

The Prespa Park Region extends to 195 sq.km, of which 82 sq.km belong to the lakes. Greece is activating the Agreement for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park, Greek Environment & Energy Minister Kostas Skrekas told an online meeting of ministers of Albania, North Macedonia and the EU.

Participants at the first meeting of the high-level mechanism of cooperation on the agreement, called by Skrekas, included Albania's Minister of Tourism & Environment Blendi Klosi, North Macedonia's Minister of Environment & Physical Planning Naser Nuredini, and representative of the European Commission David Geer, ambassador and head of the EU Delegation to North Macedonia.

The agreement was signed by the three countries sharing borders in the region of the two Prespes Lakes, and it calls for joint studies and programs in order to fully manage water resources and to protect the region's biodiversity. The area is considered one of the most important natural habitats of Europe, comprising five main habitats.

Skrekas spoke of the receding waterline of the lakes, the effect of climate change on the unique fauna and flora of the area, and of activating local communities and agencies in managing the area at both national and inter-border levels. Other issues of note he mentioned were the reduction of fertilizers and such chemicals in the water system, the need to set common fishing rules, and the promotion of experiential tourism and ecotourism.

Source: thenationalherald.com