Prespa Ohrid Nature Trust (PONT)
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The Region

Regarded as one of the most ecologically valuable areas in Europe, the region host Prespa and Ohrid lakes considered to be Europe's oldest lakes. Their waters, surrounding mountains and the animals and plants that make this region magnificent are in dire need of effective and long-term protection.

www.pont.org

Prespa Ohrid Nature Trust

Established in 2015, the Prespa Ohrid Nature Trust (PONT) is a transboundary conservation trust fund dedicated to preserving the region's rich natural, historical and cultural heritage.

PONT | PRESPA OHRID NATURE TRUST

Focus on Action

PONT provides long-term co-financing to Protected Area Management Authorities (PAs) and Environmental Actors (EAs) working in the Prespa Ohrid ecoregion.

PONT raises and manages funds for conservation grants, underpinned by a rigorous monitoring and evaluation programme. The focus is on supporting operational costs and long-term capacity development, rather than the prevalent short-term, project-based funding. PONT is a funding organisation - it is not government affiliated nor does it implement or directly undertake any conservation activities itself.

> Our 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."

With a focus on **action**, PONT supports and emphasizes:

- long-term commitment
- transparency and accountability
- optimising sustainable use of resources
- actively involving and benefiting the local community
- government commitment to conservation
- collaboration.

Funding Approach

PONT aims to improve governance and management effectiveness of six PAs in the Prespa Ohrid ecoregion, as well as to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable management of natural resources by EAs present and active in the region (NGOs, municipalities, scientific and academic institutions).

The Programme

Initially PONT will focus its funding on the Wider Prespa Area, which includes the Lesser Prespa Lake, Great Prespa Lake and six surrounding Protected Areas, 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 to include the Lake Ohrid basin in due course.

Result:
Capable organisations working in cooperation with their partners, to effectively manage and wisely use the protected areas nested in a wider resilient landscape for the benefit of nature and people.

Funding Priorities

PONT prioritises projects that focus on:

Protected Areas and forests

Sustainable use of resources

Priority species

Landscapes and habitats

The emphasis of funding is on the implementation of operational measures. In some circumstances, applied research, studies and adaptive management measures with actionable outcomes will also be funded.

PONT's capacity development funding covers:

1. Improving management, governance and participation
2. Developing technical skills
3. Improving cooperation and coordination.

