Photo: Andrea Bonetti

CONFLICT ASSESSMENT IN WIDER PRESPA AREA

PRESPA OHRID NATURE TRUST - PONT

PONT (www.pont.org) is a transboundary conservation trust fund. As a trust fund, 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 conservation and sustainable management of the Prespa Ohrid ecoregion. Our model emphasizes long-term commitment, transparency, accountability and collaboration. The work of PONT during its first years will be focused on the Prespa Lakes and their surrounding environment, which includes Prespa, Galičica and Pelister National Parks.

February 2018

Foreword

This conflict assessment document has been prepared on behalf of KFW as a prerequisite before the granting can start in Albania (AL) and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (MK). The aim of this document is not only to present existing and possible conflict cases in Wider Prespa Area (WPA) related to nature conservation but also to engage different stakeholders to come up with mitigation measures and the implementation thereof through PONT granting programme.

WPA is one ecosystem and the approach chosen for drafting the conflict assessment was to make one conflict assessment through an inclusive process rather than doing a conflict assessment for each grantee. The focus area of the study were Protected Areas (PAs) in AL and MK due to the requirement by KFW which can finance granting only in AL and MK.

The main outcome of the study is the identification of mitigation measures, as part of the table of conflict, for responding to different types of possible conflicts mainly via improved coordination and cooperation through the PONT granting scheme.

The improved behaviour and attitude of local communities towards the Protected Areas should be achieved through implementation of the agreed measures and decisions which will support prevention or easier management of possible conflicts in the area.

This study followed a participatory approach with the assistance of the expert, Mrs. Rrezearta Ago, contracted by PONT Regional Programme Office (PONT RPO) in Albania, from May 2017 to April 2018.

We also extend our appreciation and gratitude to all the people that actively contributed and especially to: PrespaNET partners (SPP, PPNEA, MES); PAs staff; Prof. Spase Shumka; IUCN; REC-MK; GEF SGP-MK; CNVP Albania; GIZ and others. With their support and valuable input on local, regional and national level the table of conflict has been developed as part of this conflict assessment study.

Mrs. Rrezearta Ago

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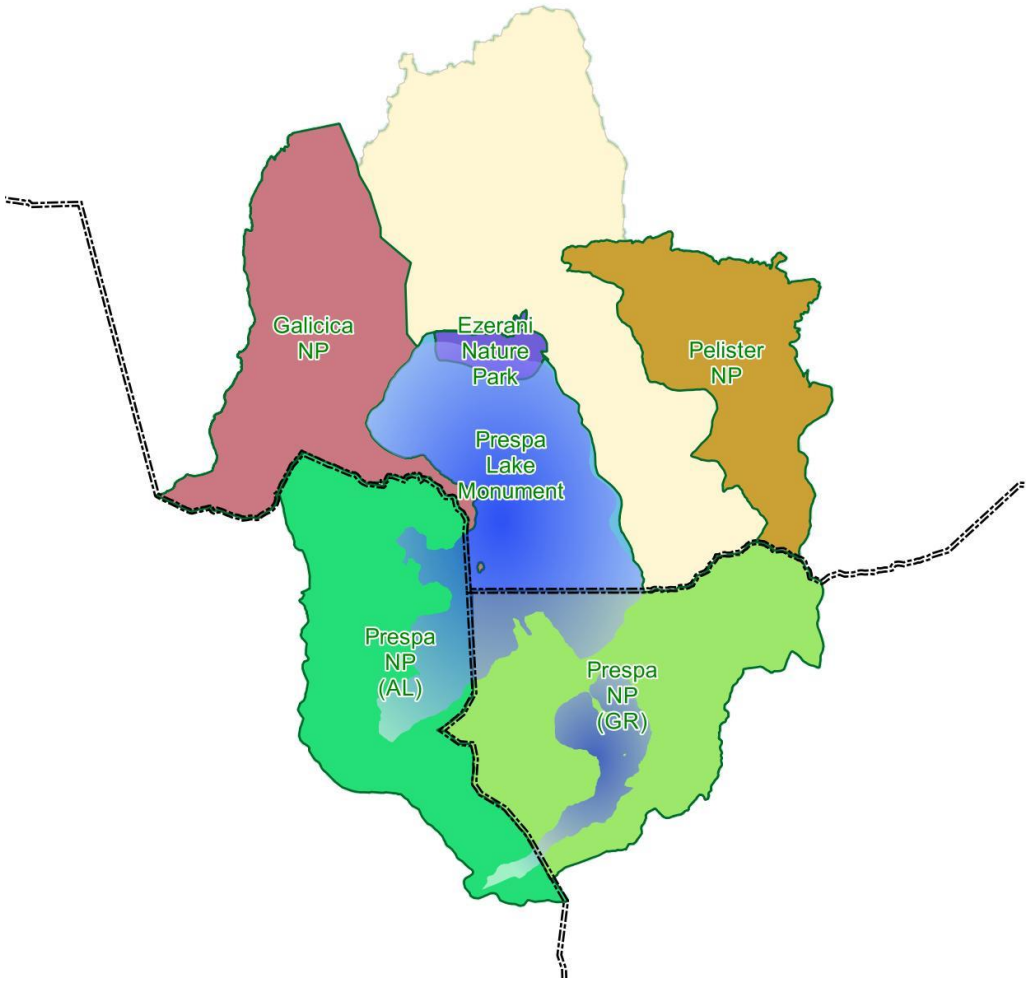
Abbreviations

AL	Albania
EAs	Environmental Actors
GR	Greece
HNV	High Nature Value
KfW	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau, German Development Bank
LGUs	Local Government Units
MBNPP	Management Body of the National Park of Prespa (GR)
MES	Macedonian Ecological Society
MedWet	Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative
MoAFWE	Ministry of Agriculture, forestry and water economy
MoE	Ministry of Environment
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MK	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
NAPA	National Agency of Protected Areas
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
PAs	Protected Areas
PIGNP	Public Institution Galicica National Park
PONT RPO	Prespa Ohrid Nature Trust Regional Programme Office
PNP	Prespa National Park
PPNEA	Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania
RAPA	Regional Agency of Protected Areas
SAP	Strategic Action Plan
SPP	Society for the Protection of Prespa
TBPA	Transboundary Protected Area
TPP	Transboundary Prespa Park
WPA	Wider Prespa Area
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

Introduction

The defined geographical scope for the study is the WPA, which spreads between Al, MK and Greece (GR) that has been repeatedly recognized for its natural, cultural and historical value. It includes Prespa National Park (PNP) in Albania, Prespa National Park in Greece, Pelister and Galičica National Parks (NP), the Ezerani Nature Park as well as the rest of the Prespa catchment basin in MK.



The **Prespa National Park (PNP**) of (AL) with a surface of 277.50 km2 was established in 1999, as an integral part of a wider conservation effort around both the Prespa Lakes and the Ohrid Lake.

In Greece, the Prespa National Forest was designated in 1974 under the forest legislation. The extended **Prespa National Park (GR)** with a surface of 327 km2 was designated in 2009 for the environmental protection, conservation, management and promotion of the area, as well as of its particular archaeological, cultural and aesthetic resources. The NP is managed by the management body of the National Park of Prespa (MBNPP).

The **National Park of Galičica (MK**) was founded in 1958 and re-proclaimed in 2010 with minor boundary changes. Galičica NP is situated on mount Galičica and covers a total area of 227 km2 between Lake Prespa and Lake Ohrid. The park is managed by the Public Institution Galičica National Park (PIGNP).

The **National Park of Pelister (MK)** covering an area of 171.5 km2 is the oldest NP in MK, designated as the first NP in 1948 and located between the basins of Prespa and Pelagonia. It was re-proclaimed in 2007 and was expanded towards the state border with Greece. [1]

[1] *Prespa Conservation Trust Fund Feasibility Study, WWW Greece*

Prespa refers also to two freshwater lakes which together with their surrounding mountains constitute an area distinguished by perhaps the greater diversity of life forms to be found anywhere in Europe:

- **Great Prespa** covering an area of 259.4 km2, shared by AL, GR and MK. In MK it was re-proclaimed as Monument of Nature in 2011.
- **Small Prespa** covering an area of 47.7 km2, divided by GR and AL[2].

Ezerani Nature Park (MK) covers an area of 19.18 km2 and it was re-proclaimed in 2012 under the managerial responsibility of the Municipality of Resen.[3] Ezerani Nature Park & Prespa Lake Monument (MK) together cover an area of 195.46 km2.

