Mirjam de Koning

PONT Strategy & Focus

www.pont.org

Prespa Ohrid Nature Trust (PONT)

- Private, independent grant-making foundation under German Law
- Not an implementing organisation
- Long term co-financing of running/recurrent costs
- Transboundary trust fund: language of communication is English
- Rigorous monitoring & evaluation / regular independent audits
- Look for possible (co)-funding, create synergies and avoid overlap
- Leverage political commitment and government funding

Operational costs PA core routines + 40 priorities for EAs*:

Capacity Development

Improved management & governance: stable locally based organisations

Zonation & Active management (Species/Habitats/Resources)

Monitoring & Patrolling

Visitor management & Environmental awareness

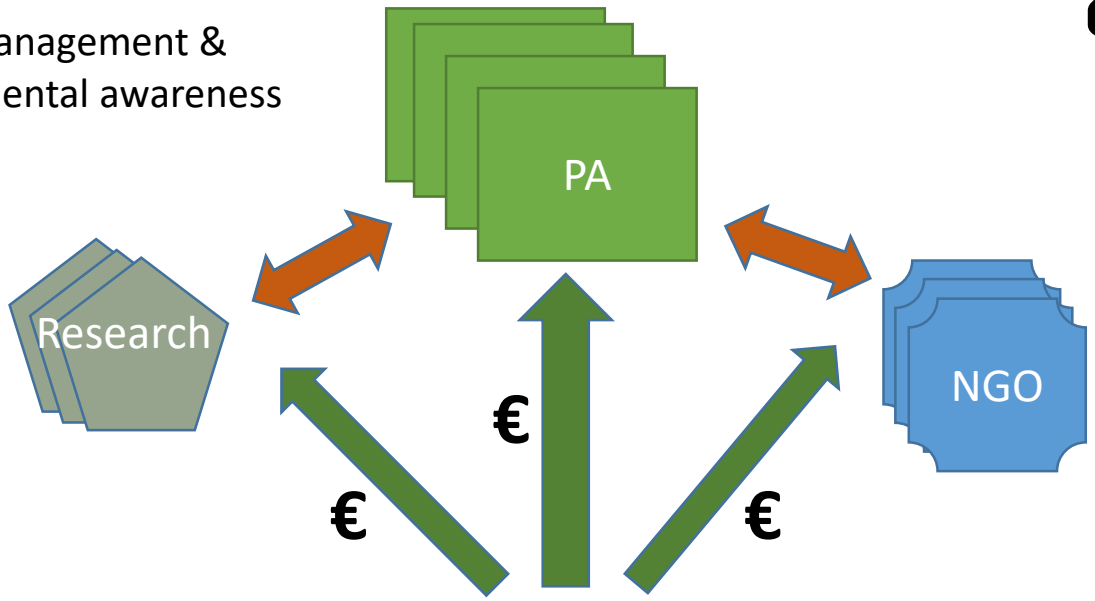
Financial Management, Accounting and Auditing

Human Resources

Fundraising – sustainable financing

Administration

Participation - coordination



*Environmental Actors (EAs) focus on specialised conservation actions for the benefit of nature & people (for 40 funding priorities see www.pont.org)
* Transboundary conservation
* No fundamental research
* No focus on advocacy