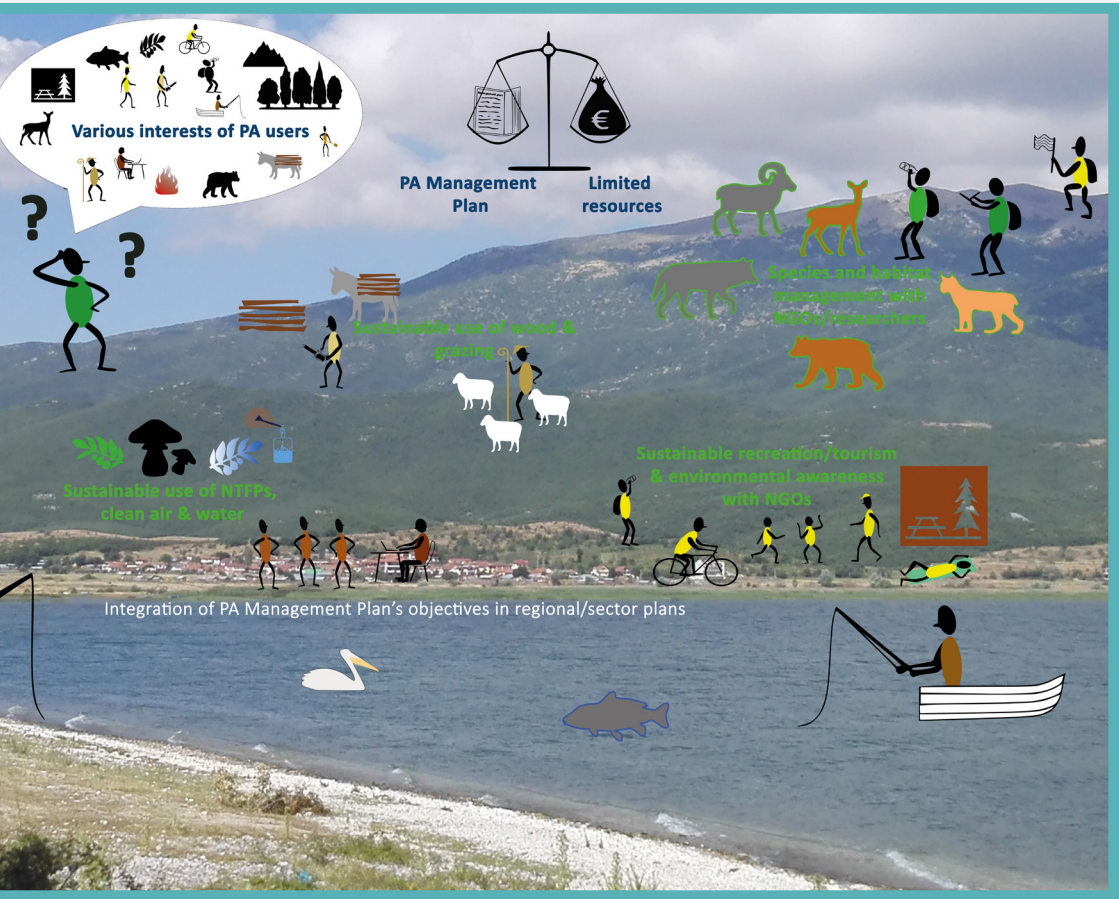
PONT awarded PrespaNet partners a grant for transboundary large carnivore conservation activities, specifically the monitoring of brown bears across the region. Tracking the brown bear population will shed light on the population, movements and habits of this amazing animal, which would otherwise have remained a mystery.

PONT supports PrespaNet partners in establishing and running their local offices. Increased local presence is considered an important step in strengthening stakeholder involvement in the Prespa region, to work more closely with the local government, Protected Areas and the local population.

Transboundary Cooperation:
PONT is instrumental in the support of PrespaNet, an environmental NGO network facilitating information and know-how sharing regarding ecological and sustainable development. It has strongly advanced transboundary cooperation among the stakeholders involved in Prespa, including the three constituent NGOs: Macedonian Ecological Society (MES), the Association for the Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania (PPNEA), and the Society for the Protection of Prespa (SPP) in Greece.

The PA management is a balancing act of needs, requirements and limited resources

Capacity to implement PA core routines: complex tasks with participation of local people and in cooperation with other stakeholders



Legal Structure

PONT is a private, independent grant-making foundation, registered in Germany. The PONT staff operates from the PONT Regional Programme Office in Tirana, Albania.

Based in Frankfurt, the Nature Trust Alliance provides PONT, as well as Blue Action Fund and Caucasus Nature Fund, with financial, IT and administrative support.