The **Transboundary Prespa** Park (TPP) was established in 2000, with an informal institutional scheme operating for 10 years until a quadrilateral agreement on the official operation of the park was signed in 2010. The formal institutions of the park have been in limbo since then, due to lack of ratification, a situation which has only very recently changed, with Greece finally ratifying in the spring of 2017[4].

WPA is inhabited by approximately 24,000 people: 5,600 in Albania, 17,000 in MK and 1,560 in GR. It also preserves various **monuments** and the **archaeological** data show that people have lived in the Prespa valley for over four thousand years, but documented human presence does not emerge until the 2nd century BC. With its amazing coastline, plethora of bays, extraordinary pure water, pristine nature and its setting between three national parks, Prespa is truly a place one must visit.

Effective operation of the Protected Areas significantly depends on support from local communities that is, to certain extent, predetermined by the opinion of local population in relation to the impact the PAs have on their well-being. Understanding the essence and causes for conflict between the PAs and local communities is a precondition for its resolution and reaching a consensus that should involve all stakeholders concerned[5].

The study on conflict assessment in WPA is based on the transboundary report by PrespaNET “Review of Conservation Efforts” which provides an up-to-date picture of the situation with regard to the biodiversity of the WPA as well as elucidating the major conservation challenges and needs of the area and offering an inventory of potential interventions to meet these needs. To further enhance the information deep discussions were held with PAs staff in the WPA, which are in day to day management of the natural resources to find out the existing and potential conflicts on those areas at different levels, their causes and several recommendations on how to resolve them. Meetings were organized with PAs of AL and MK except Prespa in Greece as KFW can finance grants only in Al and MK. However, with the great input given by SPP, the results of the table can be a resource for interested stakeholders in GR who want to play a constructive role in avoiding or solving potential protected area conflicts in their future activities/ projects.

In addition, several consultation meetings were held with local, regional and national stakeholders and the final product is a table of conflict which is the core of this document. It envisages a mechanism of measures to prevent and avoid negative impact, improvement of situations in conflict areas and involvement of local community in benefitting from sustainable use of natural resources. The mitigation measures are an important part aimed to be implemented through the proposals of beneficiaries, Environmental Actors (EAs) and PAs via PONT granting scheme.

[2] www.pont.org

[3] *Review of conservation efforts, PrespaNET, 2016*

4 Review of conservation efforts, PrespaNET, 2016

[5] CNF Conflict assessment

Methodology

WPA is one ecosystem and the approach chosen for drafting the conflict assessment was to make one conflict assessment through an inclusive process rather than doing a conflict assessment for each grantee as requested by the donor. The process was based on the development of dialogue and partnerships through the main actors, such as Local Government Units (LGUs), public institutions, civil society at local and national levels. It was characterized by transparency and continuous exchange of information in order to build mutual understanding between all parties on the sustainable use of natural resources and the result of this is the table of conflict.

The study was prepared over an 10-month period, starting May 2017. To achieve its goal the conflict assessment was developed in four steps through a consultation process of key stakeholders working in WPA for many years. A great number of actors and participants have contributed to all steps of the process (see annex IV). Their will and commitment have been very decisive for the development of the document.

Step 1- Data gathering. During this phase, a conflict cases table for all 3 countries (AL, MK, GR) was prepared. The focus was more on technical aspects of nature conservation efforts, threats and challenges. The main information in the table was drawn from the report "Review of Conservation Efforts" developed by PrespaNet NGO network. The latter consists of three non-governmental organisations: the Macedonian Ecological Society (MES) in the fYR of Macedonia, the Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania (PPNEA) and the Society for the Protection of Prespa in Greece (SPP). The review was commissioned by WWF Greece on behalf of PONT and aspires to provide an up-to-date picture of the situation with regard to the biodiversity of the WPA and the main threats it is presently facing, as well as elucidating the major conservation challenges and needs of the area and offering an inventory of potential interventions to meet these needs. The document identifies around 100 proposed actions to be implemented for five main categories of the priority conservation needs and challenges in the coming years: 1. Protection and management of water resources; 2. Sustainable forest management and practices; 3. Sustainable agriculture; 4. Conservation of priority species; 5. Conservation of landscape and priority habitats. The consultative process took place in 2016 and the review was done based on and using the Open standards for conservation methodology.

Step 2- Preparatory meetings with PAs and EAs. In this phase, a desk research was conducted combined with meetings with EAs, PAs management staff (PNP, Pelister NP, Galičica NP and Municipality of Resen) and with high representation from 3 countries. The focus of the discussions was more on policy/institutional level in addition to the technical input gathered in step 1 in order to agree on the existing conflicts, identify new ones, possible mitigation measures and the role of each party concerned in solving the problem. These meetings served to have a better synergy of the information with local and central level policies and actions and to synchronize those in the future with proposals and other projects/donors working in the area.

Step 3 – Consultation process. The participation of local stakeholders was further extended through consultation processes for reaching compromise for conflict resolution in WPA through proposals *on mitigation measure* and recommendations agreed. Consultations were organized through online communication with high representatives in three countries, individuals/representatives of organisations with understanding and experience in Prespa and by organizing workshops in MK and AL by MES and PPNEA (KFW is funding only these two countries through the granting scheme). However, through the extensive inputs by SPP in the process the results can also be used for the Greek part of the WPA which is encouraged by PONT. Participants in the workshops were representatives from local public institutions, management staff of PAs, EAs in the area, community groups, donors, etc. It is always a challenge to bring them together around the same table and have the engagement of all these stakeholders so that everyone brings in his/her experience and expertise, for the purpose of identifying joint solutions and real actions.

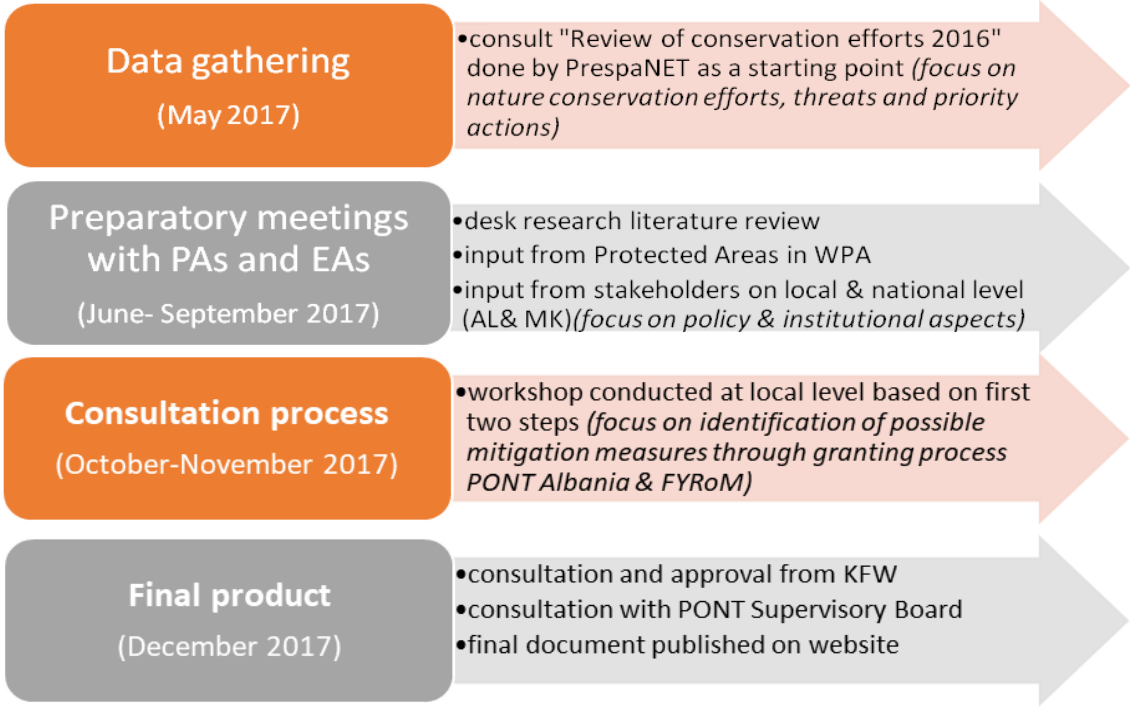
At the same time, it is also very important to include gender issues as part of the process of conflict management. Especially in rural areas, women are very active and involved in addressing environmental problems. They are dedicated and easily to talk to as their traditional focus on family makes them sensitive to concerns on health and local economic development. Specifically, in the Albanian part of the WPA, women are often left alone to do the work as their husbands leave to seek for employment in the neighbouring countries for certain part of the years.