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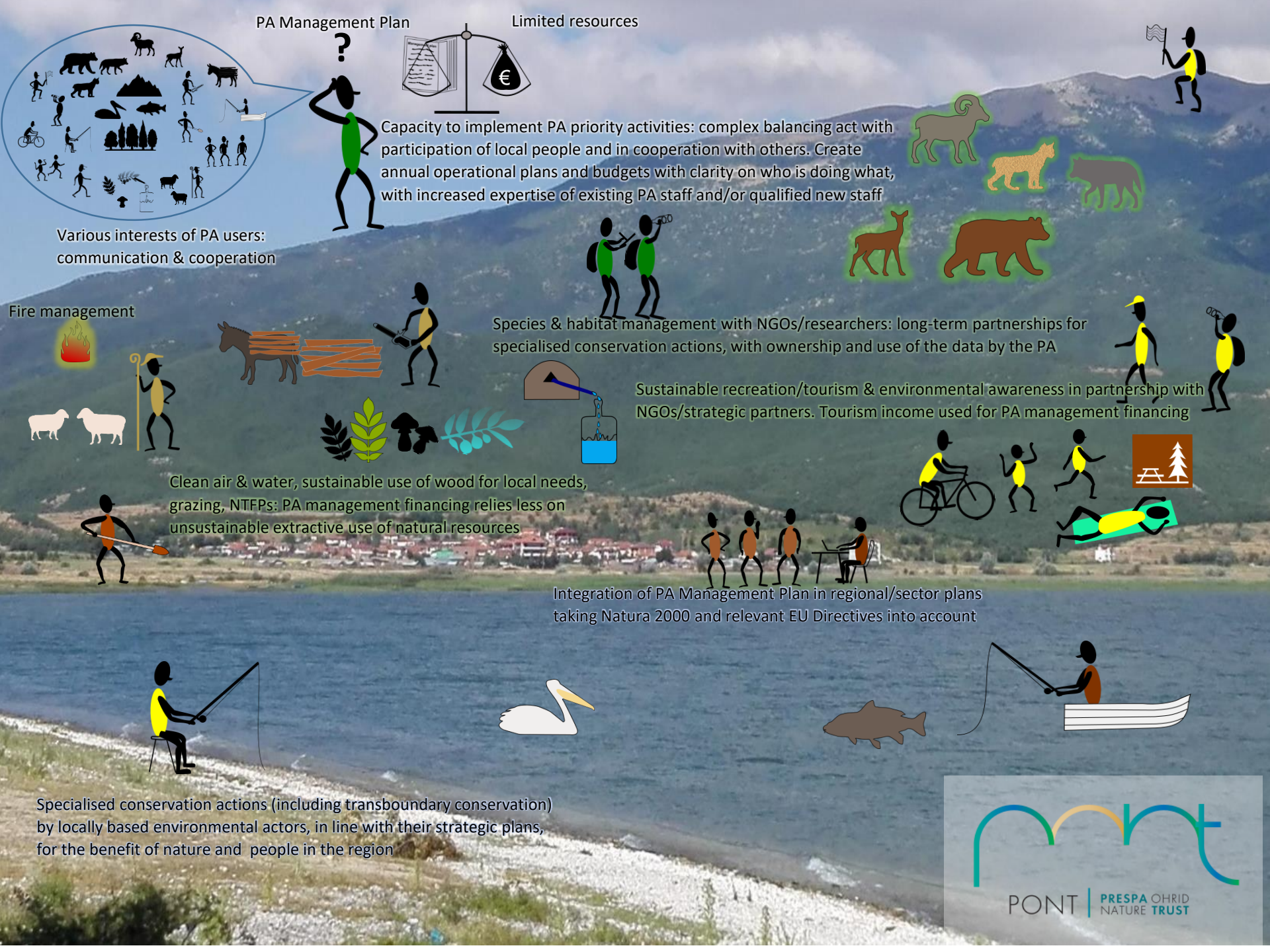
PA Management Plan
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Limited resources
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Capacity to implement PA priority activities: complex balancing act with participation of local people and in cooperation with others. Create annual operational plans and budgets with clarity on who is doing what, with increased expertise of existing PA staff and/or qualified new staff
Various interests of PA users: communication & cooperation
Fire management
Species & habitat management with NGOs/researchers: long-term partnerships for specialised conservation actions, with ownership and use of the data by the PA
Sustainable recreation/tourism & environmental awareness in partnership with NGOs/strategic partners. Tourism income used for PA management financing
Clean air & water, sustainable use of wood for local needs, grazing, NTFPs: PA management financing relies less on unsustainable extractive use of natural resources
Integration of PA Management Plan in regional/sector plans taking Natura 2000 and relevant EU Directives into account
Specialised conservation actions (including transboundary conservation) by locally based environmental actors, in line with their strategic plans, for the benefit of nature and people in the region
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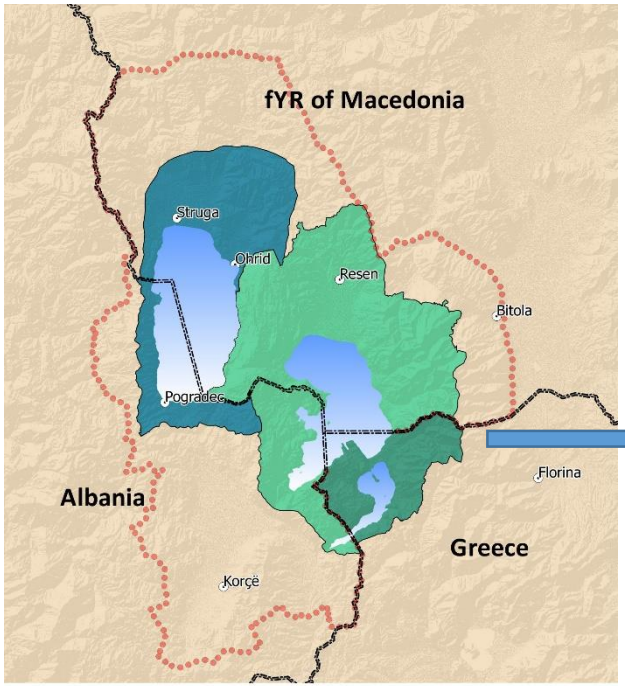

