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PONT Focus & Strategy

www.pont.org

PONT

- Private, legally independent grant-making foundation (‘Stiftung’), under German Law
- Raise & manage funds for the allocation of conservation grants: Conservation Trust Fund
- Independent of government
- Long term financing of operational costs: NOT an implementing agency
- Back office in Frankfurt, regional programme office in Tirana
- Transboundary trust fund with long term involvement in Prespa region (>2030)
- Rigorous monitoring & evaluation to check technical & financial results (regular independent compliance verifications of grantees)
- Leverage political commitment & long term government funding
- Inform other relevant stakeholders (donors) for possible co-funding, create synergies and avoid overlap
- No support for, participate in, or intervene in, any political campaign
- Language of communication is English

PONT MISSION

"to provide **long-term financing** for the **conservation and sustainable management** of **biological diversity**, **natural processes and ecosystem services** in Prespa and its wider area for the **benefit of nature and people** in the region."

To achieve this mission, PONT provides long-term co-financing for:

1. Conservation and Sustainable management

To enable conservation and sustainable management of the landscape, PONT supports capacity development and active involvement of local institutions and people (especially youth). **Grants PA:** Using the existing PA management plans (which define zonation, priorities, work plans and job descriptions), operational costs for core routines are financed to achieve each PA's mission. **Grants EA (Environmental Actors):** 40 priority activities have been identified for financing.

2. Biological diversity

Biological diversity is supported by actively implementing activities and habitat improvements, based on relevant research.

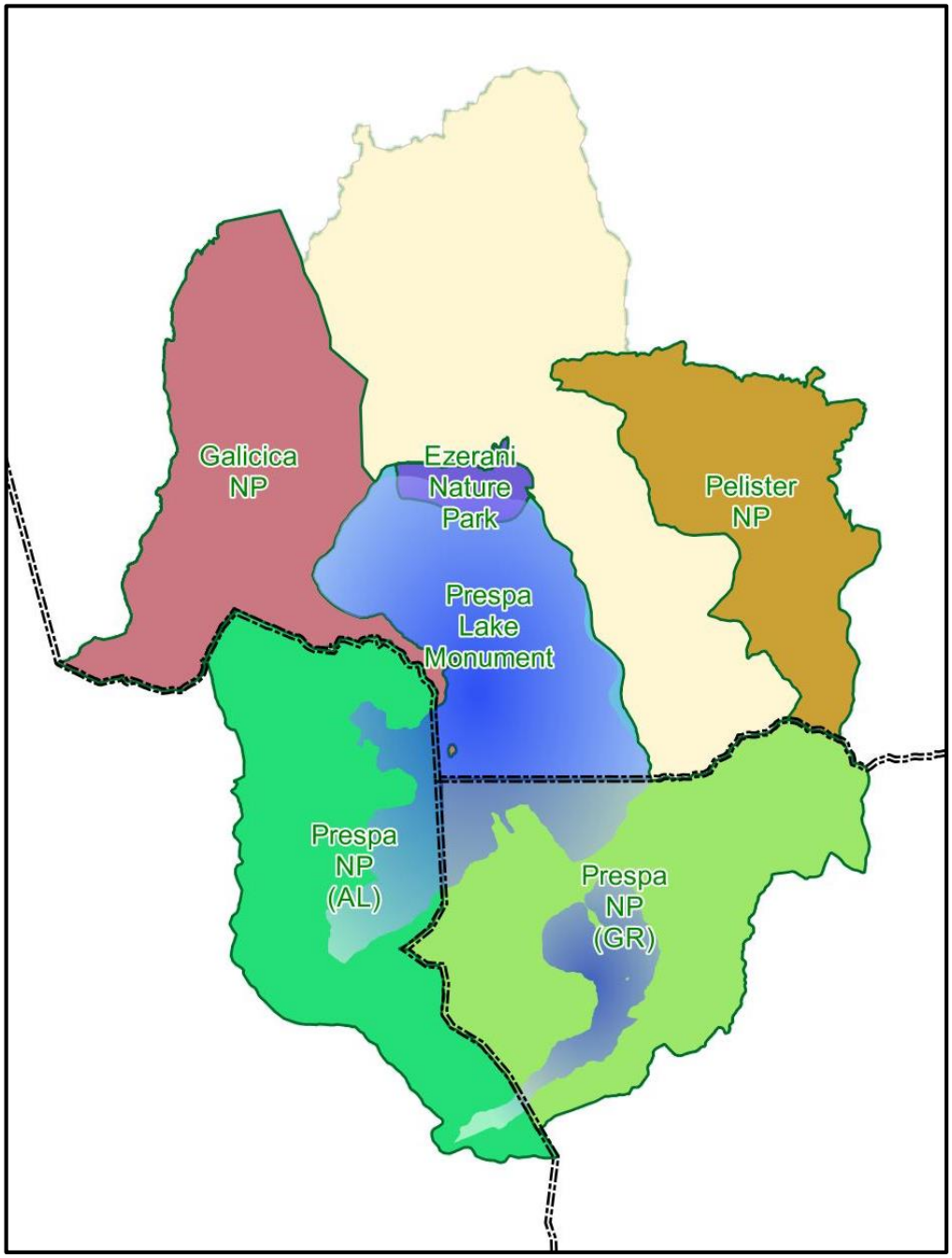
3. Natural processes and ecosystem services

Natural processes and ecosystem services are managed to optimize sustainable use of resources, including:
Wood, Non-Timber Forest Products, Grazing, Clean air and water, Recreation.

4. Benefit for Nature & People

PAs have the obligation to provide a stable environment for the conservation of species through the creation of suitable habitats and landscapes. At the same time, PAs must allow access and use of resources in a sustainable manner whilst providing fair compensation for work delivered in active management.