The role of EAs is very important to inform and involve citizens in policy and decision-making processes and in mitigating conflict cases. State institutions also need support and expertise from EAs, as most of them have more hands-on experience in international collaboration and are more familiar with European values and approaches than most civil servants. Through granting PONT will support beneficiaries in a long-term process by having a focus on coalition building among PAs, local EAs, communities and other stakeholders to develop concrete local actions for improving quality of life locally by using sustainable management of nature resources. Besides the implementation of activities based on nature conservation, granting will help EAs and PAs to build their capacities, improve their internal financial and project management and monitoring systems. PONT would like to promote the inclusion of youth and a gender balance by having equal opportunity of participation by women and men in the activities and stimulating participation from both genders through participatory approaches and tools.

In the conflict assessment document causes of conflicts are also described on policy, transboundary and local level per each country and between countries. During the consultation process a mitigation table was prepared containing detailed recommendations/mitigation measures. At local level mitigation measures have been addressed through activities developed during the local workshops. These inputs can be found in Annex II & III of this document and beneficiaries of both countries (Al & MK) can consult them during grant proposal writing for addressing proper conflicts. The implementation of mitigation measures to prevent or solve potential conflicts will be an important part of the activities.

Step 4 – Final product. The final draft of conflict assessment document is reviewed in consultation with KFW and shared with the Supervisory board of PONT. The document is published on the official webpage of PONT and will be presented and used in different occasions and activities of EAs and PAs in the future.

Methodology Chart:



Results: Table of conflicts and entire table including proposed mitigation measures

This table provides a summary of conflicts in Prespa area at policy, transboundary and local level. Most of the conflicts have as main causes balancing of the needs of local people and sustainable use of natural resources as well as involvement of local people and stakeholders in the process of planning and decision making in the PAs.

Level	Conflicts						
Policy level	Differences between the states (stages of development on nature protection; environmental policies and mandates)	Neglect of cultural and environment aspects in planning and decision-making at central level	Cross institutional conflicts between different state institutions/authorities with different mandates over the region (ex. MoE vs MoA, etc)	No clear role and responsibilities of local authorities in planning and executing their functions with respect to nature conservation	Limited implementation of legal framework	Overlap of project and activities	Disagreement between government (national and local) and NGOs
Transboundary level	Non-alignment of priorities in between countries for the region						
Local level							
Protection and management of water resources	Water resources not properly managed						
Sustainable protected area and forest management	Use/illegal use of timber/wood resources of the Protected Areas	Unsustainable use of pasturelands within the PA					
Sustainable agriculture	Unsustainable practices in agriculture development	Land transformation - Rural development policies in conflict with the conservation objectives of the area					
Conservation of priority Species	Human-wildlife conflicts	Illegal fishing	Illegal hunting not in line with the objectives of the Protected areas	Illegal use & over use of resources (e.g. unsustainable collection of tree species, flowers and plants)			
Conservation of Landscape and priority Habitats	Priorities of local government and communities not in line	Different management regimes of socio-	Conflict between local government and communities				

	with conservation	ecological systems					
Community engagement	Insufficient ownership, involvement and beneficiation of the local community in conservation						

Potential Conflicts in Prespa Region[6]

Potential Conflicts	Cause of Conflict	Proposed Mitigation measures/ recommendations	Country/ Beneficiary
I. Policy level			
a) Differences between the states (stages of development on nature protection; environmental policies and mandates)	▪ Difficulties in co-operation at state level ▪ Long-standing political differences between the states, largely at bilateral level' resulting in e.g. lack of common monitoring and sharing of data among countries; ▪ Policy and legislation at different level of approximation with the EU ▪ Economic and social (including cultural) differences ▪ Lack of political will to work on solutions to identified problems	(i) Identifying and promoting common values of Prespa littoral countries. (ii) Sharing of data among countries, especially concerning natural resource management, tourism or other forms of economic development can lead to provide a rationale for developing local level initiatives, and can influence the relevant authorities to lend support to the proposed TBPA. (iii) working towards harmonisation of policies and legislation, coordinated planning and protected area development *(iv)Three countries/ states have to cooperate together to implement signed/ratified agreements and cross border institutional bodies*	*Pelister National[7] Park (NP)*
b) Neglect of cultural and environment aspects in planning and decision-making at central level	▪ Insufficient capacities and knowledge on cultural and environmental values at policy level	(i) Effort should be made at policy level to: a. the strengthening of human capital, particularly amongst young people; b. the incorporation of environmental values in productive and social processes; and c. the strengthening of social and institutional capital.	

[6] *The basis of this table of conflict has been the PrespaNet report filled out with the input from stakeholders on local, regional and national level.*

[7] *Writing in italic letters presents input from the meetings with National Parks in Al, MK, NAPA, RAPA and Municipality of Resen*

c) Conflicts between different state institutions/authorities with different mandates over the region	▪ Absence of adequate mechanism of cross-coordination and trans sectoral dialogue between different institutions	(i) Implement mechanisms to bring different state institutions together for the protection of the region	
d) No clear role and responsibilities of local authorities in planning and executing their functions with respect to nature conservation	▪ A mixture of lack of appropriate legislation, diverse jurisdiction in different services result in lack of effectiveness in many of local authorities ▪ Environment issue not a priority for local authorities ▪ Municipalities have no legal responsibility and clear roles for PAs.	(i) Improved clarification of roles and responsibilities and alignment of various plans through formal and informal coordination mechanisms. (ii) Environmental protection for local institutions should be aligned with authorities wider strategic planning on the future development of the area.	AL
e) Limited implementation of legal framework	▪ The implementation of legal frameworks is challenged by limited human and financial resources, but above all by the lack of political will at central and local administration level. More specifically, the role of national parks is not recognized as a crucial factor in achieving sustainable development, as conservation goals are not important for everyone. ▪ Absence of adequate law coordination and discrepancy within Biodiversity, Fishery, Water use legal frame and overall policy. ▪ Some legal acts do not take into consideration the needs and the rights of community to use natural resources,	Resolve the law discrepancy on central level and thereafter promote integrative bylaws at the local level Mainstream biodiversity conservation into other sectoral policies	AL Prespa NP AL
f) Overlap of project and activities	▪ Donor coordination and synergies among projects are missing.	(i) Organisation of donor meeting to present the PONT 5 years strategy and the conflict assessment to improve coordination	MK/AL
g) Disagreement between government (national and local) and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)	▪ State institutions do not always sufficiently involve NGOs in planning, drafting legal framework and/or working groups or evaluation committees, etc.	(i) Revive/ continue mechanism that brings together civil society, state authorities and other stakeholders for the protection of the environment such as Wetland Management Committee-GR, Ezerani Council-MK, and National Park Management Committee-AL *(ii) Involve NGOs, local organisations and community people as much as possible through participatory processes in forest management.* *(iii) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) /agreement between SPP, MES, PPNEA and the state institutions on who is doing what* (iv) Enhance the dialogue between the government and non-	*Pelister NP*

		government representatives and community leaders (including young professionals and students) and define the roles and opportunities for cooperation	*AL*
	▪ *Not enough information and understanding of NGOs how the state institutions operate*	*(i) More communication should be ensured from both sides, NGOs and state institutions* (ii) Staff of state institutions and NGOs should share experiences and knowledge through joint activities	*Pelister NP*
	▪ Government development plans fail to take into account conservation and its value for sustainable socio-economic development	(i) Support socio-economic impact studies for development plans, which examine the true social and environmental costs of plans and propose more sustainable, and often more cost-effective, alternatives (there have been plenty of joint planning documents developed and adopted for the Prespa Park which need to be analysed and perhaps updated but most of all implemented) (ii) Each side must interpret and justify their values and agreed on common points to be engaged in solution.	
	▪ *In order to have the control on activities developed in the country the Government in MK needed the NGO sector and started supporting them. While NGOs should be independent and represent the voice of the public*	*(i) Steps might be taken to involve representatives from NGOs, as part/ member of the Forum for environment if it is revived again and start work with them in small-scale activities by avoiding politic interventions.*	*Galichica NP*
II. Transboundary level			
Non-alignment of priorities in between countries for the region	▪ Absence of official communication, coordination and common planning on a transboundary level (especially with regard to managing transboundary protected areas) leads to fragmented planning in which implementation, resource gaps and climate change are not sufficiently addressed. ▪ Lack of understanding of the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services and priorities more focused on economic development and poverty alleviation. ▪ *Insufficient cooperation among institutional bodies between countries (fragmented sharing of data and documents for taking joint actions; possible differences in monitoring methods)*	(i)Top and foremost measure at the institutional level should be the implementation of the 2010 Prespa Park Agreement after its recent ratification and the establishment and operation of permanent joint institutions (ii) The compilation of a priority list of research, monitoring, studies would be very helpful in order to identify gaps, priorities and the very necessary technical support for management efforts in transboundary Prespa. (iii) Establishment of an active and permanent scientific network that should be promoted and organised for the WPA. (vi) Create common on-line platform (blog) for exchange of information; raising issues, including all stakeholders (v) Capacity building programs developed and implemented	*Municipality of Resen*

	▪ The uneven distribution of economic resources, lack of integration of environmental values in socio-economic activity	(e.x. action on climate change) (vi) Assess the implementation and resource gaps of existing transboundary plans; update the existing transboundary plans as required; mainstream climate change into updated plans.	