PONT focus area = Prespa, and its wider area, including the following existing Protected Areas & Management Authorities (PAs)

PONT Funding Priority – Criteria Grants

1. Technical / financial / organisational feasibility (scoring card)
2. Funding of operational costs PAs & capacity development (50% co-financing non-PONT sources; <20,000 EUR/item for goods) - in line with Management Plan
3. Support & strengthen locally based Environmental Actors (NGOs, research institutions) (25% co-financing non-PONT sources; <20,000 EUR/item for goods) – in line with Strategic Plan
4. Feasibility – institutions that have a vision, strategic plan, mandate, proven track record & capacity to work in the Wider Prespa Area
5. Regional importance – strengthen coordination within and across state borders

PONT Funding Priorities – Focus on Action

Initial thematic focus:

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

Capacity development of grantees

Footnotes of PONT strategic framework and funding priorities (www.pont.org)

* Priority activities from 2018-2022 have funding priority
* Funding priority goes to the organisation that has the mandate; If the mandated organisation cannot take the grant or cannot implement the activity, an Environmental Actor can implement the activity in consultation and agreement with the mandated organisation and as long as the activity is within the mission statement and expertise of the Environmental Actor applying for the grant
* Preference for grant proposals including capacity development measures besides conservation activities in a balanced way, to guarantee sustainability and beneficiation of local people in Prespa
* Grant proposals and grant reporting should include indicators that are in line and contribute to the indicators of the PONT priority strategic framework so that progress can easily be traced
* PONT priority strategic framework is presented to Ministry representatives, Protected Area authorities, local authorities, main donors and possible beneficiaries in the Wider Prespa Area to ensure coordination and avoid duplication
* Proposed activities should be in line with the grant criteria outlined in the PONT Grants Manual which exclude certain activities for financing by PONT

PONT Grants Scheme

Preconditions:

- Framework agreements
- Conflict assessment & proposed mitigation measures
- Assessment financial capacity pre-selected grantees
- Coordinated planning between grantees

Phased Approach:

1. One year performance-based grants of pre-selected grantees. “NO CALL for proposals”
    a. PrespaNET partners (NGO network);
    b. PA management authorities;
    c. Ohrid Hydrobiological Institute;
    d. Assess which priorities are covered
2. Open up for other cooperation partners (grantees; service providers; partnerships)

Framework Agreement

Highlighted points:

- Grant proposal submitted by PA or EA (use templates PONT)
- Grant proposal to be approved by PONT Supervisory Board
- Grant agreement between PA and PONT or EA and PONT
- PA administration to provide the Ministry with copies of the approved grant proposal and signed grant agreements
- Grant recipient shall carry out its business and operations in compliance with all applicable national legislation
- Procurement follows national legislation (minimum requirements by PONT)
- Framework/grant agreement registration to allow for VAT exemption

Grant Agreement

Highlighted points:

- Grant proposal: logical framework, work plan & budget (1-3 years) / part of agreement
- Confirmation of co-financing
- Significant changes only after written approval PONT
- Different grant disbursements / tranches in Euro in separate bank account
- Accounting & reporting following minimum rules PONT
- Receipts / documents to be kept at least five years
- Give access to bank account, documents and PA to PONT staff and auditors
- PONT not responsible or liable to pay any taxes or bank fees
- Misuse of funds / refunding and exclusion of future grants
- No conflict of interest
- Publication of results / use PONT logo (consult with PONT first)

Thank you!