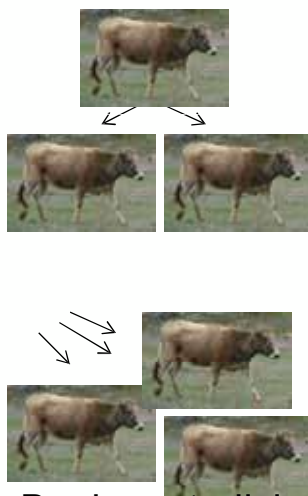
Target: long-term conservation

- Strive for a breeding population of at least 200 animals (ruminants)
- Breed with minimal 10 unrelated males
- Look for at least 5-10 breeding places
- Establish a market for the products or give the breed another purpose, niche (e.g. with nature protection, etc.)

5



Don't lose the original animals!



- Take the off-spring, make safety doubles of the original animals or at least of each breeding line
- Decentralise the breed to new locations, so diseases or mis-management will not affect the whole population

By decentralising you will place more different males (win-win!)

6



Avoid „inbreeding“

- Make from the beginning searches for additional findings in neighbouring areas. Get the widest possible genetic base!
- Don't include only “good looking” animals (from point of exterior standard) into the breeding programme.
- Note the relationship between the animals, make records, establish a herdbook. Draw up mating plans!
- If you have not enough sire lines, “create” them out of unrelated, good females (10 unrelated male lines needed!).
- Include everyone & everything in a breeding strategy!



Network as widely as possible

- Connect all existing and interested breeders to a breeding association
- Involve other networks for your breed
- Include possible donors and interested individuals
- Contact and link universities and governmental bodies.



**We wish a successful work
and good luck!**

Workshop Prespa cattle: Breeding in small populations



Thanks for
your attention!



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
DIRECTORY OF EU INTEGRATION AND PROJECTS
TRANSBOUNDARY BIOSPHERE RESERVE PRESPA – SUPPORT TO PRESPA NATIONAL PARK
Address: Rruga e Durrësit, Nr. 27, Tiranë, - Tel: 2 259900, Fax: 2 270 627 - www.moe.gov.al

CALL FOR EXPERTS

**TRANSBOUNDARY RESERVE BIOSPHERE –
SUPPORT TO PRESPA NATIONAL PARK
PROJECT NO: BMZ - NR 2001 66 785**

Date: September 17, 2014

Contract Title: Feasibility Study on the Conservation of Biodiversity Values of PNP by Socioeconomic Development of the Livestock Sector by Supporting Manufacturing and Marketing of Dairy and Meat Products.

Responsible to: Chief of the National Park Prespa (PIU), Project Team Leader and Deputy Team Leader

Background:

The National Park Prespa was gazetted in the year 1999 and officially opened in the year 2000. It comprises the terrestrial ecosystem of the surrounding mountains and the two Albanian parts of the Greater and Lesser Prespa lakes with a total surface of 27,750 ha.

A management plan is elaborated and approved by the Ministry for Environment incorporating a new zonation of the National Park Prespa. Recent studies on vegetation, especially grassland, mammals, birds and fish population confirmed the high biodiversity values of the NPP.

Aside of overuse of the forests to produce firewood, overgrazing is considered as an equal threat to the terrestrial ecosystems of the National Park Prespa. In the past overgrazing has been performed by goat herders and shepherds from the lowlands around Korca. After the establishment of the National Park in 1999/2000 these threats have been stopped. But the inhabitants of the villages of the National Park have increased their livestock. As a result the overgrazing still persists especially around the villages of the National Park.

OBJECTIVE

Assessment by a feasibility study on a potential breeding and substitution programme of intensive cattle by the Prespa Short horn cattle.

Target group for the potential substitution programme are farmers of the National Park area living in one of the twelve villages.

To test the willingness of the livestock keepers a support programme shall be designed which tries to provide a better income by a top-up price programme by various products from the Prespa Short Horn Cattle. The feasibility of such a top-up price programme on the actual and potential future market situation in Albania has to be assessed.

The entire livestock programme shall closely cooperate with the Prespa marketing organization to support the local producers in marketing of their products.

The basket of products from the Prespa Hort Horn Cattle could range from

Dairy products:

- Fresh Milk
- Yoghurt
- Cheese (various sorts)

To meat products:

- Meat,
- Sausages
- Pluck of the animals

Non-meat products:

- Skin/Leather etc.

The potentials of a trade mark (eco-label) for these products have to be assessed in close collaboration with the Marketing Organization (in implementation).

A proposal for a system of quality standards and a control mechanism with the responsible agricultural institutions of the region (country) has to be designed and the feasibility of implementation shall be assessed.

Area of work: Prespa National Park and the whole Albanian part of Mali iThate.

Project duration: November 2014–April 2015

Feasibility Phase (three months)

Contacting Livestock keepers of the Prespa National Park

Testing the willingness of collaboration with the local farmers.

Report about the result of the feasibility of the substitution, the top-up price programme and the establishment of an eco label with its quality criteria and the related monitoring programme..

Expected results:

PHASE 1 (FEASIBILITY PHASE)

1. Design of a breeding programme for Prespa Short Horn Cattle PHASE 1
2. Identification of farmers ready to participate in the exchange/substitution programme PHASE 1
3. Feasibility of the introduction of eco-standards and a related monitoring programme.

Qualification requirements for the expert:

- Advanced university degree in zoo technology, animal veterinary, biotechnology related to dairy industry or any other close related field.
- Proven skills in livestock breeding, especially with rare domestic breeds
- Experiences with manufacturing of products (milk, cheese, meat etc.)
- Acquainted with standards on hygienic production of Albania and EU.
- Convincing negotiating skills
- Overview about the agricultural system of Albania
- Knowledge about ecological standards in livestock keeping
- Knowledge of the Prespa region

Interested candidates can send the CV and cover letter electronically to the following addresses:

Attn. Ms. Ardiana Sokoli
Director of EU Integration and Projects
Ministry of Environment
Email: Ardiana.Sokoli@moe.gov.al

Deadline for submission of application: 9th of October 2014.

October 2014.