Some specific examples for improved understanding:

- Institutional measures and a high-level mandate are required for long-term **water management** in transboundary basins;
- Common monitoring of **forests** in the WPA particularly for those that are located in the national parks, to collect meaningful data on forests biodiversity and management. Preparation work must be done in each of the three littoral countries to describe and organize the kinds of management that are being implemented that will also benefit wildlife and biodiversity;
- A better understanding of **large carnivores or rare bird species** movements in the WPA, as well as in areas outside Prespa, will greatly improve conservation efforts.
- Preserving **wetlands**, and their ecological functions, in a good status requires a new transboundary wetland vegetation management system, continuing and expanding efforts at transboundary level in many more areas;
- Involving and benefiting **local people** and work with peoples and communities concerned to identify the shared values and interests that can support nature conservation and sustainable resource use, and which also form the basis for co-operation among communities and with Transboundary Protected Area (TBPA) institutions);
- Restore the **Trilateral Prespa Park Management Committee.**

III. Local level

Some specific examples for improved understanding:

- Protected areas in Prespa face many challenges in their **management effectiveness**. Managers of protected areas, and other involved staff, need to be supported in scientific knowledge, skills, capacities and tools to effectively respond to the requirements of their work. Protected areas have insufficient funding and recognition of the importance and cannot rely on own income generation as the main objective of protected areas is conservation. Park should involve **young professionals and biologists** beside the ones of forestry for a better park management and monitoring in the future;
- In case of Albania (AL), country is divided in 6 mega River Basin (RB), and Prespa is part of Semani. The RB councils are mostly concentrated in water use for irrigation purposes, river mining permits, etc. In the current situation Prespa is left aside, while naturally it has not at all any connection with Semani;
- Studying and monitoring the current **socio-economic and societal trends** in local communities and connecting them with their environmental impact, whether positive or negative at basin level is very important;
- Long-term engagement, a systematic approach, technical support for **farmers**, particularly with regard to sustainable production, marketing, labelling, the establishment and operation of producers' groups, the diversification of products, and the use of farmland by-products are needed;
- Identify **local community leaders** from various target groups to collaborate with on sharing common values on nature conservation and sustainable resource use.
- Promoting coordinated and co-operative activities and build on previous **mitigations measures** at local level Government, Fire Fighting authorities, water administration, farmers, etc;
- Threat from **climate change** it is considered to be very high in the WPA, though actually due to lack of research which is specific to the area. Whilst there are indications of the negative effects of climate change on species and habitats, more research is needed in order to determine the magnitude and impact of the effects in the WPA.

Mitigation activities on local level:

During the consultation process to prepare the conflict assessment document, mitigation measures to address conflicts on policy, transboundary and local level have been proposed. At local level mitigation measures have been addressed through activities developed during the local workshops organized in Albania and FYR of Macedonia with the participation of representatives from government units, public institutions, NGOs, RAPA, National Park Administration, etc. These activities can be found in Annex II & III of this document and beneficiaries of both countries (Al & MK) can consult them during grant proposal writing for addressing potential conflicts.

1. Protection and management of water resources			
a) Water resources not properly managed	▪ *Absence of coordination among institutional bodies(MK)* ▪ *Insufficient enforcement of planning documents in place on water management (transposed by EU Directives)* ▪ The existing Prespa Lake Watershed Management Plan for MK as part of the catchment area has not been consulted with the other littoral countries.	*(i) Create a mechanism among institutions to share data to improve management of water resources* (ii) Develop a Transboundary Prespa Lake Watershed Management Plan	*Municipality of Resen* MK
	▪ Limited transboundary information exchange, dialogue and co-ordination	(i) Research, studies and experimentation to fill in knowledge gaps on water issues (ii) Preparation of integrated water management plans through an integrated river basin management approach, addressing the degradation of ecosystems and the reality of human needs on all sides is needed based on EU Water Directive. (iii) Implementation of the 2010 transboundary Agreement, especially its provisions on water protection and management (iv) Funding and operation of the Transboundary Working Group for Water	
	▪ Unsustainable use of water resource by local communities ▪ Insufficient water management tariffs to cover costs and investments ▪ *Insufficient awareness raising*	*(i) Develop water use plans (internal regulations) between local people to manage the resources* *(ii) Development of a good tourism mechanism will increase local economy and change people mentality and behaviour toward sustainable use of all nature resources, in this case water.* (iii) Develop irrigation system and drinking water. (iv) Test the effects of the tariff regulation set by the Regulatory Commission and replicate good practices (if any) in other littoral countries (v) Raise the public awareness on the need to use water more efficiently; establish economic instruments to incentivize	*Pelister NP,* Municipality of Resen – Lake Prespa, Monument of Nature, Ezerani Nature Park, AL

		prudent water resources` use	
	▪ Low water level caused by different factors like global warming, construction of Hydro Power Plants (HPP) where biological minimum is not maintained, illegal private water pumps, etc. ▪ *Problems with the quantity of water especially in the summer to ensure the minimal flow of water for the fish because in two rivers there are specific endemic species (Trout).* ▪ High pressure over the ecological status of water bodies Including point and diffuse sources of pollution, such as agriculture)	*(i) Should be a common decision and coordination from two countries for discharge of water between greater Prespa and Lesser Prespa* (ii) *NP tried to solve the problem with quantity of water by creating good relations with the owners of the companies.* (iii) Implementation of water-saving measures in all sectors and all countries; priority should obviously be given to the use for irrigation *(iv)* Establish monitoring mechanism for inspecting the operations of small hydropower plans in protected areas	*Prespa NP Al,* Municipality of Resen – Lake Prespa, *Pelister NP* Monument of Nature, Ezerani Nature Park,
	▪ Current unsustainable irrigation practices (e.g. due to the lack of appropriate infrastructure) are undeniably the main culprit for extensive runoff and soil erosion (Use of illegal private water pumps, etc.) ▪ Lack of irrigation system in Pustec municipality (Al)	(i) Construction of a drip irrigation system in Greece (GR*)* (ii) Improve irrigation practices by raising the awareness and incentivize water saving irrigation practices by use of economic instruments	GR MK
	▪ Inappropriate and poor administration of local waste management by Local Government (it is their responsibility) ▪ No proper waste management practice and facilities in place; ▪ *Insufficient human resources in the park to assist and ensure meeting and communication with the community* ▪ Limited local municipal budget and human capacity to manage urban waste ▪ Low level of awareness among local communities	*(i) Infrastructure development; management systems in place. As it is required by the law and strategy on waste management municipality should start separation of wastes in the source.* *(ii) Municipality should try to have a cooperation with regional waste project* (iii) Improve planning and waste management operations Reform of the waste management tariff (iv) Increase local authorities' capacity and means for waste management (v)Awareness raising/ environmental education campaigns (vi) Community based projects on waste disposal techniques and recycling methods	*Prespa NP Al* *Pelister NP* GR
	▪ Discharge of untreated or inadequately treated sewage, whilst untreated sewage also contributes to diffuse groundwater pollution. ▪ *Waste water treatment within the park is missing* ▪ *No proper waste water sewerage*		*Pelister NP*