RESULT: Capable organizations, working in cooperation with their partners to fulfil their mandate/mission.



PONT focus area = Prespa, and its wider area, includes the following existing Protected Areas & Management Authorities (PAs)

Operational costs PA core routines + 40 priorities for EAs:

Zonation & Active management (Species/Habitats/Resources)

Monitoring & Patrolling

Visitor management & Environmental awareness

Capacity Development

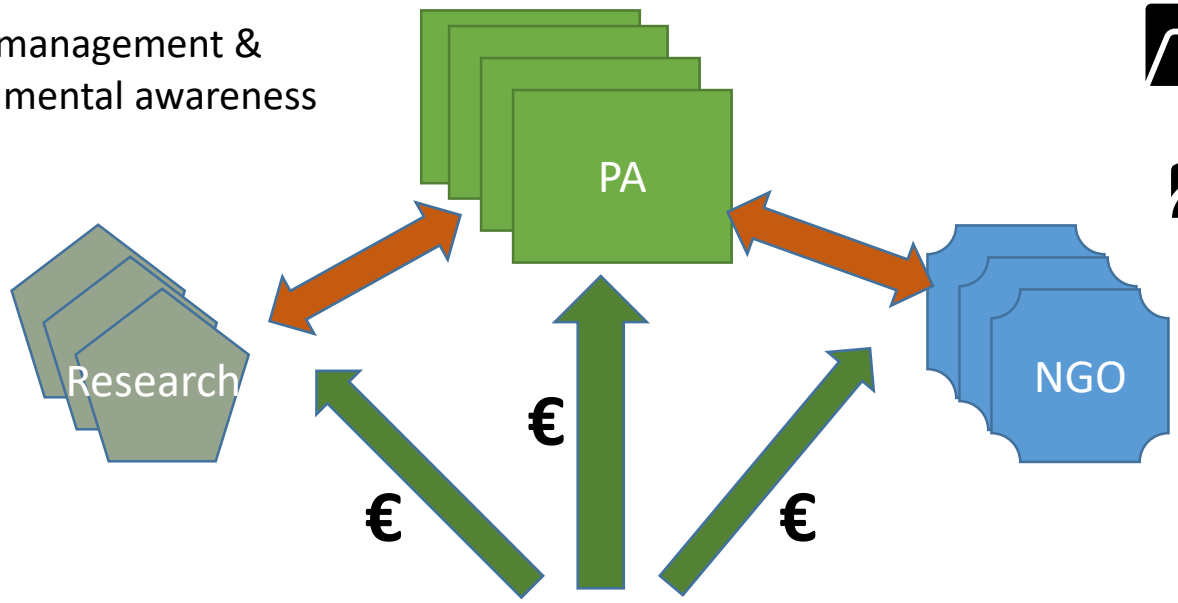
Financial Management, Accounting and Auditing

Human Resources

Fundraising – sustainable financing

Administration

Participation - coordination



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PA Management Plan
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Limited resources
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Capacity to implement PA core routines: complex balancing act
with participation of local people and in cooperation with others
Various interests of PA users
Fire management
Species & habitat management with NGOs/researchers
Sustainable recreation/tourism &
environmental awareness with NGOs
Sustainable use of wood, grazing, NTFPs, clean air & water
Integration of PA Management Plan in regional/sector plans
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Funding Prioritization Criteria Grants

1. Technical & financial feasibility of the grant proposal
2. Funding of operational costs PA core routines & capacity development based on operational work plans & budgets derived from PA Management Plans to ensure minimal conservation standards (50% co-financing non-PONT sources; <20,000 EUR/item for procurement of goods)
3. Support & strengthen locally based Environmental Actors (NGOs, research institutions) or national based EAs with an antenna office in the Wider Prespa Area and/or with a main purpose to sustain the PA network & to strengthen local based organisations (25% co-financing required by non-PONT sources; <20,000 EUR/item for procurement of goods)
4. Feasibility – institutions that have a vision, strategic plan, mandate, proven track record & capacity to work in the Wider Prespa Area (matching funds for Long Term co-financing)
5. Regional importance – initiatives that strengthen coordination between authorities with different mandates at various levels incl. transboundary cooperation & promote implementation & effectiveness of the PONT priorities within the Prespa 5-10 years strategic framework

PONT Priorities

Capacity development of grantees

1. ***Improved management, governance, monitoring***
2. ***Improved administration with realistic overheads***
3. ***Improved technical skills***
4. ***Improved local participation and beneficiation (including youth & women)***
5. ***Improved cooperation and coordination (including transboundary)***

Initial thematic focus: (operational costs PA core routines derived from individual PA Management Plans + about 40 priority interventions identified by PONT for financing out of 100 proposed from the 5-10 year Prespa strategic framework)

1) Improved PA & forest management; 2) sustainable use of PAs (incl. recreation; traditional grazing; NTFPs) 3) conservation of species; 4) conservation of habitats & landscapes

1. Practical research, studies and experimentation directly linked to real measures

2. Real measures (pilot, community-based), awareness raising, etc.

PONT Grants Scheme

Preconditions:

- Framework agreements
- Conflict assessment & proposed mitigation measures
- Assessment financial capacity pre-selected grantees (legal entity / financial system)
- Coordinated planning between Protected Areas and Environmental Actors

Phased Approach:

1. One year performance-based grants of pre-selected grantees based on first version Grants Manual. Planning grant if needed. “NO CALL for proposals”
    a. PA management authorities;
    b. PrespaNET partners;
    c. Ohrid Hydrobiological Institute;
    d. Assess which PONT priority areas of the Prespa 5-10 years strategy are covered
2. For remaining PONT priorities look for other cooperation partners with preference for active actors with proven track record in the Wider Prespa Area (grantees; consultants)

Thank you!