



A review on anthropogenic impact to the Micro Prespa lake and its damages

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Paper presents the results of the integrated and multidisciplinary studies for investigation of the anthropogenic damages to Albanian part of the transborder Micro Prespa Lake. Remote sensing with Landsat images was used for identification of environmental changes in time for the period 1970 – 2010. Micro Prespa Lake is lake with international status, as Ramsar Convection, International Park and Special Protection Area-79/409/EEC. According to the studies, investigations and analyses, the following were concluded:

Devolli River- Micro Prespa Lake irrigation system was not scientifically supported by environmental engineering, hydroeconomy and International Rights principles. It does work according to the projected parameters, and also, doesn't supply the agricultural needs. About of 10 % of the water volume, discharges by Devolli River in Micro Prespa Lake during the winter, is taken from this lake for the irrigation in summer.

Great surface of Albanian part of Micro Prespa Lake is destroyed. The other part of the lake is atrophied and the habitat and biodiversity are damaged. Important and unique species of fish, birds and plants of national and international values are risked. The underground karstic connection ways for water circulation are blocked. There are ruining the historic values of the area, such the ancient Treni cave from the Bronze Age. The Albanian part of the Micro Prespa Lake has been damaged by the human activities.

A huge amount of 1,2 million cubic meters alluvium has been deposited on the lake bottom and lakeshore, which was transported by the Devolli River waters, since 1974. This river waters, rich in alluvium and organic coal material from outcropped geological formations, also absorbed free chemical toxic remains by the drainage of Devolli farm ground, which have changed the chemical features of the lake water and degrading it. Micro Prespa Lake communicates with Macro Prespa Lake, and together with Ohrid Lake. Blockage of underground karstic connection ways has diminished not only the components of the lake water balance, but also the decreasing yield of the underground springs, that supply the Ohrid lake and drinkable water springs. The Albanian part of the Micro Prespa Lake plays the role of a gigantic decanter. This is an unprecedented case, not only in Albanian but also in Balkan and World hydrography.

Devolli river alluvium deposited in Micro Prespa Lake caused the otherwise of territory of Republic of Albania in this area. Albania will not have any part in this lake after some years. The social and public opinion in Albania, must be conscious for the otherwise of Albanian territory, which in the case of Micro Prespa Lake has a national and international negative effect on destructions of a transborder lake, defendey by European Convents.