2. Sustainable protected area and forest management			
a) Use/illegal use of timber/wood resources of the PAs	▪ Absence of adequate planning of sustainable use of forest resources; ▪ Forest Management Plans do not incorporate sustainability aspects and are not always well aligned with the Management Plans for the Protected Areas.	(i) Research is needed to fill in knowledge gap for improvement of forest management plans, including provisions for the increase of heterogeneity, improved management practices, new management objectives such as habitat values, biodiversity enhancement, forest regeneration and protection of mature stands and individual trees; (ii) Amend the law on forestry to incorporate sustainability and biodiversity conservation issues (iii) Revision and implementation of the Grecian Juniper Forest Action Plan at transboundary level (iv) Capacity-building projects for managers on sustainable forestry management and monitoring, including the sustainable exploitation of non-timber products. (v) Create/pilot integrated forest management, as a tool for nature protection and fulfilling different needs of nature and people	MK
	▪ Limiting local population's access to timber/wood for their social needs – they depend on firewood for heating and fuel ▪ Lack of alternative income for local population - *Transport of fire wood by using animal's is income for them and it is strictly business*	(i) Develop and share models which are based on forest management plans for organized production of firewood for local need (ii) Develop forest regeneration projects to increase firewood production for local community needs. (iii) Community-based projects for the sustainable exploitation of non-timber forest products; (vi) Community-based projects on alternative sources of heating based on reed and pellets and improved insulation of houses to decrease the demand for wood. *(v) It is necessary forest comes into a normal structure in order to see possibilities for economic exploitation* *(vi) Law enforcement for illegal activities and NP does not have enough power on stopping these activities.* *(vii) A coordination and controlling mechanism among institutions of two countries should be agreed and function* (viii) Develop rural development plans to increase incomes and employment in PAs.	AL *Prespa NP AL* *Galičica NP*

	▪ *Self-sustainability of the parks not relevant- the main source of financing of the protected areas is from direct use of the forest as a natural resource* ▪ National Parks generate income from firewood marketing ▪ *People working for nature conservation are not fully involved in the preparation of the forest management plans*	*(i) Government should regulate the source of financing for the protected areas;* (ii) Diversify the sources of funding for National Parks *(iii) Integrate the forest management plans in the protected area management plan in a sustainable manner*	*Galichica NP* MK *Pelister NP*
	▪ *Park does not have enough power on illegal activities* ▪ *Illegal cutting is present in Prespa NP AL*	*(i) Government of Albania should stop illegal cutting within the boundaries of Galičica* *(ii) Involvement of local people in the community projects developed to avoid illegal cutting.*	*Galičica NP* *Prespa NP AL*
b) Unsustainable use of pasturelands within the PA	▪ *There is no active management of pastures*		*Galičica NP*
	▪ Intensive cattle grazing ▪ Non-intensive sheep and goat grazing; ▪ Lack of PA capacity for controlling/managing the upland grazing areas ▪ Difficulties and problems with contracting grazing plots in the upland areas (NAPA) and other actors); ▪ Unsustainable pasture management-shepherds and farmers do not cooperate	(i) Review and adjustment of forest management policies regarding grazing as a management tool. (ii) Develop pasture management plans in PAs. (iii) Involve the management of PAs and NGOs in local development planning (iii) Local awareness-raising campaigns aimed at local stakeholders and decision-makers on the value of the forests of Prespa, the use of grazing as a forest management tool (to increase biodiversity and to avoid wildfires) and the sustainable use of the non-timber forest products; (iv) Develop policies and implement projects for refused lands. *(v) In order to save the nature and improve areas in the park it needs rotation of the areas where the grazing takes place in order to revitalise the ones that are damaged.*	MK *Prespa NP AL*
3. Sustainable agriculture			
a) unsustainable practices in agricultural development	▪ *Organic agriculture activities bring small incomes* -Yield of agricultural products varying upon weather conditions; losses occur during droughts, storms and frosts when trees are in blossom -Livestock loss due to diseases and wolf attacks	*(i)Exploration of other sources like cultivation of medicinal plants, forest wood, for biomass, etc.* *(ii) 400 ha refused land belonging to grazing land can be exploited for planting medicinal plants* *(iii) Strengthen and enlargement of Prespa Marketing Organisation with other farmers by trying to build partnership and also a mechanism to regulate the way of doing things as a group of people.*	*Prespa NP AL*

		(iv) Insurance schemes for crops and orchards	MK
	▪ The overuse and abuse of fertilizers and pesticides, overloads the lakes with nutrients and agrochemicals.	(i) Pilot projects on the diversification of primary sector activities through experimentation with cultivation methods and crops less dependent on agro-chemicals and their promotion though marketing ; (ii) Raise the awareness of sustainable fertilization practices and use of pesticides; train local farmers; improve inspection; improve cooperation with hydro meteorological services to adjust the use pesticides to the weather conditions	Municipality of Resen – Lake Prespa, Monument of Nature, Ezerani Nature Park
	▪ Low knowledge and awareness raising of community to use sustainable practices in farming and pasture	(i) Community-based pilot projects aiming at cultivation and marketing of alternative organic crops, ecotourism and/or agro-tourism initiatives, organisational setting of groups of producers, study on best marketing techniques for organic produce in Prespa; (ii) Community-based projects for infrastructure required for sustainable agricultural management and grazing	
	▪ Unsustainable burning practices – insufficient knowledge of (or possibly disregard of) the impacts of uncontrolled burning ▪ Abandoned pastures generate expansion of reed beds, which are burned by the local population.	(i) Management of vegetation in drainage ditches targeting biodiversity of HNVF areas *(ii) New project starting soon which will enable use of reedbeds for pellets for the heating (a feasibility study will be prepared for the sustainable use of reedbed*	*Municipality of Resen*
	▪ *Insufficient enforcement of law - Ranger inspection and monitoring are playing an important role to decrease the incidents.* ▪ *Not effective procedures in place for punishment*		*Municipality of Resen* *Pelister NP*
b) Land transformation - Rural development policies in conflict with the conservation objectives of the area	▪ Lack of Rural development policies ▪ Land use planning in conflict with the Protected areas` conservation regimes ▪ Cadastre data not updated (Ministry of Agriculture find free land and prepare the process to call for agriculture use, while the land it is not in the registry)	(i) Initiating Rural Development practices oriented to conservation development (ii)Mapping of High Nature Value (HNV) farmland and development of HNV indicators at basin level and other research needed to fill in knowledge gaps (iii)Revision of Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for the sustainable development of the Prespa Park and implementation thereof	AL, MK, GR

		(iv)Improved, or completion of spatial planning in all three countries (v)Incorporation of conservation needs and ecosystem services approach in rural development policies; seeking sectoral co-operation among ministries and state authorities (vi)Promotion of incentives for traditional stockbreeding and HNV farming to decision-makers (vii)Establishment of a certification system for the Prespa Park products	
4. Conservation of priority species			
a) Human-wildlife conflicts	▪ Absence of adequate financial resources from state and management mechanisms for securing the livestock/property of population *(Wolf attack the livestock, bear, damaging bees, honey, etc);* ▪ Low level of information and awareness on the ecological attributes of conflict causing species; ▪ Conflict between fishermen and pelicans/cormorants as one that requires different approaches; ▪ Cormorants and Pelicans endangered by tourists	(i) Research needed to fill in knowledge gaps; (ii)Improved enforcement of regulations and laws in protected areas; (iii) Improving compensation systems for damage caused by large carnivores - insurance schemes for livestock; (vi) Increase of capacity of national park staff to manage the conservation of species versus the use by local people i.e. ensuring large enough zones for species and their prey without use by local people; (v) Development and implementation of species action plans; (v)Increase knowledge and awareness on large carnivores and other conflict causing species (otters, pelicans, cormorants, etc) *(vi) Build waterpoint since one of the causes why bear and wild boar go down to the villages is the need for drinking water;*	*Galičica Municipality* *Prespa NP AL*
	▪ Illegal killing (wolf but also mentioned the otter, three individuals killed in 2016/17)	(i) Improvement of law enforcement regarding wolf protection in AL and MK (ii) Law enforcement across all three countries;	Al/ MK Al/ MK/GR
b) Illegal fishing	▪ The differences and discrepancy among PAs and Fishery, respectively MoE and MoA in Albania ▪ There is no action plan in GR, nor are there any special rules except the general ones that apply throughout the country ▪ Fisheries` plans, adopted by the MoAFWE not taking into account the protection regimes defined in Management Plans of protected areas in MK	(i) Mainstream environmental protection into fisheries` plans and improve coordination between responsible ministries	AL Monument of Nature, Ezerani Nature Park MK

