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Partners:

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PRESPA OHRID NATURE TRUST

The Region

The Prespa Ohrid ecoregion is located in the southern Balkans, in the triangle between Albania, Greece and FYR of Macedonia. Regarded as one of the most ecologically valuable regions in Europe, the Prespa and Ohrid lakes are among Europe's oldest. Their waters, surrounding mountains, and the animals and plants that make this magnificent area home are in desperate need of effective and long-term protection.

The Prespa Ohrid Nature Trust (PONT)—established in 2015—is a transboundary conservation trust fund dedicated to conserving the region and its rich natural, historical and cultural heritage by providing effective long-term funding support to the protected areas and environmental actors working in the region.

PONT's Mission

"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."

The Approach

PONT's approach to conservation differs from the standard "project based" or "short-term" solutions. PONT's funding is long-term and designed to ensure the sustainable management of the Prespa Ohrid region. Our model emphasizes long-term commitment, transparency, accountability and collaboration.

PONT raises and manages funds for the allocation of conservation grants supported by a rigorous monitoring and evaluation programme, as well as to leverage collaboration, political commitment and funding towards the achievement of its mission.

The Programme

PONT provides grants to the protected areas and environmental actors working to conserve the Prespa Ohrid region. Initially PONT will focus its funding on the Wider Presa Area, which includes the six protected areas surrounding Mikri Prespa and Megali Prespa as well as the Transboundary Prespa Park and part of the Ohrid-Prespa Transboundary Biosphere Reserve. This area covers the most significant biodiversity features of the Prespa lakes and their surroundings.

PONT aims to expand its work beyond the Prespa region to include the Ohrid lake basin, this step will be based on available resources and in line with PONT's mission and objectives.

Funding Priorities

PONT's programme aims to improve the management effectiveness and develop the capacity of six protected areas, two transboundary initiatives and the environmental actors (NGOs, municipalities and science/academic institutions) in the Wider Prespa Area. PONT will implement its mission through two main integrated grant programmes:

Protected Areas

Co-financing operational costs of Protected Areas

Environmental Actors

Co-financing the work of Environmental Actors

PONT will prioritise projects in five thematic areas:

Water

Forest

Priority species

Sustainable agriculture

Landscapes and habitats