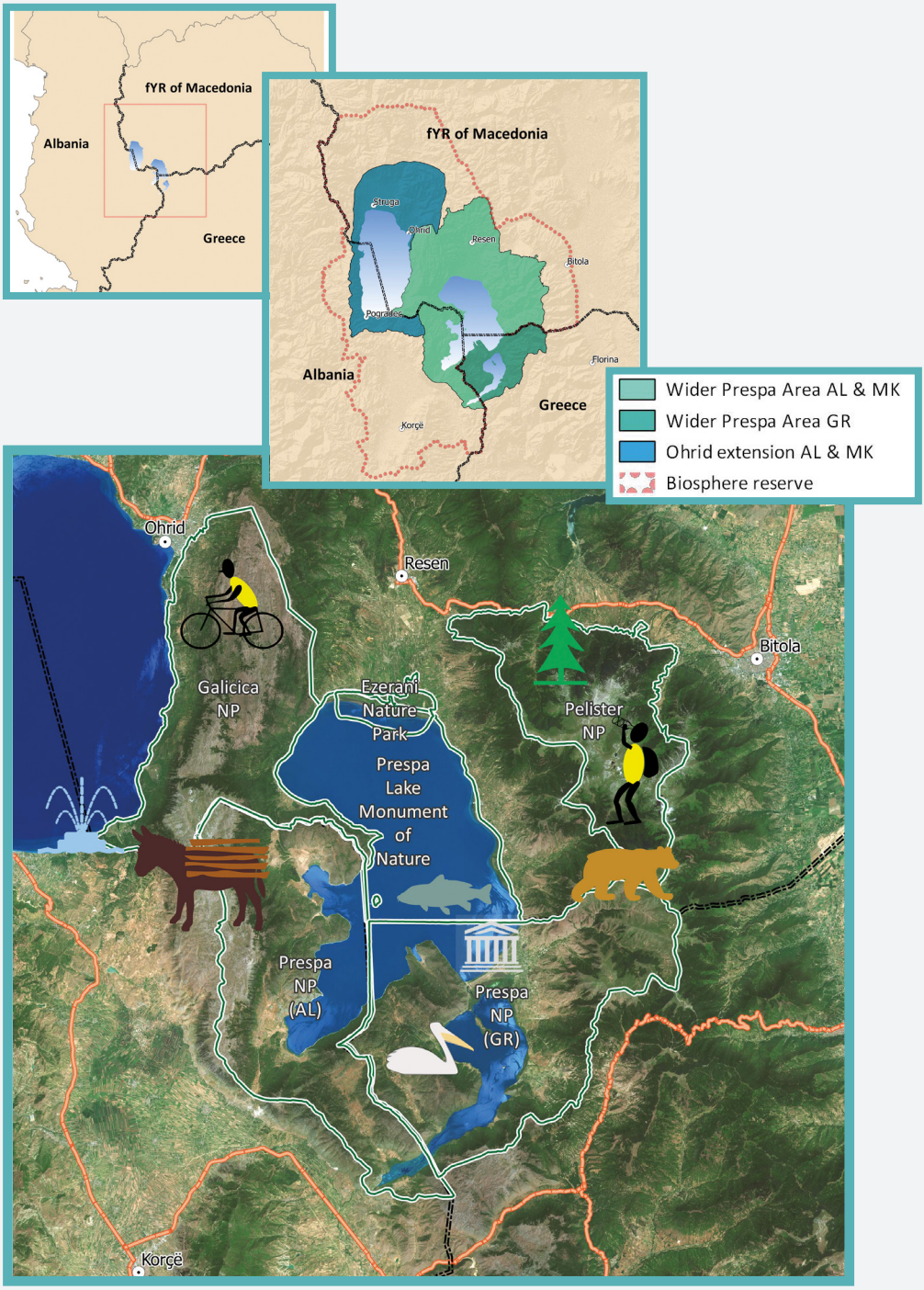
An investment committee under the PONT Supervisory Board manages the investment portfolio in line with the joint PONT/CNF investment policy including a sustainability policy.

Our partners
PONT is currently funded by the MAVA Foundation and KfW (German Development Bank), which is mandated by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

PONT actively seeks additional donors to further the work on achieving its mission. Donors can contribute per country, actor, region, with project based funding or capital donations to the fund.

Finances

Early 2018 funding stands at €28 million. In order to provide long term annual support of €2 million to the full Prespa region (as per map overleaf) €80 million is required, extending to €95 million to also cover the Ohrid area.


fYR of Macedonia
Albania
Greece
Struga
Ohrid
Resen
Bitola
Prespa Lake
Florina
Korçë
Wider Prespa Area AL & MK
Wider Prespa Area GR
Ohrid extension AL & MK
Biosphere reserve
Galicica NP
Ezerani Nature Park
Prespa Lake Monument of Nature
Pelister NP
Prespa NP (AL)
Prespa NP (GR)