	▪ *Weak law enforcement (law on inspections on fishing);* ▪ *The whole mechanism of fishing is not functioning. There is always a conflict between institutions and stakeholders having separate responsibilities on management of water and fishery resources and incomes from these activities.*	*(ii) Enforcement of inspection law; Quotes for fishing to be based in investigation and monitoring activities of the fish stock in the lake.* *(iii) Development of regulations by concessioner which gives licenses to fishermen.*	*Municipality of Resen*
	▪ There is a considerable number of non-licensed fishermen (Al &MK), whom *benefit more from the fishery rather than licensed fisherman* ▪ *Ineffective communication and collaboration between fisherman and NP staff*	(i) Cooperation with the Association of fishermen in Prespa	*Prespa NP Al*
	▪ Local fisherman, local communities use unsustainable fishery practices. In GR the unsustainable practices relate mainly to illegal fishing gear and breaches of the closed season ▪ Cross-border fish trafficking –obviously illegal - is practiced to a great extent in recent years	(i) Comprehensive study on the ichthyofauna of the lakes, its status, threats and trends (ii) Preparation of an action plan with measures needed to protect ichthyofauna; implementation thereof (iii) Law enforcement (iv) Raise the awareness of local population on sustainable fisheries and benefits from ecosystem services	Al/ MK/GR
	▪ Introduction of non-native invasive fish species	(i) Research needed to fill in knowledge gaps (ii)Local awareness-raising campaigns aimed at local communities and decision-makers on the impacts of invasive fish species; (iii) Capacity building for national parks on planning and implementing conservation and monitoring; (iv)Special requirements -if not a ban- and restrictions regarding fish restocking (v)Development and implementation of species action plans	
c) Illegal hunting not in line with the objectives of the Protected areas	▪ *Weak low enforcement- Lack of controlling in the area near the border with Albania* ▪ *Not enough personnel to check and monitor the situation in the Park*	*(i)* Improved enforcement of regulations and laws on forest protection and management; (ii) *The proposed action can be removal of hogs/snares for animal poaching in the area close to the border (state border between two protected areas, Pogradec landscape).*	*Galičica NP* *Pelister NP*
	▪ Local community lacks awareness of the importance of maintaining healthy wildlife populations	(i) Awareness raising campaigns	

d) Illegal use & over use of resources (e.g. unsustainable collection of tree species, flowers and plants)	▪ Limited regulation and no awareness on sustainable use of so-called common good resources	(i) Community-based projects on sustainable use of natural resources, plant protection (cultivation of mountain tea or other pharmaceutical plants, volunteer groups for monitoring and protection of plants etc.)	
	▪ *Juniperus Excelsa it is a threatened species which can led to nature damage*	*(i) It needs investment through project to improve its situation.*	*Prespa NP AL*
5. Conservation of landscape and priority habitats			
a) Priorities of local government and communities not in line with conservation	▪ *There is a lot of pressure to the Park and Municipality to allow extension of urban areas mainly for the villages into the lake shore but also in Velestovo* ▪ *Park is against the big proposed investment with impact on nature resources and species as the case of Ski resort (Galičica is National Park (IUCN category II)*		*Galičica NP*
	▪ Insufficient spatial planning ▪ Unsustainable land use planning making pressure on protected areas, landscape and priority habitats ▪ Unsustainable use of mineral resources ▪ Development of unsustainable tourism infrastructure	(i) Create and update spatial plans and zonation for the landscape and protected areas (including tourism development) (ii) Improved land use planning and greater involvement of the public in the process of adoption of plans (iii) Improve enforcement of law on mineral resources (iv) Economic instruments to disincentive large tourism infrastructure in valuable landscapes and priority habitats	
	▪ Low level of involvement of local self-government and population in PAs Management	(i) Participatory protected area governance and management	
b) Different management regimes of socio-ecological systems	▪ Not enough knowledge and awareness of population about the value of ecosystems and the correlations with human wellbeing and biodiversity conservation;	(i) Research and studies to fill in knowledge gaps on habitats, landscapes, ecosystem services and socio-economic impacts	
c) Conflict between *local government and communities*	▪ *Not effective and corruptive procedures in place for punishment*		*Pelister NP*
	▪ *No proper communication and understanding between parks and municipalities*	*(i) Awareness and education with municipalities and advisers in the managing body of the parks can be improved in the future to have a clear picture.* (ii) Communication strategy/action plan agreed among the parties	*Pelister NP*
	▪ Low level knowledge, information and awareness of population	(i) Public awareness campaigns	

6. Community engagement			
a) Insufficient ownership, involvement and beneficiation of the local community in conservation	▪ Community has limited understanding of the value of conservation and of PAs ▪ The level of poverty is not in line with development of PAs. ▪ Community sees more restriction than profit from PAs management. ▪ Low interest of community in engaging in environmental protection, volunteerism or resistance to change of existing (unsustainable) practices	(i) information needs to be converted into community-based projects (e.g. for rural development), through which knowledge can be transformed into real experience, and thus incorporated into everyday life (ii) Conservation initiatives should invest and strongly boost initiatives by younger generations through the provision of technical support, as well as capacity building and pilot projects. (iii) The incorporation of traditional ecological knowledge into conservation and management empowers local communities and helps them to overcome distrust and reservations towards new approaches and pilot implementations.	
	▪ *Not effective mechanism for community engagement and participation* ▪ Local NGOs are not involved.	(i) Local participation in research and monitoring projects as well as in governance (collaborative governance) and management (collaborative management) structures of the PAs with some real tangible benefits for local people. *(ii) Define an institutional and/or local approach while involving people in participatory processes in order to have active participation* *(iii) Environmental education activities can help solve conflicts with local people and raise their awareness* *(vi) Development of a communication strategy and environmental education actions* *(v) Training of park personnel for communication with community*	*Municipality of Resen* *Galičica NP* *Prespa NP AL* *Pelister NP*

RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

Even though the WPA is one ecosystem each PA presents a different approach on the management, structure and also challenges they face. As such there are many different opinions between the countries, stakeholders, PA staff and communities and some aspects are only relevant for certain countries or areas which should be taken into account while reading the table of conflict. Specific conflicts are present only in one country as well as recommendations. Part of the table of conflict are derived from direct inputs from PAs in AL and MK, which are found in italic writing and are specific for those parks.

The recommendations and mitigation measures form a key element in the table of conflict. They will form the complementary part of the grant proposal activities of PONT beneficiaries and will address relevant conflicts in the area. Their implementation will aim to establish a cooperation among different interest groups with the aim of sustainable use of resources in PAs.

It can be concluded that this study will make a substantial contribution to the conservation of the natural resources of PAs and can be used as a working/ resource document for other protected areas in the region which are not subject to PONT financing scheme.

Next step to be the subject of particular attention:

- For at least the first 5 years, the implementation of mitigation measures should be based on the PONT strategy focused on four categories:

  Sustainable Protected Area and forest management and practices,
  Sustainable Use of Resources in PAs i.e. non-timber Forest Products (NTFPs); traditional grazing and recreation/tourism,
  Conservation of priority species (water birds, fish, large carnivores, bats, wild plants) and
  Conservation of Landscape & priority Habitats (wetlands; grasslands, caves and landscapes);

- PAs and EAs should include relevant mitigations measures linked to a certain category as part of their grant proposals;
- PAs and EAs should monitor and present results from implementation of mitigation measures;
- PONT strategy will be reviewed after 5 years of implementation based on which the table of conflict will be improved, if needed.

Annex I. STAKEHOLDER MAP of CONFLICT in WPA - It provides a structured way to identify stakeholders involved and explore how potential interactions among them may affect an issue. In the table are presented roles and contribution of all stakeholders in different levels can have, in development of PAs in WPA.

		Role	Interest	Contribution
Stakeholder		**What is their responsibility/ obligations**	**What is interest in the Prespa area?**	**What is the contribution in the Prespa area?**
National level	Government	-Development of Priorities of the country; -Institutionalization of structures to deal with nature protection	-Sustainable development of WPA; -Sustainable development of tourism; -Increase quality of life of local people;	-Policy and economic development -Support with human and financial resources -Provide access to nature resources
	Ministry of Environment and NAPA (AL)	Developing policies on protection and preservation of PAs based on government priorities;	-Protection, preservation and management of the PAs;	-Formulation of policies on nature protection and developing strategic documents. -NAPA manages and monitor the network of PAs and others like Natura2000 according to the management plans drafted;
	Line Ministries (Min of Agriculture, Min of Tourism, Min of Energy) and respective agencies (AL)	-Line ministries develop sub legal acts and administrative acts of law On Protected areas; -Implementing and monitoring agencies and inspectorates carry out regular inspections and oversight over how legal and sub legal acts for nature conservation and environmental rehabilitation monitoring have been implemented for activities carried out by different entities.	- Be in line with developments in nature conservation. Policies, strategies and plans should consider different aspects of economic development. - Institutions are related to environment management: National Coastal Management Agency, Regional Forest Service Directorates (which include Protected Areas sections in each district and a sector of Protected Areas of the region and to municipalities of the region), State Inspectorate of the Environment and Forestry, State Inspectorate for Water and Fishery. Agencies monitor development of activities in line with and respect to nature conservation	- integrate nature protection in development plans of line ministries; -Law enforcement - The specification of requirements and procedures for stakeholder identification and analysis within staff manuals and internal measures. -Monitoring of PAs - Reporting
	National population	-To conserve natural resources for today and future generations	-Tourism and economic development - Recreational activities	- Promotion of natural, cultural and historical values of PAs
Regional level	RAPA (AL)	-Improved management of the area and a role in management as government authority	-Protection, preservation and management of the PAs; -Ecotourism development;	-Protection, preservation and management of the PAs; -Ecotourism development;
Local level	PAs staff	The actors with the greatest decision-making power with respect to nature conservation issues and Park management.	-Protection, preservation and management of the PAs; -Ecotourism development;	Park Authority can play a crucial role, supporting the resolution of conflicts related to the overlapping of planning and management instruments

	EAs (NGOs, local authorities, universities, research institutes, local community organizations, and other groups).	- Municipalities have the role to improve management of the area and a role in management as government authority. In Albania, they have forest administration under their responsibility, which when it falls under Protected areas they have to follow/implement and coordinate with PA management plans. -Organizations and associations actively engaged in environmental issues are crucial mediators between the Park and local people, influencing the perception and interests of the public. - Universities and research institutes have access rights to all areas of the site to conduct scientific research.	-The ownership and management of the national forestry and pasture fund has been transferred to the administration and ownership of the municipalities. Only the part of the areas of protected areas and green crowns of the cities has been left out of this legal regulation. Adoption of green crowns will affect the design of a more efficient and realistic land-use planning of each municipality, eliminating any potential problematic areas. -NGOs develop activities/ actions on nature conservation; environmental education, community engagement, etc. -Universities and research institutes have interest in development of researches, studies and projects in the area	-Municipalities are part of management committees to follow the implementation of the PA management plans - In (AL) good cooperation and coordination among structures (municipalities, NAPA, RAPA) it is required as all necessary interventions for the regeneration and health of the forest are realized only if they are foreseen in the management plan and with the approval of NAPA -Organizations and associations actively engaged in environmental issues are crucial mediators between the Park and local people, influencing the perception and interests of the public. - The documentation and dissemination of experiences gained and results obtained. -Universities and research institutes have access rights to all areas of the site to conduct scientific research.
	Community	-To conserve natural resources for today and future generations	-Increase access to nature resources; -Enabling profit and improve quality of life	- Assist in protection, conservation and monitoring activities -Participating in decision making processes
	Local business (firms, farmers, fishery organizations, tourism operators, timber wood producers, etc.,)	- Local businesses help in economic development of Prespa Area -Protection from erosion, landslides, flooding.	-Increase access to nature resources; -Access to adequate supplies of clean water -Development of local business -Revenue earning opportunities from forests -Social and economic opportunities through use of local resources and employment in forest management initiatives	- Enable sustainable fishery, agriculture and tourism practices; - Promotion and marketing of local products - Promotion of natural, cultural and historical values of WPA - Attend planning meetings - Help with public relations - Help with zoning
International community	Donor & International organizations	Support biodiversity conservation through activities having focused on building the capacity necessary to support sound environmental management and biodiversity conservation in Albania	Support biodiversity conservation through activities having focused on building the capacity necessary to support sound environmental management and biodiversity conservation	-Assist and sustain government in achieving strategic objectives and targets set on regard to nature protection. - support EAs in developing projects, programs and activities aiming protection and conservation of nature resources

Annex II. Input from local workshop in Albania

Category	Conflict	Example of mitigation measure
Protection and management of water resources	Water resources not properly managed	• Activities for managing the dried river beds, so that during the flood periods pollution does not reach the lake; • Preparation of a study on the impact that the individual wells have on underground water resources; • Drafting and implementation of the plan of measures of sewerage system • Creation and operation of wastewater treatment plants • Awareness activities for prohibition of the use of pesticides in agricultural lands near the lake • Respecting the law on cross border lakes (MoU among communities of Lesser Prespa Lake) • Expertise/ activities on continuous monitoring of drinking water and lake water quality • Imposing penalties for drinking water abusers (Law enforcement) • The Municipality should continuously maintain/clean underground water resources which serves to the community's water supply • Community awareness through meetings, training for the efficient management of water resources • Improvement of the system of streams and springs (construction of drywall water works - dams) • Design and implementation of a 24-hour drinking water supply plan
Sustainable protected area and forest management	Use/illegal use of timber/wood resources of the Protected Areas	• Information and awareness raising of community to prepare firewood in or before early spring (March), in order trees spend a natural drying season that will lower moisture with 20% and their specific weight for a better burning. This will reduce the forest cutting amount. • Local initiatives on production of leaf for livestock, through works for improvement of forests • Pilot activities for use of renewable energy. • Awareness activities for complete exploitation of biomass • Application of new technologies for wood utilization (sorting of wood material) • Investment in the park to improve its status on forest protection
	Unsustainable use of pasturelands within the PA	• Stimulation of livestock movements in the traditional use area for the elimination of overexploitation of pastures near residential areas. • Drafting a plan for rational use of forests for livestock (organization of livestock far from the lake) • Construction of wetlands (aquatic basins) for wild animals • Adaptation of livestock types according to specific areas • Avoiding over-grazing by respecting the capacity of pasture plots • Prepare and implement a grazing plan in the forests (determination of areas allowed for grazing) • Improvement of existing and new water ponds in function of wild fauna and community livestock

Sustainable agriculture	Unsustainable practices in agriculture development	• Inclusion of women NGOs in training on sustainable agriculture management • Support with subsidy to invest in agriculture with low-impact on environment • Support for farmers in the area in finding inputs (seeds, seedlings, walnut, etc.) • Consultations and information meetings between Directorate of Agriculture and farmers of the area • Study of the area on relevant and appropriate specific crops (developing surveys/ expertise / involve community) • Commitment of local government to promote sustainable agricultural practices • Promotion, certification of agricultural products of Prespa National Park
	Land transformation - Rural development policies in conflict with the conservation objectives of the area	• Cooperation between the Municipality, Directorate of Agriculture and Regional Administration of Protected Areas (RAPA) for the sustainable use of pastures and landscapes • Farm land fund defined as "rejected land" should be returned to their natural destination and afforested • Activities for systematic cleaning of stones in agricultural lands. • Support for drafting the local development plan and addressing the local conflicts (expertise) • Rehabilitation of water ponds on pasture grounds in order to provide water for livestock / wild fauna in order to remove livestock from grazing nearby the lake • Cultivation of native medicinal herbs on the refused land by giving subsidies
Conservation of priority species	Human-wildlife conflicts	• Development of a process for assessing damages caused and their registration (data) • Prepare a study in the area for estimation of wildlife number - the tendency of damages and continuous monitoring of wild fauna • Providing technical support to livestock / farmers / beekeepers to prevent damage from large carnivores • Drafting legislation on community support / compensation from wildlife • Placing of warning signs to prevent the risk from wild animals and protective measures (nets)
	Illegal fishing	• Training sessions with fishermen of the area for sustainable fishing and definition of fishing quotas • Introduction of fishing techniques and practices that avoid capturing endangered species • Cleaning the lake from the nets that are abandoned got stuck in the deep level of the lake • Continuous monitoring and the application of penalties • Awareness of fishermen to monitor illegal fishing • Construction of a basin for multiplication of endemic species • Removal of fencing (constructions) by the lake shore (removing garden fences)
	Illegal hunting not in line with the objectives of the Protected areas	• Organization of informative meeting with hunters to respects moratorium and monitors illegal hunting. • Strengthen the enforcement of legal measures (ensure enforcement and collection of fines) for the prohibition of illegal hunting • Strengthening and support of environmental guards with additional persons during the winter

		period • Continuing studies using camera traps • Blocking and recording of all firearms • Increase the capacity of RAPA technical staff for the management of wild fauna and hunting process
	Illegal use & over use of resources (e.g. unsustainable collection of tree species, flowers and plants)	• Uncontrolled, unplanned, irrational grazing – degrading factor of some of the Park's surfaces. Joint activities for eliminating this phenomenon can be developed with Park administration and 'Friends of Prespa' Association • Preparation of a study for determining the potentialities for collecting medicinal herbs • Pilot activities for stimulating the cultivation of native herbs • Estimation of refused lands and support for their use on cultivation of medicinal and aromatic herbs • Preservation of existing habitats for the rare aromatic nut species (hazel / almond) and taking measures for their regeneration • Development of community training for the proper collection of medicinal plants and creation of a database (Registration of individuals)
Conservation of Landscape and priority habitats	Priorities of local government and communities not in line with conservation	• Conservation of aquatic and terrestrial habitats of special importance • Awareness raising of community and municipality on terrestrial control for not allowing the loss of biodiversity and minimization of impact on landscape • Activities for promotion of landscape values and importance (application of a safer tourism) • Local government and RAPA develop information session on biodiversity values of the area and development of a sustainable tourism • The bare part, the grey landscape (the hills on Pustec area) should be strictly protected for a certain period of time. At the same time measures should be taken for the planting of this area. • Mapping of defined areas as important natural value for the awareness of the inhabitants • The opening of corridors in Lesser Prespa to develop qualitatively the fauna and flora of the area. • Activities/pilot projects for development of family agro tourism in rural areas • Establishment of a summer camp for organizing environmental education activities for kids and youth in the area
	Conflict between local government and communities	• Applying alternative options for the benefit of the community • Drafting of an action plan for the use of existing resources • Involvement of the community in decision-making (dialogue with local government for the development of local initiatives) • Monitoring and standardization of urbanization of the area • Local government and institution (RAPA) prepare communication plans for the community information and involvement • Developing an integrated waste management plan (including waste separation from the source, composting initiatives, etc)

		• Involvement of the community in the consultation processes for development of the territorial plan of the Pustec / Devoll Municipalities • Realization of an in-depth study on the situation of Juniperues Excelsa in the area of Gollomboc • Implement of existing plans for selected types of habitats in Prespa
Community engagement	Insufficient ownership, involvement and beneficiation of the local community in conservation	• Mobilizing the schools of the area for the recognition of the Park values and support for field activities of kids • Maintenance of existing of paths in the park and creation of new ones • Women's involvement in education, training and concrete activities • Involvement of professionals and businessmen in development of local activities (generating ideas) • Development of summer schools in Prespa with students of the region • Promotion of competitions among schools on nature themes / biodiversity • Promotion and financial support of the community's ideas, especially young people in environmental protection (voluntary participation, environmental friendly ideas) • Community orientation in development of tourism as the main economic source • Strengthening the cooperation of NGOs with the community in promoting new initiatives for involvement • Promotion of organizing cultural / traditional festivals with local products

Annex III. Input from local workshop in FYR of Macedonia

Category	Conflict	Example of mitigation measure
Water management	Water resources not properly managed	• Establish (improve) new technologies in water management in all areas of Prespa with the local population as main beneficiary • Raising awareness and education of the local population about sustainable and smart use of water, especially in summer period (tourist settlement) • Development of integrated for water management plans addressing local needs • Enforcement of laws • Raising awareness of children on the importance & use of water • Coordination among three countries on the use of lake waters • Control of water illegal sources created by human activities (farmers, etc)
Sustainable protected area and forest management	Use/illegal use of timber/wood resources of the Protected Areas	• Increasing control of wood cutting (forest cutting) & illegal logging • Increasing the number of monitoring working groups (opening new jobs) • Education of local population on the use of forest products • Developing alternative ways for heating through renewable energy sources • Increasing internal control in PAs • Planting endemic varieties of wood and other species of vegetation
	Unsustainable use of pasturelands within the PA	• Stimulation of sheep raising (giving financial support) • Control and education for the pasturelands situation and its use • Active management of the pastures • PAs should increase the monitoring role in relation to the use of pastures by Public Company, who gives permission for pasturing • Prevention and permanent control of shepherds' manners with regard to fires in wood areas near pastures.
Sustainable agriculture	Unsustainable practices in agriculture development	• Good practices on production of dairy products • Continuous information meetings with farmers • Continue the pilot project for waste collection of pesticide bottles • Better controlling over previous projects implemented in PAs to see the results achieved and what needs to be done further. • Control and monitoring for the of users and amount of pesticides used in apple production.as all the waste/pollution goes to the lake. • Using of GAP (good agriculture practices) standards • Establishing a system on local level for improving agro-ecological measures • Promote organic agriculture production

	Land transformation - Rural development policies in conflict with the conservation objectives of the area	• Compensatory measures by state or municipality • Increasing the control on the agricultural lands • Construction of artificial water ponds for wildlife • Harmonization of activities in preparatory phase for establishing zoning in PAs - Between the state organization (interdepartmental cooperation) - Balancing between policies & science
Conservation of species	Human-wildlife conflicts	• Establishment of buffer zones between hunting ground and PAs (species) • Building fences around livestock farms • Raising the awareness of hunters on important endangered species • More frequent communication among hunter's organization and PAs • Control of carnivore numbers by organized hunting • Monitoring for carnivores to get knowledge on the number and habitats - Labelling of the area where carnivores are more present • Compensating bee-keepers for damage made by bears to bee hives • Increasing local population knowledge for values of biodiversity of local areas • Hunters should be registered as a legal organization based on respective laws and regulations • Improve capacities of monitoring of wildlife within PAs (data of species, number, population growth, etc.)
	Illegal fishing	• Raising the awareness of local people on sustainable fishery practices • Constant improvement of fish population – based on scientific data • Monitoring and more control for the concessioners • Monitoring of the fish species (number, etc) • Strengthen the capacities of the fisherman organizations • Enforcement of the law (fines)
	Illegal hunting not in line with the objectives of the Protected areas	• Permanent hunting should be forbidden in PAs –improvement in the law on hunting • Increasing monitoring and inspection control - setting higher fines to the illegal hunters • Prevention at local level for use of snares/traps - Activity between PAs + NGOs- field work - Improving cooperation with police • Introducing new technology in wildlife protection • Raising awareness and education of local population - present the legal framework to the locals • Introducing quota /boundaries for the number of hunted animals
	Illegal use & over use of resources (e.g. unsustainable collection of tree species, flowers and plants)	• Monitoring of collected plants and resources – permission & an organized system • Collection of biologically undeveloped species should be forbidden • Raising of the awareness about rare endangered species & the proper way of collecting • Set up a baseline of population of plants – set a quota for collection of tea for individual needs • Increase of inspection on the illegal collection

		• Labelling of characteristic species of plants collected from PAs (branding)
Landscape and habitats	Priorities of local government and communities not in line with conservation	• Education of the local inhabitants about the values of the natural resources & potentials. • Increase involvement of local population in the processes of strategic development planning. • Increased level of control in every aspect in the PAs (controlled number of visitors, vehicles, clear borders of PAs, labelling, etc.) • Opening info centers in PAs • Pilot projects for promotion of eco-tourism and sustainable development
	Conflict between local government and communities	• Use NGO as mediator to improve Government and community's cooperation • Create the ownership of processes among the communities in the region. If they would feel attached to it, they would fell the responsibility to protect it • Organizing consultation meetings between local government and communities in the processes of identifying problems and decision making • Involvement of communities into decision making and management of PAs and development of strategic documents • Activities for awareness raising on the control of urban encroachment into PAs (there were many (attempts of constructions, increase of urban areas in PAs) • Develop & adapt spatial plans for PAs
Community engagement	Insufficient ownership, involvement and beneficiation of the local community in conservation	• Involvement of the local communities in the decision-making processes • Involving the local schools in nature protection projects • Implementation of good practices from other PAs • Raising awareness with regard to compensation measures • Involving youth people in the management of PAs • Organizing educational platforms to local citizens • Involving NGOs

Annex IV. LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS

For different steps in the methodology there have been consultation meetings on local, regional and national level first on identifying existing and possible conflicts in WPA and secondly on identification of mitigation measures/ proposed recommendations for which will be addressed through PONT granting scheme for resolving conflicts in the area.

Skype, direct meetings (annual meeting) as well as online consultation were conducted with PrespaNET partners:

Stakeholders	Organisation/Institution	Level	Country
SPP	Prespa NET	Local	GR
PPNEA	Prespa NET	National	AL
MES	PrespaNET	National	MK

Direct meetings were held with PAs:

Stakeholders	Organisation/Institution	Level	Country
RAPA	Public Institution	Regional	AL
NP Pelister	NP	Local	MK
NP Galičica	NP	Local	MK
Municipality of Resen	Public Institution	Local	MK
NAPA	Public Institution	National	AL

Online consultations and input were received by the following national stakeholders:

Stakeholder s	Organisation/Institution	Level	Country
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Janaq Male	CNVP	National	AL
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Local workshop for identification of mitigation measures in Albania:

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Local workshop for identification of mitigation measures in FYR of Macedonia

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Annex V. PHOTOS FROM the PROCESS

Local workshop in Korça

Local workshop in Resen

Meetings with PAs

Meeting with PrespaNet partners

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Links:

- www.pont.org